



Rio Verde Fire District
17619 E. Rio Verde Drive
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**MINUTES OF THE
RIO VERDE FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS GENERAL SESSION**

July 29, 2024

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, July 29, 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, Nancy Sewell (via telephone), and Pete Sturman

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Scott Krushak, Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee, 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, Commissioner Sewell by telephone.

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

June 24, 2024 – General Session

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board approve the June 24, 2024 General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

June 24, 2024 – Executive Session

Commissioner Finney moved that the minutes of the June 24, 2024 Executive Session be approved as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

VI. CLERK'S REPORT

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, August 26, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday, September 23, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday, October 28, 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 August and September sessions via telephone.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Sewell reported on the June 2024 financials:

Financial Report	
Revenue	\$136,476.61
Expenses	\$439,228.00
Other Income (Expense)	(\$55,400.00)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$358,151.39)
Transfers to (from) Capital Fund	(\$50,000.00)
Adjusted Net Income	(\$308,151.39)
Monthly Budgeted Net Income (Loss)	(\$322,275.83)
YTD Actual Net Income (Loss)	\$88,811.65
Borrowing from Capital Fund*	\$200,000.00
YTD Adjusted Net Income	(\$111,188.35)
YTD Budgeted Net Income	\$0.00

General Fund Operating Cash	\$72,883.37
Capital Fund Cash	\$1,877,526.51
Capital Fund Advances to General Fund**	\$200,000.00
Capital Fund Equity***	\$1,877,526.51
YTD Funds Borrowed from Capital Fund	\$1,250,000.00
YTD Funds Repaid to Capital Fund	\$1,050,000.00
Funds Owed to Capital Fund***	\$200,000.00
Total Bond Fund Authorization****	\$5,101,858.64
Total Expenditures to Date	\$5,146,992.48
Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned)	\$47,801.22
Current Month Expenditures	-0-
Remaining Bond Equity	\$64.81

*Additional funds required to cover FY 2023/24 budget overrun.

**Funds applied to additional operating expenses in FY 2023/24.

***Since funds were applied to operating expenses in FY 2023/24 and not available for repayment, the RVFD Board agreed to waive repayment and reduce the Capital fund by \$200,000.

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

Commissioner Sturman moved that the Board accept the June 2024 Financial Report with the above adjustments. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the June 2024 Profit & Loss Statement. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

The line item of Station Maintenance was higher for June due to an air conditioning repair. The line item of Personal Protective Equipment was also higher in June, but the incoming grant will reimburse the district for those expenses.

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

Commissioner Finney moved that the district transfer approximately \$500,000 for the next installment of the operating loan, plus \$513,000 for the cost of the brush truck from the Capital Fund to the General Fund. Additionally, the year-end balance of \$88,811.65 is to be moved from the General Fund back to the Capital Fund. Commissioner Bowin seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board approve the transfer made in June of the \$450,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund. Commissioner Sturman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported the following:

Sixteen (16) surveys (out of 24) were returned, with all claiming “Outstanding” service. There were only positive comments received; there were no unusual comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION/RECONVENE TO GENERAL SESSION

Pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(1), at 9:26 a.m. Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter. Commissioner Finney seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

At 9:51 a.m. the Board reconvened to General Session.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board approve the Resolution allowing the chairman, the clerk, or the fire chief to activate the proposed solutions to the Qasimyar v. Maricopa County problem. The chief and Board members are to pen and sign a letter to residents summarizing the property tax suit, vowing to keep them up to date on each next step in the process. Commissioner Finney seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

X. MARICOPA COUNTY 2024 TAX ASSESSMENT AND BOND LEVY

Chief Scott Krushak reviewed the 2024 Levy Limit Worksheet and noted that the district’s levy is currently at \$3.7500, up from \$3.5000.

Commissioner Finney moved that the district approve the Maricopa County’s 2024 Tax Assessment and Bond Levy submission as received from Maricopa County. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

XI. REPLACEMENT OF RESIGNED FIREFIGHTERS

A firefighter who graduated from the fire academy and has worked with the district for a little over a year has resigned to work for the Scottsdale Fire District. Scottsdale Fire District will

reimburse the RVFD for the cost of the fire academy. Another firefighter has been hired to replace him, and he will be available for the next recruit academy.

Consequently, another firefighter resigned last week. He has been with the district for a little over two years and will be moving out of state. The Tier 2 firefighter hopefuls were interviewed by the chief, and another firefighter was located to fill this position. Background checks cannot be done in time to put him in the class in September, but he will be hired as a civilian EMT, going into the academy in February.

