



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

May 22, 2024

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May 22, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 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, Nancy Sewell (via telephone), and Pete Sturman

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Scott Krushak, Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee, 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 24, 2024 – General Session

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board approve the April 24, 2024 General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed with a vote of 4-0-1, Commissioner Sturman abstaining.

March 25, 2024 – Executive Session

Commissioner Bowin moved that the minutes of the March 25, 2024 and April 24, 2024 Executive Sessions be approved as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed with a vote of 4-0-1, Commissioner Sturman abstaining.

VI. CLERK'S REPORT

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, June 24, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday, July 29, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday, August 26, 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.

Commissioner Sewell will attend the June, July, August, and September sessions via telephone.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Sewell reported on the April 2024 financials:

| Financial Report | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Revenue | \$745,556.05 |
| Expenses | \$388,441.06 |
| Other Income (Expense) | (\$5,008.99) |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$352,106.00 |
| Transfers to (from) Capital Fund | \$0.00 |
| Adjusted Net Income | \$352,106.00 |
| Monthly Budgeted Net Income (Loss) | \$356,993.34 |
| | |
| YTD Actual Net Income (Loss) | \$1,045,184.02 |
| Borrowing from Capital Fund | \$500,000.00 |
| YTD Adjusted Net Income | \$545,184.02 |
| YTD Budgeted Net Income | \$663,220.13 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| | |
| General Fund Operating Cash | \$967,204.90 |
| Capital Fund Cash | \$1,171,751.27 |
| Capital Fund Advances to General Fund | \$500,000.00 |
| Capital Fund Equity | \$1,671,751.27 |
| | |
| Total Bond Fund Authorization* | \$5,101,858.64 |
| Total Expenditures to Date | \$5,146,992.48 |
| Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned) | \$47,800.81 |
| Current Month Expenditures | -0- |
| Remaining Bond Equity | \$64.40 |

*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 2024 Financial Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the April 2024 Monthly Transaction Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the April 2024 bank reconciliations as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously.

There will be a transfer of \$250,000 from the general account to the capital account on May 22, 2024.

VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported the following:

Fourteen (14) surveys (out of 51) were returned, with 13 claiming "Outstanding" service, and one (1) claimed "Good" service. There were only positive comments received, with the exception of one resident who indicated that, "The paperwork may have been more important than the patient."

Chief Krushak commented that the low percentage of returned surveys in recent months may relate to the high number of transports out of Fountain Hills.

IX. DISCUSSION TO ACCEPT SB 170 GRANT

The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management awarded the Rio Verde Fire District a grant portion in the amount of \$400,000. The purpose of the grant is to assist communities which have been identified as having wildfire hazard potential – with fire prevention critical

infrastructure protection and forest and watershed restoration. The RVFD is the only district in Maricopa County who received a portion of the original grant.

With the entirety of these funds, Chief Scott Krushak indicated that the district would purchase a new Type 3 Brush Truck to replace the aged one currently being used. A bid has been received for approximately \$530,000. All costs above the \$400,000 grant will be paid by the district as a match.

The replacement truck will be income generating and could possibly pay for itself within two or three years.

Commissioner Finney moved that the Board approve Chief Krushak's entering into the agreement with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management - No. 24-SB170-103, SB 1720 Grant Program. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

X. DISCUSSION TO APPROVE CHANGES/RECOMMENDATIONS TO FY 2024/25 BUDGET

Revisions to the FY 2024/25 budget were reviewed.

Commissioner Finney moved that the Board approve the changes and recommendations made to the FY 2024/25 budget. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

XI. DISCUSSION TO POST THE TENTATIVE 2024/25 BUDGET

Commissioner Bowin moved that the district post the 2024/25 budget. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

XII. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE RIO VERDE FIRE DISTRICT 2024/25 BUDGET

The public hearing for budget approval was tabled until the June meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION/RECONVENE TO GENERAL SESSION

Pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(1), at 9:25 a.m. Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter. Commissioner Finney seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

At 10:04 a.m. the Board reconvened to General Session.

XIV. END-OF-YEAR PROJECTION AND BUDGET STATUS

The end-of-year projection and budget status were reviewed.

XV. CHIEF'S REPORT

Introduction of Kelvin Bartee

Chief Scott Krushak introduced Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee, who entered the job share arrangement with Deputy Chief Chris Stewart on May 6, 2024. Bartee is a retired chief from the Phoenix Fire Department where he worked for over 33 years in all capacities. Bartee has already proven to be a valuable asset to the district.

Legislative Report

- The Wildland Fire Compact was passed, allowing the district to respond to wildfires with other entities around the state and the southwest U.S.
- A mutual aid reimbursement law was passed allowing the district to respond to an out-of-district wildfire and receive reimbursement from that other district.

Wildcat Fire

This fast-moving Wildcat Fire originated in the forest, having direct impact into the Rio Verde corridor and Scottsdale. With predominant winds, it grew significantly to approximately 10,000 acres to date. Air support was instrumental in fighting this fire. It is now 36% contained, and the desert has closed until that fire can be at least 50% contained.

XVI. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Certifications

Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee indicated that two (2) RVFD recruits had graduated from the fire academy on May 10, 2024, and began working with the district shortly thereafter.

Training

Areas of current training:

- Tactical and strategic perspectives on how to manage mayday events
- Hazardous materials training (flammable gas and propane)
- Swift water basic training

The district participated in fighting a house fire in Fountain Hills. The fire was successfully kept back from any adjoining houses.

There were two simultaneous motor vehicle accidents to which the district responded. All those injured were successfully triaged and transferred to the appropriate hospitals.

XVII. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT

In Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh’s absence, Jennifer Jacobe reported the following for the month of April:

Permits issued:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sprinklers | 9 | 12 |
| Propane | 10 | 17 |
| Other | 0 | 1 |
| YTD (All Types) | 61 | 58 |
| 2024 | | |
| Sprinkler Plan Review | 0 | |
| Propane Plan Review | 10 | |
| Total Inspections | 47 | |

Nine hundred and forty (940) homes have been closed by Trilogy as of the end of April.

The Fire Prevention Fee Schedule was posted in all the agenda locations, as well as the Roadrunner newsletter. Those documents also link up to the district’s website. Jacobe noted that no public hearing is needed to make the changes in fees, but a resolution will be needed. That document had been prepared by Fire Marshal Cavanaugh and given to Chairperson Kattermann for review. Passage of the new fees will be on the June agenda.

XVIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT

Wildland Expense Update

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe 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.

XIX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

XX. BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Sewell will add a column to the financial summary of the amounts the district has borrowed and paid back between the capital and general funds.

Commissioner Bowin commended Chief Krushak on his handling of the legal matter at hand.

XXI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

There were no further chairperson comments.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board adjourn at 10:40 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Floyd Davis
My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)