



Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District

16126 Pierce Ferry Road, Dolan Springs, Arizona 86441

Office: (928) 767-3300 · Fax: (928) 767-3301

www.lmrfd.org

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAKE MOHAVE RANCHOS FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

*The Governing Board of the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District met in regular session on **03-20-2017** at **1:30 p.m.** The meeting was held at **The Dolan Springs Chamber of Commerce, located at 16154 Pierce Ferry Road, Dolan Springs, AZ 86441.** The Board may vote to go into executive session on any agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice with the District's attorney on matters as set forth in the agenda item. The following topics and any variables thereto, will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items are set for possible action.*

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER.

- Director Berg called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.

- Michael Karash; Clerk, Steve Berg, Chairman; Debora Cass, Eric Terrill and Charlotte Kiffer (via telephone) were present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

- Recited.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Session 2-27-2017
 - Director Karash motioned to approve the minutes, Director Berg 2nd. Director Kiffer noted an edit to reflect her attendance was "via telephone." Directors Karash, Berg and Kiffer motioned to approve, motion carried. Directors Terrill and Cass abstained.
- b. Executive Session 2-27-2017
 - Tabled/postponed

5. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- a. February 2017 Financial Report(s) *(The financial report(s) are to be reviewed and approved by the Board.)*
 - Revenue for month of February was \$33,726, year to date revenue is \$664,650 and year to date expenses are \$479,697. Overall, per Mr.



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Buldra the District is under budget in all categories. Director Kiffer inquired about an increase in liability charges from prior year to current. Mr. Buldra explained that it was PSPRS payments and higher payroll for that period. Noting it wasn't more cost to the District, it was a "catch-up" for some payments. Mr. Buldra also explained some revenues are down at the moment, but hopeful those would pick up with Spring/Summer. Mr. Buldra also noted that overall the District is doing well financially and will have a carry-over greater than last FY, prospectively. Director Terrill inquired about accrual increase of assets being reported, approximately \$16k. Mr. Buldra noted the assets reported for the increase are reflective of a transmission, video carts and FF Assistance Grant. Director Karash motioned to approve, Director Cass 2nd. All members present in favor, motion carried.

- b. Fire Chief's Report *(The governing body may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on this matter unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action. Therefore, action taken as a result of the Chief's report will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and discussion at a later date. (A.R.S. 38-431.02.K.)*
- 45 total calls for February, transports were 25.
 - B-436 last few items to be addressed; next board meeting it should be available for viewing.
 - Welcome! New volunteer brought aboard, with FF experience.
 - Mass Casualty event/exercise tentatively set for October 2017
 - E-411 is repaired and back in service by end of week; Cecil and Bobby brought the engine back to District from FireTrucks Unlimited. A seal in the pump had water leaking into it which failed the pump transmission. Repair cost was \$10,590.24; board approved up to \$12,000 for the repair order.
 - Widening of Pierce Ferry Rd. From Lloyd Street up to the Fire Station 41/Administration. The monies have been allocated, per Jean Bishop for this enhancement.
 - A walking path from Mt. Tipton school to the library is in the works for paving
 - Chevron station is going up quickly; no concrete opening date as of yet
 - State Surplus Yard visit upcoming to Phoenix to view vehicles; no overall cost to District other than possible paint/maintenance. Adding some LMRFD vehicles that are no longer in service on the Surplus site.

6. BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding: placing tax override on ballot; tax override 3.25% to 3.50% for 5 years. (Administrative/Gabe Buldra)
- Chief DeMaio explained that with the upcoming increase with PSPRS, increases in insurance costs and EMS reporting system costs, the increase to 3.50% would benefit the District and off-set some of the



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upcoming charges to be expected. Also noting it provides a .25 increase for 5 years and after that it goes away, stating this is the last year within the election cycle it can be taken advantage of. Mr. Buldra noted that if the increase takes place the monies would not be seen until FY 18-19. Mr. Buldra also noted that there is a delinquency rate upon tax revenue, with this increase it would provide approximately \$43k in increase to revenue, but with the delinquent accounts it would be roughly \$37k awarded. Over a 5 year period it would approximately be a \$189k increase with potential of \$219k with all accounts up to date and paid. Mr. Buldra also noted the delinquency is collectible, but that the District wouldn't budget off that. Mr. Buldra stated all Districts are facing financial constraints at the moment, noting this is a very political decision but from a financial stand point "it makes sense for the District to take advantage of this opportunity." Director Berg wanted to know if any other District has had success with this. Mr. Buldra stated 6 other Districts have done this increase and 4 have been successful. Mr. Buldra noted he has two clients that did this increase and 1 was successful and 1 wasn't. Mr. Buldra stated he believes the difference in success for these two Districts was the way it was communicated and educated to the public. Noting a proactive approach is a better way/idea. Mr. Buldra also explained that advertising (mailers, etc.) would be a cost to the District and legal assistance as well, in making sure everything is accurate with proper legal terminology on ballot and correct statues are followed. Chief DeMaio noted that this would be placed on the ballot for August 2017. Director Berg wanted a comparison of success rate with this increase rate. Director Kiffer inquired about property value going up and potential increase from that, Mr. Buldra stated it only increased .09% last year and prior to that in years it was on the decline. Item tabled.