XII. ANNEXATION OF PARCEL #219-38-980 BY RESOLUTION #2024-02

In accordance with ARS 48-262(I), Fire Chief Scott Krushak requested the approval of a resolution authorizing the amendment of the RVFD's boundaries to include land within Maricopa County and adjacent to boundaries of the RVFD.

Parcel #219-38-980 houses FS #442 but has never been placed into the fire district. The district has determined that the inclusion of the subject property within the boundaries of the RVFD will benefit the district AND the property owner.

Deputy Chief Bartee reviewed the resolution with the Board.

Commissioner Finney moved that Resolution #2024-02 be approved as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

XIII. ANNEXATION OF PARCEL #219-38-046A BY RESOLUTION #2024-03

In accordance with ARS 48-262(I), on July 25, 2024, David Kimball, T1 Associates, requested that the Rio Verde Fire District Board amend the district's boundaries to include commercial land (16.8 acres) within Maricopa County and adjacent to boundaries of the Rio Verde Fire District.

Deputy Chief Bartee reviewed the resolution with the Board.

Chief Krushak indicated that there would be no increases in staffing or resources to serve this commercial property. It has been determined that the inclusion of the subject property within the boundaries of the RVFD will benefit the district AND the property owner.

Commissioner Bowin moved that Resolution #2024-3 be approved as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

XIV. CHIEF'S REPORT

Legislative Update

Chief Krushak noted that the legislature is not in session at this time.

Senator Kyrsten Sinema is working with the Special District Grant Accessibility Act which would require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local government for the purpose of federal financial assistance determinations. The bill has been agreed to in the House and will now be sent to the Senate.

Trucks

The new fire truck is getting an air leak repaired and should be received within the next two weeks. This Type 3 engine holds four staff members, 500 gallons of water, and has two pump systems. It can be used for wildland fire and some structural support.

The white fire truck originally purchased from Mesa for \$2,000 sold for \$10,000 to a private individual who purchased it for wildland suppression at his house.

CrowdStrike Service Interruption

CrowdStrike is a protection software used to shield computers from being hacked. On July 19 a software update was sent out from CrowdStrike which caused errors on blue screens globally. Chief Krushak advised that 9-1-1 did NOT go down, but the MCT terminals (Mobil Computer Terminals) on the trucks went down. There was no data or equipment loss to the district, and all backup systems worked.

XV. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Sand Stone Fire

Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee reported on the Sand Stone Fire (east of the Verdes, in the mountains halfway between Rio Verde and Hwy 87.) Wind direction has been good for protecting the community, and there has currently been zero impact to the area. The fire is 0% contained, but they currently have 200 personnel, aircraft, and helicopters fighting that fire.

Training

Promotional processes for firefighters are now ongoing. Two concurrent training programs (supervisor and engineer) are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays remotely for a two-hour time period.

The staff hopes to send two candidates to the Phoenix Fire Department for a six-month paramedic program.

EPCOR

There were rumors of a water main problem, but EPCOR was unclear about the issue. Fire personnel therefore tested hydrants to assure they were in proper working order. Deputy Chief Bartee will contact EPCOR regarding improving their communication to the district.

XV. FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

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

Permits issued:

	2024	2023
Sprinklers	11	15
Propane	15	9
Other	0	1
YTD (All Types)	89	87
	2024	
Sprinkler Plan Review	1	
Propane Plan Review	15	
Total Inspections	17	

Since permit prices were increasing soon, the number of permits submitted for June also increased.

Nine hundred and fifty-nine (959) homes have been closed by Trilogy as of the end of June. Fire Marshal Cavanaugh estimated that it would take three to four years for them to complete the buildout in Verde River, with 200 lots still to sell.

Toll Brothers has completed their development, ending at approximately 100 homes.

Fire Marshal Cavanaugh advised that in approximately one year he would initiate the 2024 fire code, which will catch the district up to where it should be.

XVI. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER'S REPORT

Wildland Expense Update

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs 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.

An invoice for the recent fire will be received soon.

Workers' Compensation

It was discovered that Workers' Compensation costs are lower than anticipated – budgeted at \$40,000, in reality \$16,000.

XVII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

XVIII. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further Board comments.

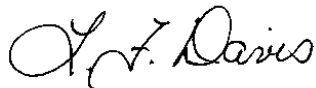
XIX. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

There were no further chairperson comments.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board adjourn at 10:51 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis
My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)