



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

May 22, 2023

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MINUTES OF THE RIO VERDE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS GENERAL SESSION

May 22, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, May 22, 2023, 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, Dennis Meyers, and Nancy Sewell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

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

II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

All commissioners were present.

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 District and Trilogy websites.

IV. RESOURCE SPECIALISTS REPORT

Commissioner Dennis Meyers indicated that members of his group are departing for the summer, but he and Terry would remain on call.

V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 24, 2023 – General Session

Commissioner Sewell moved to approve the April 24, 2023, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously.

VII. CLERK'S REPORT

Future Meetings

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, June 26, 2023 – 9 a.m.
- Monday, July 24, 2023 – 9 a.m. (Commissioner Bowin will be absent.)
- ~~Monday, August 28, 2023 – 9 a.m.~~
- Wednesday, August 23, 2023 – 9 a.m.

NOTE: The originally scheduled August 28th meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

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

VIII. EMS REPORT

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported that there were 20 surveys received in the month of April, all claiming "Outstanding" service. Only positive comments were provided.

IX. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION/RECONVENE TO GENERAL SESSION

Pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(1), at 9:07 a.m. Commissioner Finney moved that the Board move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation. Commissioner Meyers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

At 10:11 a.m. the Board reconvened to General Session.

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board approve the employee compensation discussed in the Executive Session. Commissioner Sewell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Finney departed the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

X. BUDGET WORKSHEET FY 2023/2024 AND FY 2024/2025

Chief Scott Krushak led discussion on the worksheets for FY 2023/2024 and FY 2024/2025.

- Currently the district’s expenses were over budget by approximately \$35,000 - \$40,000. The majority of this overage was caused by extensive repair costs for the Horton ambulance which has been replaced and currently up for sale. Proceeds for the sale of the ambulance will most likely be realized in the next fiscal year. It was noted, however, that revenues were higher than anticipated for this fiscal year.
- All contingency funds have been utilized.
- The district will be fully staffed by December of 2023, with ten (10) fulltime firefighters.
- Overtime, until the six new firefighters come onboard, has been calculated into the FY 2023/2024 budget.

Commissioner Bowin and Chairperson Kattermann felt that the automatic aid program’s public safety side is good, but the financial side is financially detrimental due to staffing requirements (overtime). Chief Krushak responded that putting the program on hold would be possible, but omitting the program would lessen the district’s service capacity to the community. When reaching full staffing capacity in December of 2023, however, the overtime costs should substantially decrease.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board post and approve the budget for FY 2023/2024. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Sewell reported on the April 2023 financials:

Financial Report	
Revenue	\$673,009.70
Expenses	\$376,613.15
Other Income (Expense)	\$967.99
Net Income (Loss)	\$297,364.54
Transfers to (from) Capital Fund	-0-
Adjusted Net Income	\$297,364.54
Monthly Budgeted Net Income (Loss)	\$293,956.27
YTD Actual Net Income (Loss)	\$684,335.50
Borrowing from Capital Fund	-0-
YTD Adjusted Net Income	\$684,335.50
YTD Budgeted Net Income	\$612,991.94
General Fund Operating Cash	\$674,236.70
Capital Fund Cash	\$1,769,884.53
Capital Fund Advances to General Fund	-0-

Capital Fund Equity	\$1,769,884.53
Total Bond Fund Authorization*	\$5,101,858.64
Total Expenditures to Date	\$5,146,992.48
Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned)	\$47,162.36
Current Month Expenditures	-0-
Remaining Bond Equity	\$2,028.52

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

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the April 2023 Financial Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyers and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the April 2023 Monthly Transaction Report. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyers and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the April 2023 bank reconciliations as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyers and passed unanimously.

XII. WORKERS COMPENSATION RENEWAL – CINDY ELBERT INSURANCE

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe informed the Board that Chief Scott Krushak and Deputy Chief Chris Stewart were to be recategorized as “firefighters” (as opposed to “clerical”) under Workers Compensation insurance. This increased the cost of the insurance, along with the increase in staffing for the new fire station.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board approve the Workers Compensation renewal with Cindy Elbert Insurance. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously.

XIII. CHIEF’S REPORT

Legislative Report

Chief Scott Krushak noted the following:

- Senate House Bill 2803, a \$150 million appropriation bill for the Department of Fire and Forestry Management for grants for local fire departments/districts to obtain equipment and station upgrades, was killed in the State budget.
- The bill introduced to reduce the commercial property tax to 15% in 2026 is currently in committee.
- The Carefree property tax vote was held, and it was not approved by a margin of 80% to 20%.

