



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

December 18, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. CALL TO ORDER.....2

II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.....2

III. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING.....2

IV. RESOURCE SPECIALISTS REPORT.....2

V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC.....2

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.....3

VII. CLERK’S REPORT.....3

VIII. EMS REPORT.....3

IX. FINANCIAL REPORTS.....3

X. CHIEF’S REPORT.....4

XI. DEPUTY CHIEF’S REPORT (PROVIDED BY CHIEF KRUSHAK).....6

XII. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT.....6

XIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT.....7

XIV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.....7

XV. BOARD COMMENTS.....7

XVI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS.....7

XVII. ADJOURNMENT.....7



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

December 18, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, December 18, 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 (via telephone)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Scott Krushak, 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 Commissioner Sewell attending via 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 District and Trilogy websites.

IV. RESOURCE SPECIALISTS REPORT

Commissioner Dennis Meyers noted that there was nothing new to report.

V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 27, 2023 – General Session

Commissioner Meyers moved to approve the November 27, 2023, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.

VII. CLERK’S REPORT

Future Meetings

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, January 29, 2024 – 9 a.m. NOTE: This was changed from January 22.
- Monday, February 26, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday March 25, 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.

VIII. EMS REPORT

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported that there were four (4) surveys received all of which claimed “Outstanding” service. Only positive comments were provided.

IX. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Sewell reported on the November 2023 financials:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Revenue | \$294,817.59 |
| Expenses | \$535,174.49 |
| Other Income (Expense) | (\$288.60) |
| Net Income (Loss) | (\$240,645.50) |
| Transfers to (from) Capital Fund | 0.00 |
| Adjusted Net Income | (\$240,645.50) |
| Monthly Budgeted Net Income (Loss) | (\$135,641.55) |
| | |
| YTD Actual Net Income (Loss) | \$1,730,800.59 |
| Borrowing from Capital Fund | \$1,250,000.00 |
| YTD Adjusted Net Income | \$480,800.59 |
| YTD Budgeted Net Income | \$754,179.71 |
| | |
| General Fund Operating Cash | \$1,692,747.28 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Capital Fund Cash | \$517,495.59 |
| Capital Fund Advances to General Fund | \$1,250,000.00 |
| Capital Fund Equity | \$1,767,495.59 |
| Total Bond Fund Authorization* | |
| Total Bond Fund Authorization* | \$5,101,858.64 |
| Total Expenditures to Date | \$5,146,992.48 |
| Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned) | \$47,798.99 |
| Current Month Expenditures | -0- |
| Remaining Bond Equity | \$62.72 |

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

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

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

Commissioner Finney moved that the Board accept the November 2023 Monthly Transaction Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyers and passed unanimously.

X. CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire District Activities

The pancake breakfast (held in coordination with Verde Cares) was held on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at F/S #441. Over \$17,000 was raised for Verde Cares during that event.

Menorah Lighting

At the request of a Fountain Hills rabbi, firefighters lit the first candle of the menorah for a Hanukkah gathering in the parking lot of F/S #442. It was noted that the population of those of the Jewish faith had increase in the Verdes. Approximately 80 individuals of many faiths participated in the ceremony.

Fundraising Golf Tournament

The Verde River fundraising golf tournament was held on December 4, 2023, at Verde River/Trilogy. It was a sold-out tournament with 176 golfers (at \$100 per golfer). The \$1,000 prize for a ball drop was donated to the fire department. Total funds raised will soon be tabulated.

Employee Christmas Party

The fire district employee Christmas Party took place at Station #442 and was catered by Defalco's restaurant, with Santa Claus arriving on a fire truck and passing out presents to the children of employees.

SAFER Grant

The SAFER grant discussed in past meetings has most likely been denied, though a denial letter has not yet been received. Chief Krushak will explore the grant's status more fully.

Staffing

Overtime costs are decreasing, but full staffing will only occur toward the end of January. Seven new firefighters will be assigned to probationary spots, under the supervision of their captains. One fulltime firefighter will soon be having orthopedic surgery and will be off for up to six months. This will affect overtime costs.

Workers' Compensation

An invoice for \$44,366 was received from the district's workers' comp carrier for "Covid premiums." This is tied into the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and could be reimbursable by the State. A representative from World Insurance, however, indicated that the invoice was erroneous and should be discarded. All insureds are scheduled to meet with the CEO of World Insurance on December 19 for clarification on the matter. It may be necessary to find another provider for workers' compensation insurance.

Strategic Plan Update

The first RVFD strategic planning meeting for 2024 - 2027 was held on November 29, 2023, with Chairperson Kattermann, Commissioners Bowin and Sewell, staff, firefighters, and residents in attendance. Goals were outlined and main areas were identified:

- Fire suppression
- Emergency medical services
- Emergency transportation services
- Special operations
- Wildland urban interface
- Public information
- Critical infrastructure intelligence

The next meeting will be held the last week in January, and the Board will be updated.

Dispatch Fees

Staff received Rio Verde Fire District’s Schedule A projected Mesa Regional Dispatch Center (MRDC) fees for fiscal year 2023/2025. The increase in dispatch fees is 22.4%, and maintenance fees are increased by 16.5%. Inflation and revenue fees are the explanations for the fee increase. Krushak will research the potential usage of Phoenix Regional Dispatch, which operationally might work better and might possibly be the same cost as the district is now paying.

XI. DEPUTY CHIEF’S REPORT (PROVIDED BY CHIEF KRUSHAK)

Training Activity

Five (5) recruits in Recruit Class #23-3 are in the second half of their training and due to graduate on January 5, 2024. They will begin work with the district immediately thereafter.

Data Access/Response Times

Chief Krushak reviewed response/turnout times, as well as discussing certain calls for response from Scottsdale and Fountain Hills.

XII. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT

Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh reported the following:

Permits issued:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| Sprinklers | 12 | 13 |
| Propane | 11 | 13 |
| Others | 1 | 0 |
| YTD (All Types) | 195 | 265 |
| Sprinkler Plan Review | | 1 |
| Propane Plan Review | | 11 |
| Tent Plan Review | | 1 |
| Total Inspections | | 72 |

Toll Brothers has currently closed all of their homes in Verde River. Shea has closed 885 homes to date and is gearing to build more in 2024. All combined, Shea, Toll, and Meritage have completed 1,022 homes Approximately 200 homes by Shea are anticipated for the future.

XIII. 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.

Ambulance Receivables

Three ambulance balances were brought to the Board for their consideration as to whether or not they could be written off. (It was determined that those three could be written off.) Jacobs will contact the individual who handles unpaid ambulance balances to consider the process for collecting unpaid balances.

2024 Board Meeting Calendar

Jacobs provided the Board with a 2024 Board meeting calendar and asked the Board to review it for any necessary changes in date(s). Changes were discussed, and a new calendar will be published at the next meeting.

XIV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

XV. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further Board comments.

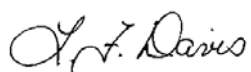
XVI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

There were no further chairperson comments.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board adjourn at 10:03 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyers and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis
My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)