



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

April 27, 2026

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, April 27, 2026, General Session of the RVFD Board of Directors was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Sewell at 9:02 a.m. in the RVFD Fire Station #442 Community Room, located at 17619 E. Rio Verde Dr., Rio Verde, AZ 85263.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeanne Finney, Dave LeMoine, Nancy Sewell, Pete Sturman, and Harold Tabor

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Scott Krushak, Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee, Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh, Administrative Assistant Tatum Heinrich, and Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe, 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 Verde River website.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 23, 2026 – General Session

Chairperson Sewell moved that the Board approve the March 23, 2026, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner LeMoine and passed unanimously.

VI. CLERK’S REPORT

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, May 18, 2026, 9 a.m.
- Monday, June 22, 2026, 9 a.m.
- Monday, July 27, 2026, 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.

Chairperson Sewell will be present via telephone for the June through October meetings.

Commissioner Sturman will not be present at the June 22, 2026, meeting.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

March 2026 Financial Report	
Revenue	\$488,671.92
Expenses	\$627,670.28
Other Income (Expense)	(\$250,000.00)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$388,998.36)
Transfers to (from) Capital Fund	(\$250,000.00)
Adjusted Net Income	(\$138,998.36)
Budgeted Monthly Net Income	(\$14,048.80)
YTD Net Income (Loss)	\$1,732,705.27
Borrowing from Capital Fund	\$750,000.00
YTD Adjusted Net Income	\$982,705.27
YTD Budgeted Net Income	\$690,498.76
General Fund Operating Cash	\$1,684,244.12
Capital Fund Cash	\$1,227,695.54
Capital Fund Advances to General Fund	\$750,000.00
Capital Fund Equity	\$1,977,695.54

YTD Funds Borrowed from Capital Fund	\$1,250,000.00
YTD Funds Repaid to Capital Fund	\$500,000.00
Funds Owed to Capital Fund	\$750,000.00
Total Bond Fund Authorization*	
Total Bond Fund Authorization*	\$5,101,858.64
Total Expenditures to Date	\$4,956,107.47
Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned)	\$47,804.90
Current Month Expenditures	-0-
Remaining Bond Equity	\$68.46

*\$5,000,000 bond plus cost of issuance

Commissioner/Treasurer Sturman briefly discussed the following:

- Revenues show 13% above budget for the month - the County is catching up on its revenue processing.
- Expenses showed a \$10,000 entry for a new air conditioner in F/S #441.
- There will be three pay periods in April.

Another \$250,000 will be moved from the general account to the capital account.

Commissioner Sturman moved that the Board accept the March 2026 financial report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.

VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS

Clerk Commissioner Jeanne Finney reported that no surveys were returned again this month.

After discussion, it was agreed that we follow our original plan with the surveys – mailing the surveys with a return envelope – but sent out twice per month instead of monthly.

IX. BUDGET PROJECTIONS FY 2025/26

It is anticipated that the fiscal year end will show a net surplus of between \$200,000 and \$400,000. That money can be rolled into the capital plan and also used to fund the Local PSPRS.

The subject of hiring an additional deputy chief was discussed, and it was noted that only a specific type of individual would work for that position – one that shares the philosophies of the current district’s operation and one who would be committed to the district’s long-term needs. Chief Krushak continues to look but feels no immediate rush at this time. Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee fills that position fulltime but will again drop down to part time when the slot is filled.

The capital plan continues to accurately project the value of capital expenditures. The development at West 36 will most likely not affect the amount of personnel involved in F/S #442 – but an additional ambulance will be needed.

Chairperson Sewell commended staff members for their expertise in keeping the district on track in terms of the budget.

The district trends at 7% - 8% increase in property tax levies yearly. With the increase in Trilogy/Shea Homes appreciation, Chief Krushak feels the increase in tax revenues should be larger. He anticipates a lull in the new home construction in the next two years.

X. BUDGET WORKSHEET FY 2026/27

Revenues and expenses were reviewed by Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs.

Payroll is the largest item on the expenses list, including an estimated 2% increase in the COLA.

Meetings have been held with firefighters on what contributions are being provided by the various districts. A Rio Verde Compensation Analysis has been created by the firefighter unions, which helps the district analyze its compensation package in comparison to other districts.

