



2422 N Firehouse Lane - Huachuca City, AZ 85616

**MINUTES OF THE WHETSTONE FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MARCH 17th 2021 AT 1806 HOURS.**

Call to Order/Roll Call/Affirmation of Quorum/Pledge of Allegiance:

Members Present: Trevor Thompson, Steven Hasson, Bruce Harris

Staff Present: Sam Foster, Cathy Dyer

Absent: Dave Johnson, Rick Evans

It was determined a quorum existed.

Call to the Public:

None

Old Business:

-Review Amendment and Discussion of Possible Action of the posting for Fire Chief

Chief Foster: This is just reviewing the posting again right?

Cathy Dyer: Yes.

Steven Hasson: So, in our last meeting we extended the posting to the end of March and we had also decided that tonight we would look at all of the applicants to see if we would like to eliminate any of them. I spoke with some of the staff and asked them to review the applications and they came back to me and had divided them into who they believe should move on and who should not. There are 4 which should be set aside and 4 which should continue. Now we can continue until the end of the month will be 8 or we could whittle this down tonight. There is nothing personal against those 4, they just don't have what we want to meet the listed qualifications.

Bruce Harris: I think that if we set minimum requirements on the posting then we need to stick with them.

Trevor Thompson: I think we're veering away from the actual item because this is old business and we don't need to be discussing this in depth here in this item. At this time what we said on the 10th decided that we would come back to this but this item is not the time for it.

Sam Foster: He's right. This isn't an actionable item because of the way it's written on the agenda.



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Steven Hasson: Now we have a good amount of time in between now and our next meeting- do we want to look at having another meeting to do this in between now and then?

Trevor Thompson: Yes, but we can discuss it when we get to future agenda items.

*This item was discussion only and no action was needed at this time. *

New Business

-Review Amendment and Discussion of Possible Action of Public Session Minutes from February 17th, Special Session February 23rd, and Special Session March 10th

Steven Hasson: We have the February 17th and the March 10th ones.

Trevor Thompson: I have a correction to make on the first page there is a comment that "I" made that Dave Johnson actually made.

MOTION: Motion to accept the March 10th minutes with corrections

RESULT: Three in favor; none opposed

MOVED BY: Trevor Thompson

SECONDED: Bruce Harris

-Review Amendment and Discussion of Possible Action of Public Session Minutes from February 17th, Special Session February 23rd, and Special Session March 10th cont.

MOTION: Motion to accept the February 17th minutes

RESULT: Three in favor; none opposed

MOVED BY: Trevor Thompson

SECONDED: Bruce Harris

-Review Amendment and Discussion of Possible Action of Public Session Minutes from February 17th, Special Session February 23rd, and Special Session March 10th cont.

Steven Hasson: So, for whatever reason the recorder did not work on the night of the 23rd of February but we do need to recreate these minutes for documentation purposes.

Trevor Thompson: I think we need to wait on this matter until we have the rest of the board here.

MOTION: Motion to table this matter until such time as the rest of the board members are present

RESULT: Three in favor; none opposed

MOVED BY: Trevor Thompson

SECONDED: Bruce Harris



-Review Amendment and Discussion of Possible Action of reviewing additional quotes and choosing a vendor for the maintenance and repair of the bay doors

Sam Foster: So, I reached out to 8 different companies and only one of them was okay doing commercial repairs. That is Godstone and I gave them the quote that Miner sent to us and they offered up a quote of about \$3600-\$4000 which is still \$1500-\$2000 less than what Miner gave us. He said that he would send a paper quote soon. Stan Greer seemed a little iffy but they did send a few guys out but after they came out and left, I never heard from them again. As of right now Godstone is my top pick. If you approve me for \$4000, I can move forward with this once I get the paper quote. And this is for 2 of the doors, and a third is not broken yet but is showing signs of wear.

Trevor Thompson: Would it not be better to replace that one now?

Sam Foster: As of right now it's okay but it will need to be replaced eventually.

MOTION: Motion to authorize spending of up to \$4000 for repair and maintenance of 2 bay doors

RESULT: Three in favor; none opposed

MOVED BY: Trevor Thompson

SECONDED: Bruce Harris

-Review Amendment and Discussion of Possible Action of the financial reports

Cathy Dyer: We began the month of February with \$134,946.42 in the maintenance and operations account. We had paid out \$138,150.37 and we had a total amount of receivables which induced the HC IGA payment \$171,889.15 so we ended with \$168,685.20 in the MNO budget.

