

MEETING MINUTES OF THE VERNON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD
Held on February 27, 2024, AT 5:30 PM at the Vernon Library

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 5:30 by John Vehar Board Chair
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS** Present John Vehar, Grey Murphy, Gregg McClendon, Paul Kovacic. Randy Mifflin on phone.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER** by Randy Mifflin
4. **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS** Assistant Chief Nick Perrone, Kathy Schlichting, JVG Ben Archer-Clowes, Mike Norman, Shawn Bell, Tony Miller, Chis Allman, Nate Morgan, John Patterson.

5. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Chair Summary- John Vehar reminded the two board members that are up for reelection. Chief Niehuis has been with the District for 10 years and he is doing well with his treatment., Grey brought a chocolate keto friendly cake.
- B. Chief's Report and discussion – See Attachment.
- C. Financial Report and discussion - Ben Archer-Clowes gave the financial report for January 2024. Tax Revenue collected for January 2024 is \$119,252 non-Tax revenue for January 2024 was 2,838 Expenses for January 2024 was \$115,440.00.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. The Board has reviewed the Financial Report for January 2024
- B. The Board has reviewed and approved the January 23, & 30, 2024 meeting minutes.

7. BUSINESS

- A. Motion that the Board has approved the consent agenda. Motion by Grey Murphy, 2nd by Gregg McClendon, Call for the Vote, Vote: Yes Unanimous
- B. **Discussion and possible action:** John Vehar and Assist. Chief Perrone spoke about the meeting they had with Nicks Adams what his shop was doing to build the ATV.
- C. **Discussion and possible action: Station 26** it was discussed that all of the items from Dustin Padilla estate is now securely stored. It was asked if anyone from the family has been in contact with us. Kathy Schlichting said she has reached out to the sister by email and telephone but has not gotten any returned reply. Shawn Bell and Tony Miller who requested to speak to the board on the subject of purchasing Station 26. They were requesting that Vernon Fire District be the lien holder. After discussing the details with the board. John Vehar asked the board if the board would like to go into executive session. Grey Murphy motioned to go into executive session, 2nd by Paul Kovacic, Call for the Vote, Vote: Yes Unanimous. The board requested that Assistant Chief Nick Perrone and Kathy Schlichting join the board in executive session. The room was cleared and regular session stopped at 6:17 PM. Moved into executive session at 6:20 PM.
Reconvene regular session at 6:45 Shawn Bell and Tony Miller returned to further discuss their options. The consensus of the board was the following before they could make a decision 1.They need legal opinion from their attorney if they could even be the lien holder legally. 2. They need to find out if the property can even be split, 3. another commercial appraisal needs to be done. They will try to contact Shawn Bell before March the 15th to update him. **Note: Randy Mifflin lost telephone connection at 6:54. Attempts to reconnect him failed.**
- D. **Discussion and possible action: Update on Vehicle repairs** Assistant Chief Perrone updated the board on the fleet status. The 2015 Tahoe with blown engine was sold by sealed bid for \$1,500.
- E. **Discussion and possible action: Grants and state funding** Assistant Chief Nick Perrone stated that we will hear by the end of March or April if we are awarded the fuel mitigation grants. Kathy stated that we have received another \$250,000 from the State. repairs on Engine 253.Grey Murphy motioned, Randy Mifflin 2nd, call for the vote. Vote: Yes Unanimous
- F. **Discussion and possible action: County Treasurer issues** were discussed between administration staff and the board. Assist. Chief Perrone discussed that these issues are not just happening to our district but other districts that are part of Apache county. He also stated that Concho and other district may be sending a request for the attorney general to look into it. The board requested that Assist. Chief Perrone reach out to Concho and report back to the board.

- G. Discussion and possible action: State Banking Fund County** Grey Murphy requested that this item be tabled until next board meeting to give more time to look into it.
- H. Discussion and possible action: Arson Fires** Assist. Chief Perrone stated that since the subject was in custody they have had no more suspicious fires. He answered the board questions what he could but stated that it is an active investigation so he cannot go into pacific details.
- I. Discussion and possible action: Annexation.** AC Perrone and Kathy Schlichting discussed locations with the board where they will attempt to annex in. Maps were handed out. It was discussed that extra manpower would be needed. Looking at giving Wendy Sharp more hours and using Michelle Starkey to assist the Admin department.in annexation.

8. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – No Requests

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS State Banking Fund, State Funding & Grants, Vehicles & ATV updates, and Annexation.

10. Motioned to adjourn the meeting. By Grey Murphy 2nd by Paul Kovacic, Call for the Vote, Vote: Yes Unanimous.

Adjourn at 7:42 PM