

MINUTES

AVRA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Meeting Date: Friday, May 22, 2020
Meeting Time: 8:00 AM
Location: 21021 E. Homestead Drive, Red Rock, AZ 85145

RECORDING ON.

- 1) **Call To Order** Chairman Castaneda called the meeting to order at 8:09 AM.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance** The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by all present.
- 3) **Roll Call**
In attendance:
Chairman Castaneda, Jr Chief Delfs
Vice-Chairman Bauer Assistant Chief Klein
Clerk Neilson Lorrie Palmquist (present by phone)
Director Armendarez Counsel Wencker (present by phone)
Director Haffner
- 4) **Recognition of Personnel** NONE
- 5) **Call To The Public** NONE
- 6) **Announcements, Current Events & Correspondence**
- 7) **Review, Discussion and possible Action regarding the following items for consent:**
A consent agenda allows the Board to approve several items simultaneously without the need to file separate motions for each item. Items are usually believed to be non-controversial and do not require further explanation. Any Board Member may ask that an item be removed from the consent calendar and considered separately.
 - **Minutes from the regular meeting April 24, 2020**
 - **Resolution 2020-02 authorizing the amendment of the Avra Valley Fire District's boundaries to include land within Pinal County and adjacent to the boundaries of the Avra Valley Fire District upon written request of the property owner pursuant to ARS 48-262(1). The property owners are Duane and Barbara Wirth and the property is described as parcel number 410-05-014G, Pinal County.**
 - **Resolution 2020-03 authorizing the amendment of the Avra Valley Fire District's boundaries to include land within Pinal County and adjacent to the boundaries of the Avra Valley Fire District upon written request of the property owner pursuant to ARS 48-262(1). Mr. Michael Wirth on behalf of Camelhead Associates, LLC, requested amendment to the District's boundaries for the following parcel numbers: 410-05-012G, 410-05-015A, 410-05-015B, 410-05-016A, and 410-05-016B.**
 - **Resolution 2020-04 establishing that Fire Chief Brian Delfs is designated as the Avra Valley Fire District's designated agent to receive funds and/or conduct business with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).**
 - **Reactivation of the subscription agreement between the District and Asarco Silverbell Mine for emergency response services.**

Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to approve the *Consent Agenda*. Counsel Wencker suggested to remove the Asarco subscription agreement from the *Consent Agenda* and consider the item separately. Chairman Castaneda made a friendly amendment to remove the Asarco item from the Consent Agenda and consider it separately. Director Armendarez seconded the amended motion. ***Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.***

Counsel Wencker commented on the ASARCO contract amendments he suggested, stating that the new agreement is much longer than the previous one, including schedules and attachments. ASARCO wants to have their counsel review the contract to consider our suggested changes. The changes requested for the District include standard language required to ensure the best interests for the District and include some corrections of typographical errors which referred to incorrect statute references.

Counsel Wencker suggested the following wording for a formal motion: *I move to approve the proposed agreement pending suggested changes by District Counsel and to include changes suggested by ASARCO Counsel.* Director Armendarez so moved. Motion was seconded by Clerk Neilson. ***Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.***

8) Chief's Report

The Fire Chief may update the Board on items of interest relating to but not limited to the following: Response times, vehicles, facilities, labor relations, personnel, finance, grants, communications and/or training. Alternatively, the Fire Chief may provide written comments in the Board Member's packets or by email. The Board Members may ask clarifying questions and they may direct the Chief to place items on future agendas for further discussion or action.

The Chief highlighted the following items from his report:

- The quote to repair the well at ST 192 was very high because the vendor claimed the well needed to be dug deeper. After reviewing the quote and looking at the situation, our mechanic suggested simply replacing the filter. The filter was replaced and the well function returned to normal.
- Congratulations to Chief Klein and Captain Collings who applied for and successfully received a grant for wildland equipment. Thank you was extended to Ms. Bauer who identified the source of the grant and forwarded the information to Chief Klein.
- The District responded to an initial attack on May 3 and has already received payment for the incident.