Steven Hasson: So, it's almost budget season again so do we need to have a work session or do we just incorporate it into a regular meeting?

Cathy Dyer: I think it would be a good idea to have a work session so everyone can be involved and hopefully we will have a new chief by then so they can sit in with us but if we don't, we can look at the budget from last year and go off of that and change things where needed.

The reserve account balance started at 54,763.31, we received 23.54 in interest, ending the month with 54,786.85. The volunteer pension account started at 43,161.70, we received 12.65 in interest, and ended up 43,174.35. With those accounts there is a reconciliation packet in your report as well. I haven't heard back from the auditors yet but I know it is done and was successful. They will do a conference call with us at some point to present their audit. I haven't heard anything from HC about the contract renewal but we are still operating up there so we will need to figure something out. I know they wanted to wait until we have a new chief.

Steven Hasson: We can extend this until we have a new chief right?



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Cathy Dyer: Yes, we can. Do you want me to reach out to them to see about their availability for a meeting?

Steven Hasson: Yes, that would be great thank you.

MOTION: Motion to accept the financial reports

RESULT: Three in favor; none opposed

MOVED BY: Trevor Thompson

SECONDED: Bruce Harris

Chief's Report:

Sam Foster: we ran 89 calls in February which brought us 189 total for the year. 321 ran 58 and 234 ran 38. We're seeing 70% of the calls this year being EMS when it's usually 80%. First quarter evaluations are being completed on our employees and are due by the 31st of this month. This is the first time that everyone will have one done in a while and from now on out we will do them every quarter. We're still working on a master inventory list but they are doing a fantastic job but it's slow moving because it's a lot to work through. I've already found a few items especially out in the PBW that aren't useable by us. I've also been speaking with the chief out in Naco and they are in dire straights out there and I would like to entertain the idea after we do inventory of looking at items that we can donate or sell to them because they desperately need equipment and apparatus. We got quotes on the plumbing: we do have a generator we want to purchase and it's the closest thing we have without sacrificing performance. We had some people out here and they said that what we had before was not adequate. The lowest came in at \$2500 but it will need to be a 2-stage system that will feed into the building and we will need to have communications between the plumbers and the electricians. If we don't do this, we also have to option to move to an entirely different system but that will be much more costly. The current amount I have is over the budget you guys allotted me but I'm not sure I can bring that down. If I haven't gotten any other quotes by next meeting it may need to be something that we entertain to increase the budget on this project. We have cameras I just need to get out there and install them, which should be done by next meeting. Our rescue truck is currently out of service because the turbos are leaking. Cost for repair is about \$3100 to repair the turbos and fix the other leaks. It also needs new tires which will be about another \$3000 on top of that. We're waiting to see what the budget looks like to move forward with this. Staffing is still down but we were able to hire 2 part timers and applications are still coming in so we're making progress. We have our order filled for the weight equipment and it's on its way.

Steven Hasson: So, I noticed when I was out there that there are a few pieces of equipment that look dangerous- what are we going to do about them?

Sam Foster: Which ones?

Steven Hasson: Alex was the one who called my attention to it so I would talk to him.



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Sam Foster: Okay I'll get with him and there are probably replacements in this order since he spearheaded this order.

Trevor Thompson: How is having the rescue out of service affecting us?

Sam Foster: The biggest impact it has on us is that we will no longer have our portable cascade system with us on fires. Its not critical but it means that someone would have to shuttle bottles back and forth to fill them on an incident.

Board Members' Comments:

Future Agenda Items:

Steven Hasson: We need to set up a meeting with HC to discuss the contract. And then I think we'll need a special meeting after the 31st to discuss the chief applicants.

Trevor Thompson: How about the 1st of April for that meeting?

Steven Hasson: That sounds good to me. And we will wait until everyone is here to collect our thoughts on the meeting from the 17th of February.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1852

RESULT: Three in favor; none opposed

MOVED BY: Bruce Harris

SECONDED: Trevor Thompson

Minutes Recorded By:
Hannah Sovar-Knox, CEP