



Rio Verde Fire District  
17619 E. Rio Verde Drive  
Rio Verde, AZ 85263  
Phone: (480) 471-2304  
Fax: (480) 471-1821

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

**May 18, 2026**

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

May 18, 2026

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, May 18, 2026, General Session of the RVFD Board of Directors was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Sewell 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:** Jeanne Finney, Dave LeMoine, Nancy Sewell, Pete Sturman, and Harold Tabor

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Scott Krushak, Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh, Administrative Assistant Tatum Heinrich, and Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs, 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

April 27, 2026 – General Session

**Commissioner LeMoine moved that the Board approve the April 27, 2026, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.**

April 27, 2026 – Executive Session

**Commissioner Sturman moved that the minutes of the April 27, 2026, Executive Session be approved as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Tabor and passed unanimously.**

## VI. CLERK'S REPORT

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, June 22, 2026, 9 a.m.
- Monday, July 27, 2026, 9 a.m.
- Monday, August 24, 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

Because the County is having difficulties adapting to their new financial system, there are no financial reports for the month of April. Problems in that system are delaying financial reporting to all districts in the county. Commissioner Sturman indicated that revenues “appear” to be delayed but should show as received in the month of May.

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

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION/RECONVENE TO GENERAL SESSION

**Pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(1), at approximately 9:09 a.m. Chairperson Sewell moved that the Board move to Executive Session for discussion on employee compensation. Commissioner Sturman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

At 9:56 the Board reconvened to General Session.

**Chairperson Sewell moved that the district increase the salary ranges for the fire chief, the deputy fire chief, and the administrative manager by 10% for 2027, effective on July 1, 2026. That motion was seconded by Commissioner LeMoine and passed unanimously.**

#### **IX. PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISTRICT PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027.**

There was no one from the public in attendance to review the proposed budget, and there had been no telephone calls received.

#### **X. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027**

The Board will follow its usual budget protocol and finalize/adopt the budget at its June 27, 2026, meeting.

#### **XI. DISCUSSION ON FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

A projection of approximately \$450,000 in surplus was discussed briefly.

#### **XII. CHIEF'S REPORT**

##### PPE Donation

The Rio Verde CRC made a donation of \$1,600 for the district's personal protective equipment for our new firefighters.

##### Wildland Fires

The Wickenburg fire started in a park/camping area, and statewide mutual aid was called for assistance in that firefighting. Fire districts in the southern portion of the Valley were utilized, and that fire was successfully stopped.

##### Academy Graduates

Our two firefighters graduated on Friday, May 15, and began work on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

##### EKG Monitors

Chief Krushak is working with the Philips Corporation, who makes medical equipment, to purchase refurbished, rebuilt, warrantied units to replace our current units. We would be expected to purchase a service contract to assure their support. This will be most likely a \$60,000 - \$75,000 expense, but then all the EKG monitors would be up to date.

## Command Training

Firefighters were sent to the Command Training Institute for further training.

## Legislative

The legislature is currently working on the budget to avoid a state shutdown as of June 1, 2026.

The State Forester has asked the State Legislature for funds for doing a “wildfire suppression capacity and alignment of local resource study.” Plant material and how it has changed in the Sonoran Desert will also be studied, as well as the capacity of firefighting resources in the outlying areas. Chief Krushak volunteered for being on a committee to assure input from the district.

A study was done on taxes throughout the country, and Arizona was ranked #47 on tax burden, meaning that only three other states have a lower tax burden than Arizona. It’s possible that people who use recreational areas would have to pay a “tourist tax” to aid in the development of a supplemental tax revenue.

### **XIII. DEPUTY CHIEF’S REPORT**

In the absence of Kelvin Bartee, there was no Deputy Chief’s Report.

### **XIV. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT**

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

<b>Permits Issued:</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
Sprinklers	10	12
Propane	7	11
Other	0	1
YTD (All Types)	45	53
<b>Plan Reviews:</b>	<b>2026</b>	
Propane	7	
Sprinkler	1	
Total Inspections	22	

## Trilogy/Shea Homes

One thousand, one hundred and five (1,105) homes have been closed by Trilogy/Shea Homes as of the end of April.

A soft rollout “Take Charge” presentation was conducted by district representatives at the Trilogy HOA annual meeting, specifically aiming to identify the presence of lithium-ion batteries within the home. Additional information can be retrieved on the district’s website.

#### AT&T Tower

Maricopa County approved the tower for AT&T, but the County then directed them to West 36 for their approval.

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

#### Wildland Expense Update

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

#### Commissioner Schedule

To assure signature availability, Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs requested that all commissioners let her know what days they will be absent from the district.

### **XVI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no further unfinished business.

### **XVII. BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no further Board comments.

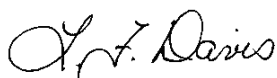
### **XVIII. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS**

There were no further chairperson comments.

### **XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 10:32 a.m. Commissioner Sturman moved that the Board adjourn. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Tabor and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis  
My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)