

MINUTES, ARIVACA FIRE DISTRICT

October 18, 2012

The Arivaca Fire District governing Board met Thursday, October 18, 2012 at the Arivaca Fire Station, 16091 West Universal Ranch Road, Arivaca, Arizona.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Omar Rood Called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Kathleen Wishnick
Jim Meade
Terry Tompkins
Mark Dresang
Omar Rood

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular session of September 20, 2012

Terry made a motion to accept the minutes and Mark seconded. Omar called for a vote.
Motion carried 5-0.

B. Special meeting of October 11, 2012

Terry made a motion to accept the minutes and Jim seconded. Omar called for a vote.
Motion carried 4-0. Mark abstained as he stated he was not at the meeting.

5. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. A power point presentation was submitted by Fire Chief Scott Van Boerum for August

- Personnel Update

There are 26 responders currently active on the roster.

0 new volunteers

13 personnel responded

0 volunteer application

Current Volunteer Paramedics – 1 volunteer

Current Paid Paramedics – 6 paramedics

Personnel hired – Abraham Figueroa

- Administrative

Tile completed in the Day Room. Thanks went to Ron Appels, Wildland captain, for doing a good job.

Bathroom materials were picked up.

Kitchen cabinets were ordered.

- Lifeguard Program

Initial contract discussions ongoing-Chief met with Principal Heinzelman to discuss contract for next year's lifeguarding.

Discussed worker's compensation insurance with our insurance provider

Working with the Red Cross to form training center with AFD

Plan to run classes this fall for Lifeguard instructor, lifeguard class and water safety instructor class

- Ordering of Supplies

ALS supplies: ALS trauma bag

BLS supplies: None

- Fire Call
2 Fire Calls – controlled burn on private property
- EMS Calls
17 calls for September 2012. There were 10 transports, 9 via ground; 1 via air. There were 7 refusals.
- Trucks/Equipment Status/Maintenance/Repairs
Battery replaced under warranty on Rescue 501
- Training classes held
9 personnel attended monthly training
- Grants
FY 2011-waiting for reimbursement
GOHS FY 2013-awaiting equipment quotes
2012 Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant-awarded \$87,443.63 for fuel reduction work

Applications:

\$529,000 for AFG 2012-SCBA, Type III engine, Type VI engine and ambulance

\$354,887 for Safer 2012

2012 VFA Grant for \$19,650

- CON Updated

Application resubmitted

Kathleen mentioned that at the Strategic meeting Paramedic Lance stated his qualifications and they were impressive and she was sure the other personnel also had impressive backgrounds. She asked the personnel at the meeting to give their backgrounds.

Lance McKinnie stated he started with us in May to help kick start the paramedic program. He was a civilian medic; army medic; in 2007 he started his fire service career; went to college and got his medic and his associates in emergency medicine; drives down from Gilbert; is an instructor in pediatric care which allows him a higher level of care to children

Victor Ramirez stated he was from Tucson. He has his wildland, EMT and Firefighter I and II. Also has 40 hour HazMat certificate. He comes down to help us out.

Barbara Hogg lives in Arivaca. She started with us at the end of 2010. Started by volunteering and helping out. She has taken her EMT course and hopefully in 3 weeks she will be taking the EMT National test.

Kathleen thanked the responders for their work.

Gene commented that they were appreciated.

Omar commented that most of the people he knows do appreciate the help of the responders.

B. Fire Board Chairman's Report

Omar did not have a report this month

C. Treasurer's report

- Kathleen Wishnick gave the account balances for September 2012.

Terry made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Kathleen seconded. Omar called for vote and the motion carried 5-0.

- Fire Chief Scott presented the budget vs. actual expenses for this fiscal year. Chief stated the vehicle expense is higher than it should be because we have done a lot of repairs and fuel has gone up. The Vehicle expense also includes the fuel. Total expenses are at 21%. We are doing well at controlling our expenses.

Terry commented that Wes had called and noticed the north tower coax cable had come loose and this needed to be reattached to the tower. Fire Chief Scott stated he would get this taken care of.

6. BUSINESS

A. Discussion and update from operations on formation of emergency disaster plan committee.

Fire Chief Scott Van Boerum stated there was no update.

