



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

**August 25, 2025**

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, August 25, 2025, General Session of the Board of Directors was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Sewell (videoconferencing) at 9:04 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 (videoconferencing), Pete Sturman, and Harold Tabor

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Scott Krushak, Deputy Chiefs Kelvin Bartee and 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, either in person or by videoconferencing.

### 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

July 28, 2025 – General Session

**Chairperson Sewell moved that the Board approve the July 28 2025, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.**

## VI. CLERK'S REPORT

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, September 22, 2025, 9 a.m.
- Monday, October 27, 2025, 9 a.m.
- Monday, November 24, 2025, 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.

## VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Sturman reported on the July 2025 financials:

| Financial Report                      |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Revenue                               | \$617,967.08   |
| Expenses                              | \$420,946.09   |
| Other Income (Expense)                | (\$55,706.59)  |
| Net Income (Loss)                     | \$141,314.40   |
| Transfers to (from) Capital Fund      | \$500,000.00   |
| Adjusted Net Income                   | (\$358,685.60) |
| Budgeted Monthly Net Income           | (\$372,215.24) |
|                                       |                |
| YTD Net Income (Loss)                 | \$141,314.40   |
| Borrowing from Capital Fund           | \$500,000.00   |
| YTD Adjusted Net Income               | (\$358,685.60) |
| YTD Budgeted Net Income               | (\$372,215.24) |
|                                       |                |
| General Fund Operating Cash           | \$36,833.61    |
| Capital Fund Cash                     | \$1,550,605.34 |
| Capital Fund Advances to General Fund | \$500,000.00   |
| Capital Fund Equity                   | \$2,050,605.34 |
|                                       |                |
| YTD Funds Borrowed from Capital Fund  | \$500,000.00   |
| YTD Funds Repaid to Capital Fund      | -0-            |
| Funds Owed to Capital Fund            | \$500,000.00   |
|                                       |                |
| Total Bond Fund Authorization*        | \$5,101,858.64 |

|                                          |                |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Total Expenditures to Date               | \$4,956,107.47 |
| Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned) | \$47,803.41    |
| Current Month Expenditures               | -0-            |
| Remaining Bond Equity                    | \$67.14        |

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

Commissioner Sturman noted the following:

- There was no tax revenue, normal for this time of year.
- “Reimbursable Overtime” was high but wildfire related.
- Capital fund equity was over \$2 million at FYE, giving the district ample reserves.
- Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe was commended for her expertise in budgeting.

**Commissioner Sturman moved that the Board accept the July 2025 Profit and Loss as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner LeMoine and passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Finney moved that the Board accept the July 2025 transaction report, the bank reconciliation, and the financial reports as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner LeMoine and passed unanimously.**

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe surmised that she would need to transfer \$250,000 from the Capital Fund to the Operating Fund to cover this month’s expenses.

## **VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS**

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported the following:

Seven (7) surveys were returned out of 20, all claiming “Excellent” service with only positive attributes and comments.

## **IX. CHIEF’S REPORT**

### Legislative Update

Chief Scott Krushak noted that the legislature would be out of session until the end of August.

Chief Krushak and the chief of the Daisy Mountain Fire District met with Maricopa County Chairperson Tom Galvin and discussed the sustainability of fire districts in the current economic environment. Past legislative actions, including Prop. 117 (the 5% cap on property tax), and the cap on the levy rate have caused fire districts to continue to lose money as these revenue limitations do not match the inflationary increases in expenses. An idea to combat this issue is to restructure the current tax environment – not raising taxes but addressing how the taxes within the county are distributed back to taxing authorities.

One option would be to enable legislation that authorizes the county as the statutory authority having jurisdiction for structural fire response in unincorporated areas. This would allow the county to pay fire districts for out-of-district responses to unincorporated areas (Rio Verde Corridor for the RVFD).

Wildland firefighting payments are authorized by the state forester, not the county. We are reimbursed by the state for any wildland fires fought.

Chief Krushak and the chief of Daisy Mountain Fire District will discuss these issues this coming Wednesday with the county manager, who oversees operational procedures within Maricopa County.

It was noted that the amount of property taxes paid by nonprofits, care facilities, hospitals, and recreational congregation points (golf courses or clubhouses) is only \$500 per year, and the districts lose any expected commercial tax receipts. In our suburban environment, this property tax revenue limitation is not sustainable.

### Water

Major standpipe excavation is occurring at 176<sup>th</sup> St. This should not affect the domestic water supply or the fire hydrant system.