Chairperson Sewell informed that Board that one firefighter reiterated how thankful the firefighters are of everything the Board is doing that allows them to operate the way they are operating.

XI. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION/RECONVENE TO GENERAL SESSION

Pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(1), at approximately 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Sturman moved that the Board move to Executive Session for discussion on employee compensation. Commissioner LeMoine seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

At 11:59 the Board reconvened to General Session.

Commissioner Sturman moved that the compensation package discussed in the Executive Session be approved. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Tabor and passed unanimously.

XII. LOCAL PSPRS PAYMENT PLAN

Commissioner Finney moved that the Board continue with its current method of payments to the Local PSPRS. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Tabor and passed unanimously.

XIII. CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget Timeline

Chief Krushak reiterated that staff would place all recommended changes into the draft budget, and that budget will be available for the public hearing to be held at the May 25, 2026, Board meeting. The budget will be published between June 1 through June 22, 2026 for public comment. The Board will then vote to adopt that budget at the June 22 Board meeting.

Legislative Update

Most of the fire district legislative bills concern ambulances, certificates of need, all non-specific to our district.

West 36th

A civil engineer for West 36th approached staff indicating that they were going to change some of the grading and drainage on the west side of the fire station. They are planning to put a concrete catch basin on our property between 176th Street and the power line. Water coming from the west would go into the catch basin along the fenceline to the south, through two conduits, and into another catch basin along the fenceline on the south side. All water will be caught and rerouted to the east.

Krushak's response to the plan was that the property was owned by the district, but the spokesperson noted that it does not belong to the district – but Maricopa County. In 1972, a quit claim deed transferred the land to Maricopa County – a 100-foot right-of-way from the center of Rio Verde Drive and a 200-foot right-of-way on the west side. The property deed shows this ownership.

In order to accomplish this drainage, West 36 will need to utilize an area in the southwest corner of the district. Chief Krushak indicated that West 36 would need to be responsible for maintenance of the structures at that corner.

Ultimately, the grading and drainage project appears to be favorable for the district. Their attorney will draw up paperwork so that the development can access the district's property to make these changes.

Cell Tower

Maricopa County needs more of a set-back off the property line unless a variance is received. At this time, they are applying for that variance.

SCBAs

Staff is awaiting training for their new SCBAs. As soon as the agreement is received, the Board will entertain a motion to purchase that equipment.

XIV. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Staffing

Engineer Nicki Gatlin was promoted into the captain's position recently vacated. Kyle Hilb was then promoted into the engineer's position. A recruit interview process was then held for a new hire, and Bailey Busby won the bid for the district's new firefighter.

Two recruits will graduate from the fire academy on May 15, giving the district two additional firefighters on active staff. Two members are still in the paramedic program, returning from the field in October.

Building Updates/Annexation

The projected timeline for Toll Brothers to close on the West 36 property was March 31, 2026. The property annexation into the fire district is expected in May and will be brought to the Board for approval at that time.

Trees and plants on the West 36 property are being tagged for relocation.

A water treatment facility is being built for the southeast part of the West 36th property.

Training

Wildland preparedness training is currently underway with supervisors and captains being trained.

Online helicopter training has been initiated in collaboration with MCSO.

XV. FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

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

Permits Issued:	2026	2025
Sprinklers	7	14
Propane	5	12
Other	0	0
YTD (All Types)	27	29
	2026	

Plan Reviews:		
Propane	5	
Sprinkler	1	
Total Inspections	30	

Trilogy/Shea Homes

One thousand, one hundred and three (1,103) homes have been closed by Trilogy/Shea Homes as of the end of March.

XVI. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT

Wildland Expense Update

Wildland expense and payments remain at \$203,507.98.

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs received notice from Maricopa County that it is an election year. She will research and see which commissioners’ terms are up.

XVII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

XVIII. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further Board comments.

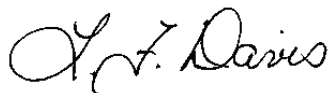
XIX. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

There were no additional chairperson comments.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:30 p.m. Chairperson Sewell moved that the Board adjourn. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis
My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)