

# MINUTES, ARIVACA FIRE DISTRICT

**August 26, 2019**

The Arivaca Fire District Governing Board met in Regular session Monday, August 26, 2019 at the Arivaca Fire District Station, 16091 West Universal Ranch Road, Arivaca, Arizona for a regular board meeting.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mark Wiley called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM

### ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Mark Wiley  
Beth Lusby  
Justin Gibson

Absent: Shannon Bloom  
Tangye Beckham (Available on #7, New business, Item E, change date and time of regular meeting via telephone)

## 2. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

### A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MOMENT OF SILENCE

All present joined in.

### B. Consent Agenda – Discussion/Possible action on approving the minutes from the following meetings

#### 1. January 18, 2019 – Regular Board Meeting

This item was tabled until the next regular board meeting as Shannon and Beth were not at this meeting and would have to abstain on voting to approve.

#### 2. February 22, 2019 – Regular Board Meeting

This item was tabled until the next regular board meeting as Shannon and Mark were not at this meeting and would have to abstain on voting to approve.

#### 3. July 19, 2019 – Regular Board meeting (Justin Gibson was absent)

This item as tabled until the next regular board meeting as there was not a quorum of board members to approve as Justin would have to abstain

## 3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

## 4. BUSINESS

### A. Fire Chiefs Report for August 2019

Chief Austin gave an oral and written report.

### B. Fire Board Chairperson Report –No report; Shannon was not at the meeting.

### C. Discussion/Possible Action/Review and approval of July 2019 Finances. Financial Report, banking statements, check registers, balance statements, warrant account; confirm all board members received and reviewed all financial data.

All board members confirmed they had received and reviewed the July 2019 finances. Beth made a motion to approve the financial reports and Justin seconded. Mark called for a vote. Motion carried 3-0.

### D. Cash flow presented by Chief Austin up to August 12, 2019.

**5. COMMITTEE MEETINGS – REPORTS ONLY NO DISCUSSION**

- A. Report from Finance Committee – No Report
- B. Report from Pension Board – No Report.
- C. Report from Fire Wise Committee – No Report
- D. Report from Strategic Planning Committee – No Report

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Public Discussion on exploring any cost saving measures, if any with Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department. Possibly create a committee or utilize Strategic Planning Committee to facilitate these discussions and report back to the board with findings. The Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department service area includes the Lakewood area of Amado and the Elephant Head area west of Interstate 19.

Chief Chris Anthis, Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department, gave a brief history of the department stating it became a nonprofit volunteer fire department in 1994. They had tried twice to become a district however the county wanted to keep it as a volunteer department and recommended either a consolidation or merger with another department or district. He commented that Green Valley Fire District would not let them become a district, nor would Tubac. Chief Anthis stated they respond out here and they are looking for ideas as to help with funding for their department.

At this time their primary funding is grants, particularly the Green Valley White Elephant Grant and the Safer Grant. They do not have a CON. At this time, they have 2 engine bosses and 2 more in the pipeline. They do lend them out.

He stated they have one station in Amado and they are getting ready to open a new station off Canoa Road. They have 2 trailers coming in today.

At this time, they do about 150-160 EMS calls a year. He stated his call volume is going up. Last year they had a total of 235 calls.

Justin asked if Chief Anthis was looking at cost savings. Where do you expect those savings to be from?

Chief Anthis responded he was not sure.

Justin asked him if exploring it is what he wants us to do.

Chief Anthis responded that Arivaca Fire may have missed a call due to lack of personnel and he had personnel available and we have 3 available; maybe we Arivaca fire could extend the CON out their way. If that is something that comes out of this how would we do this.

Beth commented that maybe there should be a committee to explore it and she was not sure if this would come under the strategic plan or not.

Justin commented that we do need to look at this and it is worth looking at their financials to see if it would be beneficial.

Patti Jent commented that Arivaca Fire could pull their 990's, the nonprofit IRS tax return.

Justin commented it was worth looking out.

Patti commented that the strategic plan was what the District was looking at doing over the next five years.

Mark made a motion to add to the Strategic Planning Committee to explore the Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department. Beth seconded. Mark called for a vote. Motion carried 3-0.

- B. Public Discussion/possible action/motion on the ET3 program (Medicare) and the Community Integrated Paramedicine Program (Medicaid).

Nathan Lewis stated Community Paramedic was developed as a model. What it was designed nationally was to change the scope of EMS. This was one model. The problem with this is that they went to Medicare to get their approval and Medicare did not give approval. We are trying to change Paramedics to get them to do what the military can do. This includes treatment in the field. This new model is where there is not a limit on the scope of practice. I have one more meeting with the state to widen the scope of what paramedics can do. That means if they want to do antibiotics or suturing in the field they could if they had been trained by medical direction. This would allow low cost service to the community. This would bring more money to fire districts. We want to provide community medicine in a cost-effective manner through paramedics.

Justin asked in order for paramedics to obtain all the additional skills is there additional costs?