Omar commented this was a difficult problem. He only has a cell phone and many people only have a land line.

Kathleen asked if the cell phones worked when the phones were down.

Terry commented that a rodent ate through the fiber optic cable and cell phones work off this cable. He stated they needed an alternate route that they can switch to in an emergency.

Kathleen asked if this was fixable.

Terry commented that they were not going to fix the problem because of the cost.

Chief commented that PC Winn has a power down here and we should be able to talk to all areas of Pima County. Terry stated that tower was also on the fiber optic cable.

Gene Gibson stated it was a minimum of a 2 tower bounce to get to Tucson.

B. Service Charges

Omar gave a report from the Service Charge Advisory Committee meeting. They recommend the fire district offer the option of people outside the district but inside the service district a service fee which would put them in same status as taxpayers. Fire Chief commented that the letters should be mailed out within the next 2 months. Omar stated the committee recommends the Fire District reconsider their decision to bill the taxpayers within the service area. The point being that some of the billing would be paid by the insurance companies. The district could forgive any monies not paid by the insurance companies.

Kathleen asked why we would bill the people in the district if the taxes already paid via taxes. Terry commented that the taxes were for Fire service only. He stated EMS is not a taxable item.

Chief commented that we are not an EMS district. We are leaving monies from insurance companies; this is monies we can get now if we bill. Once we get the CON we will be billing everyone anyway. So why not start now in order to get insurance monies.

Kathleen stated her concern was that if we went on an EMS call, the taxpayer would wonder why we were billing them.

Terry commented this was a recommendation from the committee.

Omar stated if the EMS call was at his house then VA would pay. Kathleen commented this would be double dipping.

The third item discussed at the committee meeting was that there are people living in the district that are not taxpayers. The committee recommends an EMS subscription be offered to these people.

Kathleen asked if this was renters but not tax payers.

Mark commented that renters were not covered.

Omar commented that the house was paying taxes and the taxes were included in the rent. Kathleen also agreed with this.

Omar stated these were the recommendations from the committee.

Omar asked if there was a motion that we should send an offer to the property owners in the service area but not in the district. Mark moved to make the motion. Terry seconded.

Omar called for discussion.

Kathleen commented that if it was capped at a certain rate and if a discount to the people outside the district then people in the district would want their properties discounted also.

Patti Jent commented that if a discount was given to people outside the district, some people would pull out of the district and pay a discounted fee.

Chief commented they would have to be on the perimeter of the district. If people pulled out then our district would get smaller and so would our tax monies.

Gene asked if it would make more sense to do a 2 step process. Go by same rate as current district has and then at a future date see what response we have gotten and see if it would be viable to offer a discount.

Fire Chief Scott commented that another option would be to see what the highest priced property per valuation in the district is for one property; then say anything above that threshold we would negotiate a contract with them; everyone under that valuation would be same as tax payers.

Gene commented that a comparison chart showing costs be included with the letter.

Chief recommended that we should show costs if they were a subscriber and if they were not a subscriber.

Omar commented that whatever the insurance paid would be considered as payment in full.

Gene stated we need to do it as equitable as possible. Everyone in the valley knows we are basically paying for fire. He thinks we have to bill. If someone has more than one property then let the homeowner decide which properties will be included in the subscription.

Omar asked if the motion should be amended to state what the specific option is.

Kathleen amended the motion to read to set up a fee schedule outside the district; the committee goes back to review the fee schedule for subscribers and structure for the letter and then bring it back at the next meeting.

Chief and Omar stated it did not have to go back to the committee. Chief commented that if you wanted to cap the fee then amend the motion to that.

Omar asked for an amended motion: Make an offer to properties in the service area and outside the district and that offer will be to compute the service fee the same as for the properties inside the district except there will be a cap on the maximum amount to be no more than the highest single property within the district for the current fiscal year. Kathleen made the motion. Terry seconded.

Kathleen stated the letters should be out by the end of November.

Omar called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Omar stated the next item was to reconsider billing for EMS.

Terry made a motion to bill everyone including taxpayers.

Kathleen thinks that if we went out on a medical call, would the taxpayers think they would be getting a bill.

