



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

March 24, 2025

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, March 24, 2025, 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, and Pete Sturman.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Scott Krushak, Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee, Deputy Chief Chris Stewart, Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh, Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe, Rio Verde Fire District; and future Board members David LeMoine and Harold Tabor

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

February 24, 2025 – General Session

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board approve the February 24, 2025, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.

February 24, 2025 – Executive Session

There was no action taken on the February 24, 2025, Executive Session minutes. This will be placed on the April agenda.

VI. CLERK'S REPORT

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, April 28, 2025, 9 a.m.
- Monday, May 19, 2025, 9 a.m. (Early due to Memorial Day)
- Monday, June 23, 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 Sewell reported on the February 2025 financials:

Revenue	\$331,228.89
Expenses	\$399,684.65
Other Income (Expense)	(\$251,860.10)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$320,315.86)
Transfers to (from) Capital Fund	(\$250,000.00)
Adjusted Net Income	(\$70,315.86)
Budgeted Monthly Net Income	(\$86,558.78)
YTD Net Income (Loss)	\$1,156,711.81
Borrowing from Capital Fund	\$500,000.00
YTD Adjusted Net Income	\$656,711.81
YTD Budgeted Net Income	\$499,838.27
General Fund Operating Cash	\$1,088,821.53
Capital Fund Cash	\$869,639.12

Capital Fund Advances to General Fund	\$500,000.00
Capital Fund Equity	\$1,369,639.12
YTD Funds Borrowed from Capital Fund	\$1,250,000.00
YTD Funds Repaid to Capital Fund	\$750,000.00
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)	\$47,802.72
Current Month Expenditures	-0-
Remaining Bond Equity	\$66.31

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

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the February 2025 Financial Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the February 2025 Transaction Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the February 2025 bank reconciliations as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

As planned, two hundred fifty-thousand dollars (\$250,000) will be moved from the general fund back to the capital fund during March.

"Payroll" shows zero expenditures in reserves. "Fulltime/Overtime" is still high, but this should begin to correct in April.

VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported the following:

Five (5) surveys (out of 31) were returned, all claiming "Outstanding" service with only positive attributes and comments, with the exception of one individual who simply did not rank their service opinion.

IX. SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER, COMMISSIONER HAROLD TABOR

District Board Clerk Jeanne Finney swore in the newest member of the Board, Harold Tabor. Commissioner Tabor will fill the Board position of the retiring Marty Bowin.

X. CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget Timeline

Last month we received the levy worksheet which identified the revenue stream for this coming year. The treasurer will review the draft budget prepared by staff, and it will be presented to the Board at its April meeting.

Legislative Update

A bill is on the floor for wildland response & readiness appropriations money (\$12.5 million) from the State of Arizona through the Department of Forestry and Fire Management. This money will then filter down to the fire districts.

One ambulance bill is still active regarding private ambulance response times, but that will most likely not affect the RVFD.

The utilities company “power safety shutoff and liability” bill is still active. This bill would alleviate any liability to the utility company should there be a wildland fire initiated with their equipment.

SRP has set up weather stations around Rio Verde area and hired extra meteorologists to monitor the potential weather-related hazards (ambient air temperature, relative humidity, fuel moisture, and wind speed) for a possible power shutdown. Due to pressure from the RVFD, Salt River Project is attempting to minimize the effects to the Verdes communities. It has been working to update the older hardware on some of its distribution lines/poles, which will reduce the risk of sparks. Because of this, the original 600 homes previously targeted for a power shutdown have reduced that to approximately 300 homes.

The Dynamite Water Company has a contract with a fire-retardant company, providing tanker bases for slurry drops. This fire-retardant, which is a ground-based spray system, is effective for two to three months and up to two to three inches of rain. The retardant would allow the district to place an immediate line on the ground without the use of an aerial tanker. It can also be used as a preventative measure for the park system infrastructure and community mitigation tool. The district will monitor the product for efficacy over time. The product is salt- and alkali-based and has no ill effects on people, animals, or land.

Station Repairs

All station repairs (flooring and showers) at F/S #441 have been completed.

Lockboxes

Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee discussed a lockbox presentation made to the community. Tatum Heinrich was commended by Chief Krushak for how well she has run that program; the district now has a sufficient supply of lockboxes.

The district has a specific document on orange paper titled a Pre-Hospital Medical Care Directive. A living will is not sufficient for firefighters/EMTs to act upon but is valid once a patient is in the hospital. Without the Pre-Hospital Medical Care Directive, the district is legally obligated to provide and continue all cardiac and respiratory care measures at the time of the 9-1-1 call until a handoff at a hospital ER. The document should be filled out and remain in a specific spot in the resident's refrigerator. These orange documents are available at the RVFD Administration Office.

A grant of approximately \$2000 was received from the CRC in Rio Verde for purchase of firefighting equipment.

Tatum Heinrich has been working on Zoom technology for those who have been unable to attend the Board meetings in person.

XI. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Response Data

Deputy Chief Chris Stewart presented the February response data for Board members.

A resident was struck by a golf ball at close range in Trilogy and was driven to F/S #442, from where she was transported to the hospital. The message continues to go out that the fire staff will come to them instead of their coming to the station to avoid a situation where the crew is away from that station, out on another call.

A company replacing a gas tank discovered a serious leak of a flammable cloud of gas, and Engine #441 responded to the call, obtaining assistance from automatic aid partners from the cities of Scottsdale and Phoenix. The 250-gallon tank was well over 30 years old, and the damage to the tank was most likely due to rusting at the seams. This incident took approximately eight hours. Residents will be warned that older tanks may need to be replaced.

There were two mountain rescue calls, one in the McDowell Preserve and the other in the north end of the park. Additionally, one bat was removed from the church.

Recruiting/Staffing/Training

On Wednesday, March 12, 2025, an orientation was held for prospective candidates. Applications were accepted until March 21, 2025, and there were 20 applicants in attendance.

The interview process is scheduled for April 7, 2025. We don't currently have an eligibility list of candidates, nor a specific opening for a job, but we need to keep a listing of eligible firefighters.

Between our February meeting and today, one fulltime firefighter moved from fulltime to a reserve status. She has been accepted into a nurse anesthetist program. One of the trainee academy recruits will be her replacement.

The Central Arizona Wildland Regional Training will be held at Lake Pleasant on March 25 and 26, 2025. Both crews will be able to attend one day of the training with other regional firefighters.

Research on lithium-ion battery fires was discussed briefly.

XII. FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

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

Sprinklers	2	12
Propane	0	9
Other	0	0
YTD (All Types)	3	40
Propane	0	
Sprinkler	3	
Total Inspections	18	

Trilogy

One thousand and twenty-two (1,022) homes have been closed by Shea Homes as of the end of February.

XIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER'S REPORT

Wildland Expense Update

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe advised that the district's outstanding balance for out-of-state firefighting was \$36,180, out of \$128,835.21. In-state charges invoiced and paid were \$17,502.97.

New signature cards were completed.

A new iPad was made available to Commissioner Tabor.

XIV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

XV. BOARD COMMENTS

This was Marty Bowin's last meeting as a commissioner – after 11 years. Photographs were taken of Marty with staff/Board members, and cake was enjoyed.

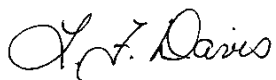
XVI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

There were no additional comments from the chairperson.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:53 a.m. Commissioner Finney moved that the Board adjourn. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis

My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)