Nathan stated this was all included in our contract. There are no extra costs. The extra fee of \$35.00 a month is for our server fees. Our application has telemedicine built into it like the military. It would provide paramedics to do items in the field under medical direction. The medicine of the future is telemedicine. We are planning in having the application in next year as we missed the deadline for this year. There are people who do not need to go to the emergency room; they can be treated at home. We take people to the hospital because they have to. They get an ambulance bill, a hospital bill and a doctor's bill. If it is done in the home it would be about a total of \$300 or \$400. Medicare recognizes this. So, Medicare has developed the ET3 program (Emergency Triage, Treat and Transport). So now you can treat a person in their home and be paid the same as if we transported them. This would allow you to keep our ambulances in your area. Every private insurance wants to do this to cut their costs. If they can stop the influx of people going to the emergency room that don't need to go this would cut their costs. There are unanswered questions. We have several areas that are ready to go to telemedicine. We have to separate the physicians from the hospital. There are 3 rounds. The first-round closes in less than 30 days. They want 30% of all CON's in the country. We were not able to make the first round. There will be 2 more rounds and we are hoping to make the second round. This is the wave of the future.

Justin asked as far as compensation where does this come from.

Nathan commented it comes from our billing company. When you execute that call, the doctor providing the telemedicine also is able to bill. This will allow physicians to tend to more patients even though their billing amount would be less. So, where do we go from here. The question is do you only bill Medicare. How do you execute. You go on scene and you know the patient qualifies. The patient has to be given the choice; treat at home; transport to the doctor or go to emergency room. You have to be able to do this program 24/7 365 days a year. There will be a transition time where you are not going to get monies from everyone. The reality is you have to do everyone under this program. You cannot discriminate who you provide care for and you cannot pick and choose what services you provide. You may eat it at first until all insurance companies are on board.

Justin asked timeframe for making a decision on this.

Nathan commented he would not make it this year however he anticipates it will open on a yearly basis. Several agencies are going forward with this.

Patti asked when the board have to make a decision on this.

Nathan commented we need to start the dialogue now and start the execution now and he would need a letter from Arivaca Fire stating we would participate with this so Nathan can get our destinations on board with this.

Justin asked what the repercussions would be if Arivaca Fire decided to pull out.

Nathan commented that there would be none however if Arivaca Fire says they will participate it is expected it would be for the remaining term.

Roger asked if there was a technological level that would be necessary.

Nathan commented you had to have wi-fi. You have to have an internet connection in order to do this.

Roger asked if you have a patient that has Wi-Fi and a patient that does not then what happens.

Nathan commented you take that patient without Wi-Fi to a place that has Wi-Fi. You could have a place here at the station where you bring that patient. You can put the patient without Wi-Fi in the ambulance and take them to a place that has Wi-Fi. You can still keep your ambulance in district. If you have a back up vehicle that can be your telemedicine vehicle. You only need the CON number. You only need one person; you do not need to have two people. Then the ambulance is the one that goes out of town and takes the patient to the hospital.

Chief Austin asked if they had to be paramedics.

Nathan stated in certain circumstances an EMT would be allowed but the majority of the cases would have to be paramedics. He estimates maybe 30% would be BLS.

Chief Austin commented we are 99% BLS.

Nathan commented that is where we need staffing models. We need more paramedics. When this opens up you will see more paramedics going to outlying areas where they can do more.

Nathan commented that maybe in the future you could offer a per call to the paramedic.

Patti commented that since they are on a stipend, they would reach their limit faster.

Nathan commented that was one of the things that had been brought to their attention. That by offering a stipend per call would hurt rural fire districts. Nathan commented they are lobbying in DC to change the 20% rule.

Mark made a motion to table this until the next meeting to allow the board to see how this would affect us and Justin seconded. Mark called for a vote. Motion carried 3-0.

- C. Public Discussion/possible action/motion on the Arivaca Volunteer Fire District Fee Schedule for 2019-2020 and discussion/possible action/motion on Resolution 2019-01a formal resolution of the Governing body of the Arivaca Volunteer Fire District authoring the use of the fee schedule.

Patti commented that Chief Austin had researched other districts and their rates had not gone up.

Justin made a motion to approve the resolution and the fee schedule and Beth seconded.

Mark called for a vote. Motion carried 3-0.

- D. Public Discussion/possible action/motion on approving Engagement letter with Saunders Company for the 2018-2019 fiscal Year annual review and signing of engagement letter.

Beth made a motion to approve the engagement letter and signing of same and Mark seconded.

Mark called for a vote. Motion carried 3-0.

- E. Public Discussion/possible action/motion on changing the day/time of regular monthly board meeting.

Tangye Beckham via phone commented that she would not be available at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday meetings at 9 AM and asked if this could be changed to afternoons. She suggested maybe an afternoon would be better.

Justin and Beth commented that would be okay. Mark commented that he was not available in the afternoons. Mark asked about a morning she was available.

Tangye commented mornings would be okay so long as she could be at work by 11 AM except Fridays. Fridays she has to work from 8 AM to noon.

Mark suggested the third Monday morning of each month at 9 AM and all board members said they would be able to attend.

Mark made a motion for regular board meetings to be changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 9 AM and Beth seconded.

Mark called for a vote and motion carried 3-0.

**8. CALL TO PUBLIC**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mark made a motion to adjourn and Justin seconded.

Mark called for a vote. Motion carried 3-0.

Mark adjourned the meeting at 10:09 AM.

The Next Meeting will be September 16, 2019 at 9:00 AM

September 16, 2019

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Shannon Bloom, Chair

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Tangye Beckham, Clerk