



Rio Verde Fire District
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**MINUTES OF THE
RIO VERDE FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS GENERAL SESSION**

April 24, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. CALL TO ORDER.....	2
II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.....	2
III. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING.....	2
IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC.....	2
V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.....	3
VI. CLERK’S REPORT.....	3
VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS.....	3
VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS.....	4
IX. NEW HEALTH BENEFIT PACKAGE.....	4
X. WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE.....	5
XI. YEAR-END PROJECTION AND BUDGET STATUS.....	5
XII. ENGINEER’S MOVE-UP POSITION.....	5
XIII. NEW FIRE PREVENTION FEE SCHEDULE (PFS).....	5
XIV. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION/RECONVENE TO GENERAL SESSION.....	6
XV. CHIEF’S REPORT.....	6
XVI. DEPUTY CHIEF’S REPORT.....	6
XVII. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT.....	7
XVIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT.....	8
XIX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.....	8
XX. BOARD COMMENTS.....	8
XXI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS.....	8
XXII. ADJOURNMENT.....	8



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I. CALL TO ORDER

The Wednesday, April 24, 2024, General Session of the Board of Directors was called to order by Chairperson George Kattermann at 9:00 a.m. in the RVFD Fire Station #442 Community Room, located at 17619 E. Rio Verde Dr., Rio Verde, AZ 85263.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Marty Bowin, Jeanne Finney, George Kattermann, and Nancy Sewell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Pete Sturman

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Scott Krushak, Deputy Chief Chris Stewart, Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh, Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs, and Administrative Assistant Tatum Heinrich, Rio Verde Fire District

II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

All commissioners were present, with the exception of Commissioner Sturman.

III. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

The District's Certificate of Posting was presented, certifying that the meeting's agenda had been posted at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. This certificate was posted at the fire station, Rio Verde Post Office, Rio Verde Community Center, the Tonto Verde Community Center, and on the Verde River website.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 25, 2024 – General Session

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board approve the March 25, 2024, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

The approval of the minutes of the March 25, 2024, Executive Session will be placed on the May agenda.

VI. CLERK’S REPORT

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday, June 24, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday, July 29, 2024, 9 a.m.

All meetings will be held in the Community Room at F/S #442, 17619 E. Rio Verde Drive, Rio Verde, AZ 85263.

Commissioner Sewell will attend the June, July, August, and September sessions via telephone.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Sewell reported on the March 2024 financials:

Financial Report	
Revenue	\$318,552.32
Expenses	\$416,136.56
Other Income (Expense)	(\$234,157.30)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$331,741.54)
Transfers to (from) Capital Fund	(\$250,000.00)
Adjusted Net Income	(\$81,741.54)
Monthly Budgeted Net Income (Loss)	(\$1,335.18)
YTD Actual Net Income (Loss)	\$693,078.02
Borrowing from Capital Fund	\$500,000.00
YTD Adjusted Net Income	\$193,078.02
YTD Budgeted Net Income	\$306,226.79
General Fund Operating Cash	\$645,110.29
Capital Fund Cash	\$1,169,750.63
Capital Fund Advances to General Fund	\$500,000.00
Capital Fund Equity	\$1,669,750.63
Total Bond Fund Authorization*	\$5,101,858.64

Total Expenditures to Date	\$5,146,992.48
Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned)	\$47,800.66
Current Month Expenditures	-0-
Remaining Bond Equity	\$64.19

*The “Total Bond Fund Authorization” includes the \$5,000,000 bond, plus the cost of issuance.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the March 2024 Financial Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the March 2024 Monthly Transaction Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the March 2024 bank reconciliations as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.

There will be no transfer of funds between the general and capital funds in April.

VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported the following:

Twelve (12) surveys (out of 35) were returned, with eleven (11) claimed “Outstanding” service, and one (1) claimed “Good” service. There were only positive comments received.

It was agreed that each transported resident be given information on the care services able to be provided by the VerdeCares program, and how to contact VerdeCares.

IX. NEW HEALTH BENEFIT PACKAGE

Staff has been in search of better healthcare coverage, cost information, and a better broker. Several quotes were received, and it was determined that Kairos Health Arizona is the company that would best fit the needs of the district.

- Kairos does not offer long-term disability; however, Kairos could find a long-term care provider and offer it to be chosen by an employee along with other supplemental insurance choices Kairos offers employees on a self-pay basis.
- Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs suggested that the district pay 100% of the short-term (6 months) disability for the employee.
- The Kairos agreement was reviewed and approved by the attorney for the district.
- The group has 25,000 members and has been in existence since 2017. Kairos’ focus is entirely on fire and school districts.
- Premiums are based on the district’s demographics for the first two years. The district will receive base increases (around 5%) based on that time period and current claims.
- There are a wide variety of medical plan choices for employees.
- The district will save funds on COBRA and the separate tele-health program, as they are included in the plans.

- Firefighters and staff will continue with United HealthCare and do not have to change medical providers.
- The cost of the new coverage is comparable to the present coverage.