A river well is being improved to increase capacity of our water system with a January 1 target date for completion.

An east-bound right turn lane and a west-bound left turn lane will be created at the intersection at 176<sup>th</sup> St. and Dynamite.

### Water Line Installation

Because of recent breaks in the water line, a new underground water main will be installed at the corner of Forest and Rio Verde Blvd.

### Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs)

The district needs to purchase approximately 15 - 20 SCBAs due to aging equipment. Fortunately, new SCBAs can be purchased from Phoenix Fire Department who procured them three years ago in anticipation of growth, but they are no longer required. Within the capital improvement plan, we have \$150,000 allotted for SCBAs, and it is anticipated that this new equipment will cost between \$100,000 and \$125,000, a 40% or 50% discount from the original cost. This purchase will allow SCBAs to be installed on all truck positions and ambulances and have a few replacements set in reserve.

### National Night Out

Verde River/Shea/Blue Star held a fundraising event approximately two weeks ago and raised \$1,308 in donations.

### Golf Tournament

Commissioner Tabor's wife Margaret will head this year's golf tournament at the Verde River Clubhouse on December 1, 2025. There will be a wine event with a preview of auction items the night before. This event usually raises approximately \$45,000 for the district.

### Pancake Breakfast

The district is working the upcoming pancake breakfast for Vicki Beseke (VerdeCares) most likely in early December.

### Customer Service Surveys

Administrative Assistant Tatum Heinrich reviewed upcoming changes to the district's customer service surveys. Customer service cards have been ordered and should arrive around September 2, 2025. Those will be used for two months and then evaluated. It is anticipated that 1,000 of these cards will be distributed each year (as opposed to the current 300) due to including all types of service calls in the survey.

There are medical incidents that require a more specific version of the customer service survey (heart attacks), and those will continue to be tabulated.

### Chief Chris Stewart

This is the last Board meeting in Deputy Chief Chris Stewart's official capacity. Stewart's status will be changed to "administrative reserve." He will continue to be employed by the district and act under its authorization. Chief Krushak commended Stewart for all his expertise, adding that the firefighters and community are safer for his efforts.

## **X. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT (BARTEE)**

Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee noted that there was no further movement on the annexation of West 36. It was noted, however, that the project must provide all their own water infrastructure (wells). Once it is completed, EPCOR will assume that responsibility.

The Shops at Rio are awaiting permits so that they can complete their drainage plan. Landscaping is being done, but there is no anchor store announcement.

The fire-retardant company is submitting permits and working with EPCOR to assure they have water for their property.

Water quality issues were discussed and will be clarified after a meeting with EPCOR.

## **XI. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT (STEWART)**

Hospital trauma centers have been providing feedback to the district on their EMS calls, indicating that the district has been doing excellent work.

The swift-water training was completed successfully with no injuries.

The training "Understanding Fire Behavior" was completed.

Staff is working to obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the wildland firefighting.

Deputy Chief Stewart reviewed the accomplishments of the district for the past three years:

- Development of staffing standards
- Development of training and integration of 15 new firefighters into the system
- RVFD was brought into Automatic Aid
- Culture matters – value-based decision making
- Mission values
- Promotional process changes were implemented
- Training/firefighting directed to safety and customer service
- Response data collection – self-evaluation
- New equipment has been/will be ordered.
- EMS delivery to outreach areas
- Regional respect earned by the RVFD

## **XII. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT**

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

|                     |    |    |
|---------------------|----|----|
| Sprinklers          | 7  | 0  |
| Propane             | 7  | 0  |
| Other               | 0  | 0  |
| YTD (All Types)     | 81 | 89 |
| Propane             | 7  |    |
| Standpipe Site Plan | 1  |    |
| Total Inspections   | 40 |    |

### Trilogy/Shea Homes

One thousand and forty-nine (1,049) homes have been closed by Trilogy/Shea Homes as of the end of July.

## **XIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT**

### Wildland Expense Update

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe advised that invoice preparation has begun for the Monarch fire; expectations are for the receipt of approximately \$33,000+.

The district audit has begun.

## **XIV: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **XV. BOARD COMMENTS**

The Board voiced their gratitude to Deputy Chief Chris Stewart’s efforts during the past three years.

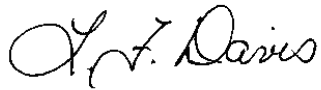
## **XVI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS**

There were no additional chairperson comments.

## **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Sturman moved that the Board adjourn. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby F. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Libby Floyd Davis  
My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)