Omar stated the bill would go to the insurance company.

Chief stated the bill would have state to please submit to the insurance company.

Patti commented that Scott was working on an agreement with Southwest to where we could bill the insurance companies as a subcontractor.

Mark suggested a community meeting to explain to the people what was going on. He stated the people will see the billing as a bad thing.

Omar commented this was a way to pump some monies into the district at no expense to the taxpayer.

Kathleen commented that a good number of tax payers would not understand that. She thinks the taxpayers are under the impression that the taxpayers think their taxes include both fire and EMS services.

Omar stated this is not saying anything different. He stated that if the taxpayers send the bill to their insurance company then we get extra monies at no expense to the taxpayers.

Chief stated that for Non taxpayers we would be asking for the balance of monies due that were not paid for by the insurance company. He stated that billing was going to start when we got the CON however if we start now we can bring in extra monies.

Gene stated that no one expects the clinic to give anything free. Are we in the process of billing from a tax based system to becoming a user based system? It can be proven and shown as a method to control the tax base by billing the insurance and the other liable coverage vehicles. It must be written and approached correctly.

Omar commented that we had a motion and a second on billing taxpayers.

Gene asked if we had any information on when we would get the CON? Chief stated it could be 4 months; it could be 4 years. Gene stated that maybe we should consider billing after we got the CON.

Omar stated we are trying to lower the taxes. If we can shrink the tax rate by bringing in insurance monies why in the world wouldn't we do it?

Jim asked Chief that if we got a subcontractor agreement with Southwest then we could use their CON? Chief responded yes for billing.

Chief stated that our current tax base is approximately \$130,000. He stated if we billed all insurance companies then we could bring in approximately the same.

Omar stated that as we go more and more toward the CON we will get more and more ability to reducing the tax rate.

Lance stated he was hearing concern that this is what we would like to do however we are also concerned about the reaction of the taxpayers. Why not put up out a community notice to where they know what is going on?

Kathleen stated we should move forward with this.

Mark asked who we were billing now. Patti Jent stated everyone but Taxpayers.

Omar stated this was a board decision and not an operations decision.

Kathleen stated we have the numbers and we have the rationale and therefore if a community meeting was called it could be explained.

Mark called the question.

Omar called the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Chief stated he would put it in his article for the Connection for the month of November.

Omar stated the last item the committee talked about was offering an EMS subscription to non-taxpayers in the district and in the service area.

Omar commented that he billed his tenants an amount that included the taxes for the rental property.

Mark made the motion to offer an EMS subscription to non-taxpayers in the service area and Terry seconded.

Mark asked the rest of the board how they felt.

Terry stated the people that rent from him are paying taxes like he is. Everyone in the district gets a bill because we are a fire district not an EMS district. He feels if we were an EMS district we could furnish EMS service.

Omar stated if his property tax did not go to ALS then he would not be here.

Terry, talking as a citizen, that if he were to call for an ambulance then he would expect a bill and his insurance would cover it.

Omar commented that if the renters paid the service fee then they would be treated as a tax payer. However he feels personally that renters are already paying taxes and therefore should be treated as a taxpayer.

Chief stated if they pay the \$250.00 yearly then they get treated as a taxpayer. If we go there 10 times a year or 0 times a year then whatever the insurance pays the rest of the bill will be forgiven if they paid the subscription fee.

Omar stated he thinks the renters are paying taxes as part of their rent.

Omar commented that rather than using the word non-taxpayers, we should use the word renters. If you are a homeowner in the service district, you cannot use the EMS subscription.

Jim stated that he knows a number of people that are living at residences but not taxpayers, they may be caretakers or someone that is not married but has a partner living with them would they be included in this?

Chief stated that if a call comes in then we can also ask that person if they would like the service. Omar asked then why wouldn't everyone wait until a call came before they paid the \$250.00.

Chief asked about winter visitors.

Omar asked for an amendment to the motion to read anyone in the service area be offered the EMS subscription for \$250.00 per person per year. Terry so moved and Kathleen seconded.

Chief stated this would only apply for EMS service, not fire calls. It would bring in additional income that we are not getting right now.

Omar called for a vote. The motion did not carry, all 5 board members opposed.