Commissioner Bowin moved that the district approve the agreement for health insurance with Kairos for F/Y 2024/2025. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

X. WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

After receiving firefighter workers' compensation quotes from 7710 Insurance Company and Securis Insurance Pool, Chief Krushak recommended that the Board accept the bid from 7710 Insurance Company through Cindy Elbert Insurance Services.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board approve the quote by 7710 Insurance Company. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously.

XI. YEAR-END PROJECTION AND BUDGET STATUS

It is anticipated that there will be a budget deficit for F/Y 2023/2024, most likely due to the necessary requirements (staff, equipment, vehicles) of the new station and the automatic aid agreement with neighboring fire departments.

The upcoming budget will include a higher contingency fund, with year-end leftover funds being transferred to the capital fund. The Board directed staff to review the 2024/2025 budget in search of options to decrease the expenses going forward for reconsideration at the next meeting.

XII. ENGINEER'S MOVE-UP POSITION

Chief Krushak requested the continued extension of one firefighter (Chris Pearson) in an Engineers move-up position until further notice.

Commissioner Finney moved that the Board approve the continued extension of Chris Pearson to the engineer's move-up position until further notice. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

XIII. NEW FIRE PREVENTION FEE SCHEDULE (PFS)

Chief Krushak brought the subject of a new fire prevention fee schedule to the Board.

Fire Marshall Chris Cavanaugh informed the Board that fire prevention fees have not changed since 2018. Also, the fee schedule has been very basic since its inception with Resolution 2005-3, Article 3.

The most significant change being proposed is with how service fees are charged. He indicated that he would like to switch the burden from the fire district to the custom home builder when a large development is created. New charges were described, all in alignment with industry standards.

The Board endorsed Cavanaugh to post (on district's website) the draft proposal with notes, minus the delay in charging solar and battery fees for one year. A public input hearing must be held, and the final proposal will be approved at the June meeting.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION/RECONVENE TO GENERAL SESSION

Pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(1), at 10:09 a.m. Commissioner Finney moved that the Board move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation. Commissioner Bowin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

At 11:02 a.m. the Board reconvened to General Session.

XV. CHIEF'S REPORT

Legislative Report

- The governor signed the Arizona State Division of Forestry's bill to continue the state forester's position.
- A fire protection bill regarding dampers and smoke detectors will be approved by the governor.
- An interstate compact for resources within the state will also be approved by the governor.
- The proposed formation of a Fire District Advisory Group has been disbanded.

Verde River Annual Meeting

Chief Krushak attended the Verde River Annual Meeting and spoke with Shea Homes about Trilogy/Verde River being closed out within one to two years. Almost everything is sold.

Job Share Update

Kelvin Bartee will enter the deputy chief job share arrangement with Chris Stewart, to begin May 6, 2024. The impact of job sharing will be measured and revisited at the end of one year.

Application Orientation

Twelve (12) new firefighter applicants were present at the recent pre-application orientation, and 23 applications were received.

FEMA SAFER Grant

The FEMA SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant was submitted with a request for funding six firefighting positions, to be added over the next 6 months.

XVI. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Certifications

Deputy Chief Chris Stewart indicated that the additional Blue Card Incident Command Certification for firefighters had been completed, and it will be included in a continuing education process.

There are two (2) RVFD recruits in the fire academy who should graduate on May 10, 2024, and begin work with the B & C shifts shortly thereafter.

Red Card Certification will be held for all new recruits for wildland firefighting, and recertification will be held for all current firefighters.

All district apparatus has been verified as part of the cooperative agreement with the Arizona State Forest Group for wildland firefighting.

Regional Wildland Meeting

Chief Stewart participated in the regional wildland meeting approximately three weeks ago, with all cooperating agencies (federal, state, county, and local jurisdictions) present. Air support resources should be available within the first two weeks of May.

Response Data

Two simultaneous rescue incidents occurred this month in the desert, one individual with a broken bone and the other suffering a seizure. Our crew responded to one of these.

The district has notified Mesa Dispatch that the district is unable to provide mutual aid for Fountain Hills outside of an immediate life-threatening occurrence or mass casualties. Our district has been called very frequently to aid Fountain Hills in patient transport, and we are concerned that it could leave us without an ambulance in time of need within our own district.

The north end of Rio Verde (Tonto National Forest) will undergo control burns on April 25, 2024. Firefighters will be there to ensure that the burn does not get out of control.

Video data was presented to the Board.

- Snake calls are on the rise, with five (5) in one day.
- Forty-five (45) ambulance transports were made in the month of March, with an average prior to March of 30 transports. The district experienced this 50% increase in ambulance calls simply by aiding Fountain Hills.

XVII. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT

Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh reported the following for the month of March:

Permits issued:

	2024	2023
Sprinklers	1	1
Propane	1	0
Others	0	0
YTD (All Types)	42	28
	2024	
Sprinkler Plan Review	2	
Propane Plan Review	1	

Total Inspections	43	
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XVIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT

Wildland Expense Update

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe advised there was no change to the wildland report - the \$15,600.49 billed for the Diamond fire has been reimbursed. The additional \$78 was an administrative cost.

XIX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

XX. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further Board comments.

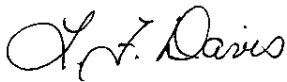
XXI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

There were no further chairperson comments.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board adjourn at 11:37 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis
My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)