Evacuation Planning

The district hosted an exercise on wildfire evacuation planning with Maricopa County.

Recruits

The newly hired two recruits began fire training school as of today, May 22, 2023. This training lasts for 15 weeks.

Apparatus Delays/Inhibition to Repair Apparatus

Chief Krushak attended an automatic aid regional meeting for fire chiefs, and apparatus delays and inhibition to repair apparatus was the topic of discussion. The timeframe of receiving a new fire truck is now thirty-six months out, which skews the replacement schedule of several apparatus.

Automatic aid is creating an agreement within the automatic aid cities so that if you need a temporary fire truck, an apparatus can be loaned out to that fire district.

Fundraiser

Staff visited with Resident Bob Peel and a resident from Trilogy who ran a nonprofit foundation for the Seattle Fire Department (\$2.5 million raised for Seattle). She is interested in working with Bob Peel to create a Rio Verde Fire Foundation – run by the communities. This would augment the financial needs of the district. In exchange, they ask for enhanced programs and services for the community (CPR training, Stop-the-Bleed training, first aid training, etc.). She is looking for community leaders who would engage in representing the community.

XIV. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Activity Report

Deputy Chief Chris Stewart presented the April Deputy Chief's Report:

Call Type	Response Time
Emergency Response Time (Avg)	E441 – 4:27
	E442 – 7:40
Total Average	5:08
Non-Emergency Response Time (Avg)	E441 – 5:08
	E442 – 5:14
Total Average	5:10

Call Type	# Occurrences	
	2022	2023
Total EMS Calls	41	46

Total Transports	24	37
Total Non-emergency Response Calls	99	90
Fire-related Calls	4	7
Total Responses	144	143
Community Contacts	29	39

The E442 response time of 7:40 includes driving to Scottsdale to fulfill responsibilities under Automatic Aid. Their response times into Trilogy is on point, around four (4) minutes.

Rural Metro had a three-acre brush fire at 162nd Street caused by a welder. Chief Krushak and staff monitor any fire in close proximity to the district.

The value of having two (2) engines was proven when firefighters were called to a wash area close to a Rio Verde golf course. A resident had a medical event and was found in the wash with no pulse; firefighters were able to obtain a pulse. He was transported to a hospital, where his pulse was monitored, but he later died.

Chief Krushak noted that he was very appreciative of all the tools provided to firefighters by the Board, and he wished to maintain and advance the ability to service the community at a high level.

Phoenix Academy hosted its orientation week where two of our new reserve firefighters started orientation last week. They will be there for 15 weeks, returning to the district on September 4, 2023. The remaining four reserve firefighters will be placed in civilian EMS positions as early as possible.

By the time all new firefighters are off probation (December 2024), five (5) current firefighters will be eligible to retire. Two (2) have entered into the DROP. A SAFER grant has been applied for to reimburse the fire district for the six (6) additional positions.

The FS 441 reserve engine has had mechanical issues. The fuel lines collapsed, and some blockage in the fuel filter was found. It was sent to Mesa Fire, and the district was without an additional engine. Deputy Chief Stewart contacted Phoenix Fire who provided the district with a reserve apparatus for seven (7) days. The FS 441 reserve engine has been repaired and the borrowed apparatus returned.

Chairperson Kattermann and Commissioner Bowin asked if there was a routine preventive maintenance inspection plan for all apparatus. Deputy Chief Stewart answered in the affirmative and added that it is all documented. He then interjected that some problems cannot be anticipated.

XV. FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh reported on the following:

Permits issued:

April	2023	2022
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Sprinklers	12	1
Propane	17	4
Others	1	0
YTD (All Types)	58	81
Other Prevention Activity (April)		
Sprinkler Plan Review		0
Propane Plan Review		17
Kitchen Hood Review		1
Total Inspections		58

Shea Trilogy has closed 799 out of a total of 1215 planned homes.

XVI. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs noted no change on wildland billing, still \$180,001.11 invoiced and received.

As unpaid ambulance billings age out, they are sent to Administrative Manager Jacobs by our billing company. Pursuant to a Board decision, those billings will not be sent to a collection agency.

XVII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

XVIII. BOARD COMMENTS

A letter of appreciation was received, thanking the district.

The ISO rating has changed to 4; steps are being taken to return that rating to a 3. The problem is that the water pressure in numerous fire hydrants in the Community is low. The water supply is provided by Epcor, so any improvement must be undertaken by the utility company.

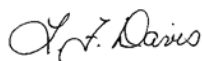
XIX. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

There were no further chairperson comments.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board adjourn at 11:45 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis
My Personal Secretary
(From Voice Recording)