9) **Review, Discussion and possible Action** to consider the renewal proposal from VFIS for general liability insurance for fiscal year 2021 and to direct the Chairman to sign the acceptance of the proposed renewal of coverage form.

Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to renew the VFIS general liability insurance policy and direct the Chairman to sign the *Renewal of Coverage* form. Clerk Neilson seconded. ***Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.***

10) **Review, Discussion and possible Action** to consider proposals for workers compensation insurance for fiscal year 2021 and to provide direction to the fire chief regarding entering into an agreement for workers compensation insurance with one of the following: **The newly formed Fire Districts Risk Pool, the State of Arizona Combined Risk Pool, or the 7710 Insurance Company.**

Chief Delfs commented that he previously sent a communication to the Board with details regarding the three options and his recommendation to go with the 7710 insurance. Director Armendarez asked for clarification. Chief Delfs explained that the State risk pool is the insurer of last resort for those employers which cannot get insurance anywhere else. The State requires an employer to carry workers comp insurance and has established this combined risk pool for that purpose. This is a more expensive option than the 7710. Regarding the new pool, there are too many unanswered questions such as funding, capitalization of funds, how experience ratings relate to premiums, how premiums may fluctuate, how claims may be handled, etc. It appears that the majority of fire districts are entering the new pool, but

again, there are too many unanswered questions regarding this option. The Board expressed general consensus and discussion ensued.

Chairman Castaneda motioned to enter into an agreement with the 7710 Insurance Company for workers compensation insurance for the District. Director Armendarez seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.*

11) **Review, Discussion and possible Action to approve the April 2020 Financial Reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the Certificate of Review.**

Vice-Chairman Bauer inquired about the damaged ambulance. Chief Delfs responded that VFIS did cover the incident, but that the ambulance was essentially totaled. Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to approve the April 2020 Financial Reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the *Certificate of Review*. Director Haffner seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.*

12) **Review, Discussion and possible Action to sell or trade the surplus Engine, shop 216, and/or surplus Ambulance, shop 308**

The District has been holding onto Engine 216 to use as a last resort. The engine needs substantial repair in order to make it worthy of front line service. The DHS certification for damaged Ambulance 308 is expiring in July and will not be renewed. The District has received an offer of \$8,000 for both vehicles. Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to accept the offer and remove the surplus vehicles from the District fleet. Director Armendarez seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.*

13) **Review, Discussion and possible Action to finalize and adopt the FY21 Proposed Budget with a tax levy rate of \$3.50 and a Bond Levy Rate of \$.60 and directing staff to post the proposed budget as required by law.**

Chief Delfs commented on the proposed employee related expenditure item, stating that the item does not include increased staffing, but does include the increased rates for the FY21 benefit renewals plus a 2.5% pay increase for everyone except the Chief. He further commented that the District does anticipate a small carryover at the end of the current fiscal year. Also, if we continue to streamline expenditures through next year, the projected carryover at the end of next fiscal year may finally be enough to carry us through the following quarter of fiscal activity. Chief Delfs commented that new SAFER rules allow 100% coverage of staffing with no required share for the District. Director Haffner asked for an increase in the wildland revenue line item from \$225,000 to \$250,000.

Chairman Castaneda motioned to adopt the FY21 Proposed Budget to include the \$25,000 addition to wildland revenue. Director Haffner seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.*


Chairman Castaneda asked staff to post a message on the website stating that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District will hold only one Public Hearing on June 26 instead of the usual 2 public hearings.

- 14) Reports of Board Members and Staff NONE
- 15) Future Agenda Items ADOPT FINAL FY21 Budget
- 16) Date of Next Board Meeting June 26, 2020 Public Hearing

17) Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to adjourn the meeting . Director Armendarez seconded. Motion carried unanimously, 5:0. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 AM.

Recording Off.



SIGNED

6-26-2020

DATE

Board Members

Luis Castaneda, Jr. Sara Bauer Eric Neilson Thomas Armendarez James Haffner

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