Omar stated there needed to be a committee meeting before the next board meeting.

C. Update on the Audit/Review and discussion on progress

Patti stated everything had been submitted with the exception of one document that Scott was working on.

D. Update on the elections.

Kathleen stated had sent out letters and had phone calls from 3 people. Allan Beal stated if no one else was interested then he would come forward. Gene Gibson stated he would like to serve on the board. Kathleen stated RD contacted her and he was not interested.

E. Review of Strategic Plan

Kathleen reported on the Strategic Plan committee. She indicated Mark took notes. She thought the meeting went well. Scott went over the 5 goals that were set. Kathleen indicated that the public indicated they wanted to see the tax rate lowered.

Fire Chief Scott stated they needed to schedule another committee meeting.

Omar stated it would be a good time to schedule the meeting for the Service Charge Advisory Committee and the Strategic Plan Committee.

Omar asked when the Service Charge Advisory committee would be able to meet and it was agreed to meet on November 9th at 3:00 pm.

Omar asked when the Strategic Planning Committee could meet and it was agreed to meet on November 12th at 9 AM.

F. Update on auction for the fire truck.

Fire Chief Scott stated both trucks on the auction went for approximately \$80,000. He did find another type 3 fire engine that we may be able to get. He stated the quality was the same however there were some major differences. This truck is 4 years newer, has a 750 gallon tank and a 750 gallon pump so it will be a better structure fire truck. It also has air conditioning that the other trucks did not. It is listed for \$69,000. Scott indicated he had gotten them down to \$57,750 so far. They will do a pump test and we can do a full inspection and take it for a test drive before we purchase it. This truck has 92,000 miles on it so mileage is higher than the other trucks.

Mark asked with the mileage being higher did we still think we could get 10 to 15 years out of it. Chief said we should be able to get 5-10 years out of it. Then hopefully we can get a grant before that to get a new engine. This will be a better truck to respond within the district. He does not think we would have a problem getting 10 years out of it if we take care of it.

Jim stated that he voted no on the auction because he was hesitate as he would like to see some things that we have started get done before we take on any new projects.

Chief stated the plan called for a truck in 2015 or 2016. The base profit from this truck would be about 76% and this included everything but fuel. With this truck we would be expecting to increase our revenues \$20,000 - \$30,000 a year and that would cover the \$10,000-\$12,000 a year payment.

Omar stated that we are running a business and this would possibly reduce the tax rate as it would bring in more monies. We have trucks that are getting called out but hopefully this truck will give us the capability to get us called out more.

Gene Gibson commented that we needed to cut down on the trucks. He stated this truck would help us retire the state truck. He did a calculation on engine hours and the truck has average 12 miles of run time which means it has set mostly at idle. Therefore the engine hours is not considered high.

Mark made a motion to approve \$60,000 to purchase the 1995 Engine and Kathleen seconded. Omar suggested putting out bids for financing. Chief commented that we could do that but right now he was looking to purchase the truck with bridge financing that we have.

Chief stated the life of the truck would be 5 to 10 years.

Gene Gibson stated that based on a life of 5 years we would take 3 years to pay for the truck and it would give us 2 years of revenue on the truck or a 40% return.

Omar asked for an amendment to the motion to change the amount to \$57,750 plus transportation. No one made the motion and therefore this was withdrawn.

Chief commented that he would like to see the motion read on any type 3 engine in case this deal did not go through.

Gene commented that this way if the deal does not go through then Fire Chief would not have to come back to the board again.

Omar asked for an amendment to the motion to keep the figure at \$60,000 to any type 3 California Engine. Terry amended the motion and Mark seconded.

Omar called for a vote and the motion carried 5-0.

7. CALL TO PUBLIC

Fire Chief Scott asked if the Call to Public could be moved to the beginning of the meeting. That way if people wanted to comment on the agenda but not stay for the meeting the public would be able to do that.

Kathleen commented that the public would have to understand that the Board would not be able to comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mark made a motion to adjourn and Kathleen seconded. Omar called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0.
Omar adjourned the meeting at 10:07 PM

Approved November 16, 2012.

Omar Rood

Terry Tompkins