



### MINUTES OF THE WHETSTONE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Whetstone Fire Board convened at 6:01 P.M.

**Members present:** Trevor Thompson, Bruce Harris, Steven Hasson and Dave Johnson – Rick Evans  
Absent. Note: Trevor Thompson serving as Chairperson in Rick Evans' absent

**Staff Present:** Cathy Dyer

**Conflict of Interest:** Board Members attested they had no conflicts that would preclude their participation.

**Call made to the public** – no public present

**Chief Report:** Acting Chief Sam Foster was absent and hence no chief's report.

**Chairperson Report:** Rick Evans absent hence no Chairperson's report.

**No Old Business:**

**New Business - Review, Amendment, Discussion and possible action regarding:**

- A. Approval of the tentative budget for 21-22 Fiscal Year for Posting.

Cathy Dyer is in the throes of preparing the fire district's annual budget for adoption. As part of constructing the budget she has to follow certain notice procedures. These notice procedures are intended to properly inform the public of the budget adoption process so they may attend the board meeting and provide comments and suggestions prior to the board taking adoption action.

There is a statutory requirement obligating the board to provide adequate notice of this action twenty days prior to that event. Cathy suggested the board provide that notice this evening and set the notice date for June 30. Cathy provided an overview of the pending budget, advising it is similar to the one adopted the previous year with increases and decreases in certain line items. She noted this is the first time she has been primarily responsible for the budget's construction as previously the fire chief bore that burden.

Steve Hasson made a motion to proceed with the budget posting and Dave Johnson offered a second – Trevor Thompson qualified the need to do a good job of broadcasting this notice to include its placement on the district's website and Facebook page - motion unanimously approved.

- B. Discussion concerning the Whetstone Water Building Lease.

It was noted that the Whetstone Fire District has a lease arrangement with the Whetstone Water District for use of a fire district structure. This lease has been in effect since 2002 and is scheduled to expire in April of 2022. Steve Usrey, a representative of the water district, was present and afforded the opportunity to speak to this matter. He provided some history about the development of the water district and its use of a fire district structure for conducting water district activities.

He said that the district is seeking an understanding of the fire board's thoughts about the water district's continued use of the fire district building. If the fire board is not receptive to extending the agreement that allows for that activity - then the water district needs some lead time to relocate.

Acting Fire Chief, Sam Foster, had provided the board a memo where he laid out negotiation options as well as his thoughts on how the fire district would utilize that building if it had that opportunity. It was noted that the compensation provided by the water district in exchange for use of the fire district building was access to a water hydrant. The water made available was intended for potable water usage as well as to fill the district's water tender for fire abatement purposes.





Fire staff commented that the Whetstone Water District's water source was rich in Calcium content and this mineral played havoc on the district's fire equipment and given it adhered to the fire equipment in such a manner as to clog the pumps. Staff said rather than rely upon this water source, they used Huachuca City water because it is filtrated and also - the town's water lines were sized such, they fill up the fire district's tender much faster than the water district's hydrant and noting that minimizing fire response time is fundamental to the fire district operation.

Steve Hasson made a motion to extend the soon expiring lease by one year, until April 2023, and that in the interim, the fire chief develop a method whereby the fire district is adequately compensated by the water district for use of this building. The constructed compensation proposal is to be forwarded to the board for its consideration. Dave Johnson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

C. Huachuca City Intergovernmental Agreement [IGA]:

This item was deferred to a future date. Dave Johnson made a motion to table discussion of this IGA agreement until we had spent more time evaluating its various provisions. Seconded by Steve Hasson and passed unanimously.

D. Culligan Water Station Contract.

Fire staff had approached Culligan Water Company about installing a water filtration system on fire station water lines to improve water potability. The company complied by making available its five-stage filtration system at fire stations 321 and 324 for a one-week trial period. That trial period has ended and the fire district staff are of the collective persuasion this filtration system is a better means of providing staff access to water rather than its current reliance upon bottled water. Staff makes the argument that the filtration system can provide the same level of water potability and at a reduced cost and noting how prohibitive the cost of supplying staff bottled water ongoing at two fire stations. This is essentially a health safety consideration. The cost of providing this service is \$50 per month at each station or a combined cost of \$1200 per year. Culligan will maintain responsibility for servicing the filtration equipment as need be. It was noted that these filtration systems could be removed at either stations at any time but should that action occur: the fire district would be charged a \$300 removal fee per fire station. Steve Hasson made a motion to continue with this Culligan filtration system at both fire stations for a three-year period. Bruce Harris seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

E. Purchase and replacement of Staff Furniture.

The district fire stations are staffed 24 hours a day and hopefully during that time period there is opportunity for personnel to get some rest. Unfortunately, the bed frames and mattresses that the staff rely upon for slumber are worn out. The fire board has discussed replacing the mattresses, bed frames and mattress covers with better quality and lasting products. Cathy Dyer was charged with finding suitable replacement equipment and keeping in mind cost considerations. Cathy, in consultation with staff, is providing for the board's consideration the purchase of seven Necter Memory Foam Mattress, seven Tatago 16" heavy duty bed frames twin XL and 7 mattress Protect Ease water proofed zipper mattress protectors. The total cost of these items including sales tax is \$6,000. The furniture and accompaniments, if approved, will be apportioned with four placed at





# Whetstone

## FIRE DISTRICT

2422 N Firehouse Lane - Huachuca City, AZ 85616

station 321 and three at station 324. After discussion Steve Hasson moved for approval of this equipment and costs as described and second by Bruce Harris and unanimously approved.

**Future Agenda Items:**

The IGA is intended to be approved by the district and Huachuca City by June 30 and to meet that time necessitates a special meeting. After discussion it was determined a special meeting would be held for purpose of discussing the agreement and tentatively established for Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of June with a backup date of Wednesday June 2 at 6:00 P.M.

**Board Member Comments:** There were none.

**Adjournment:** Dave Johnson made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Steve Hasson with unanimous approval - meeting adjourned 7:00 P.M.

Approval of meeting minutes 7/21/21