- b. Discussion and possible action regarding: review of District financials; overview with Gabe Buldra. (Director Cass)
 - o No Action
- c. Discussion and possible action regarding: Budget Preparation/Projection FY 17-18; financials and grants; discussion and possible action regarding: schedule of possible workshop for FY 17-18 Budget with Gabe Buldra, Board of Directors, Fire Chief and Administrative Assistant. (Gabe Buldra, CPA)
 - o Mr. Buldra stated the big costs to the District are PSPRS, personnel costs and benefits. Mr. Buldra noted that a workshop for the Board



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would be beneficial. Also stating that by law and adoptive budget needs to be into the County by 8/1/2017 for FY 17-18. Noting within that the Board needs to adopt a tentative budget, needs posted for 20 days (posting places for District), no longer required to be posted in newspaper. After the 20 day posting, the Board will hold a public hearing on the budget, and then make a final adoption of the budget. Mr. Buldra noted he prefers to have budgets adopted before the end of the current FY. Mr. Buldra is suggesting a workshop for April or May and at the May meeting a tentative adoption for a 20 day posting. Upon discussion, the next regular board meeting will be April 24 at 1:30 in Meadview, with a workshop scheduled on the same day at 11:00 a.m. No action.

- d. Discussion and possible action regarding: Luncheon; “Pay-it-forward” property taxes; date, location(s), times, food, items needed, helpers. (Kiffer)
 - o Upon discussion there will be “thank-you” ads/letters placed within the Community News and Hometown Crier for both Dolan Springs and Meadview. No luncheon will take place. No Board action necessary.
- e. Discussion and possible action regarding: Board approval for Fire Chief and Clerk of the Board to sign a waiver of conflict of interest and consent to joint representation for the County Mutual Aide Agreements, Grant for PPE and Grant for SCBA. (Chief DeMaio)
 - o Chief DeMaio explained that all the above mentioned agreements require his signature and the Board Clerks signature as well and then they go to the District’s Attorney, noting that the Attorney stated the cost would be split due to the same information being processed within his office for other District’s as well and also due to the conflict of the Attorney representing LMRFD and other District’s regarding the same matter(s). Chief DeMaio stated that when the grants come through, these agreements state that the District will pay it's share in conjunction with the awarded amount(s). No Action.

7. CALL TO THE PUBLIC. *Consideration and discussion of comments and complaints from the public. Those wishing to address the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District Board need not request permission in advance. The Fire District Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on any item(s) that are not on the Agenda that are raised in the call to the public. However, individual Board Members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct that staff review the matter or that the matter be placed on a future agenda.*



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The Fire District Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public due to restriction of the Opening Meeting Law.

- *Walt Kiffer; inquired about last month's meeting with the audit regarding liability uncompensated benefits time, transport rate/number decrease and sign moving of LMRFD due to construction (unrelated to LMRFD). Director Berg noted that the liability uncompensated benefits inquiry would be placed on the April agenda. Chief DeMaio noted that the other two inquiries could be answered after the meeting.*
- *Ellen Reh-Bower; concerns regarding time, energy and monies involved with tax increase. Noting that the District should maintain coverage with CON within District limit unless compensated by other agencies for providing service, noting that DHS doesn't want to get involved or cut the limitation of coverage back. Ms. Bower read off reported numbers of unpaid calls/transport from prior years as a reflection and also noted that some Meadview residents should be annexed into the District to help with costs/revenue. Ms. Bower stated that she doesn't feel the increase to 3.50% would pass because people are tired of letting others skate free. Ms. Bowers other concern(s) are traffic increase due to future I-11. Walt Kiffer advised to Ms. Bower and the public that anyone can assist with increasing the boundaries of the District, it is noted with the statutes, noting it's not solely the Board of Directors responsibility.*

8. CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Liability uncompensated benefits FY 15-16 reported on Audit
- Tax increase, impact to District and pursuing other avenues of income vs. tax increase.
- Jean Bishop (possible attendance) regarding PILT
- Annexation of property for LMRFD; boundaries
- Ambulance quotes; purchase

9. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATE & LOCATION.

- Tentatively set for 4/24/17 in Meadview, AZ (MCA) at 1:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

- *Director Berg adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:28 p.m.*

MINUTES prepared by: *Karen Jackson*
(This is a working draft, until Board approval)

Date: 03-23-2017