

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE VERNON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES
February 28, 2023, AT 5:30 PM at the Vernon Public Library, Vernon, AZ85940

1. CALL TO ORDER 5:30

2. ROLL CALL: Present John Vehar, Randy Miffin, Paul Kovacic, Grey Murphy, Gregg McClendon

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER

4. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Mannie Bowler, Gunther Haffke, Jennie Russo

5. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Financial Report and discussion: Ben from JV Group presented the January report. We started the month with \$138,511.47 and ended with \$105,514.47 in the county account. The Special Revenue account ended with \$113,514.47. Payroll accounts for \$11,416.26. We spent \$93,521
- B. Chair Summary- Stated that he will not be here in person next month and Grey Murphy being Clerk will run the meeting. He is hoping to attend by phone.
- C. Chief's Report and discussion – See attachment. In Chief's report stated that Mannie Bowler from ADEQ was here to present a certificate to the Vernon Fire District. Recognition was given to Mannie Bowler to explain and present the certificate to the Fire Board.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. The Board has reviewed the Financial Report for January 2023
- B. The Board has reviewed and approve the January 2023 meeting minutes.

7. BUSINESS

- A. Motion that the Board has approved the consent agenda. Grey Murphy Motion, Paul Kovacic 2nd, Vote: Yes Unanimous
- B. Chairman John Vehar stated we are going to Item F before we discussing Item B.
- F. Chief Niehuis and the Admin discussed with the Board the finances of the district. It was discussed that because of unexpected expenses this fiscal year we will have used up all our reserves to start the next fiscal year. The Chief presented different options to the board that he could investigate to acquire funds to start the next fiscal year. It was also discussed to transfer 100,000 from the special revenue to the payroll account. Grey Murphy motion that the Board allow Chief to pursue all options to secure funds for the district and that the board transfer \$100,000 from the special revenue account to the payroll account. Randy Miffin 2nd it . Vote: Yes Unanimous.
- B The Chief and the Admin staff explained the billing process for out of district calls and the attempts to collect money for these calls. The Chief proposed that after 3 attempts from the admin staff to collect then it needs to be sent to an outside company to collect. The Chief presented EF Recovery which other Fire departments use and has had success in collecting. The board discussed further about this company and reviewed the company's handout. It was also discussed by the board for the admin to look into the lien process with Apache county and report back to the board. The Chief brought to the board that the Fee schedule for out of district billing has not been increased for over 7 years. With the increase cost of Vehicle maintenance and repairs and general overhead that board review the Fee Schedule. The board reviewed the Fee schedule and with much discussion agreed on a new fee pricing. Chair John Vehar requested that the Chief advertise the changes and the board acknowledge in agreement. Grey Murphy motioned to work with the outside collecting company EFR after Admin has exhausted attempts to collect first. And that The Fee schedule is changed to the Boards and the Chief recommendations as stated in written form. Randy Miffin 2nd. Vote: Yes Unanimous.
- C. John Vehar stated with the passing of Barbra Barclay, our previous Parliamentarian he would like to recommend Kathy Schlichting as the new Parliamentarian. Grey Murphy motioned that Kathy Schlichting be the Parliamentarian for the board. Paul Kovacic 2nd, Vote: Yes Unanimous.
- D. John Vehar stated that all board members sent him their evals of the Chief and he would summarize the comments. He asked the Chief if he would like to go into executive session. Chief declined. John Vehar read the questions on the Chief eval out loud and the comments. Chief thanked the board for their comments.
- E. John Vehar stated that the Chief and himself went to the State to meet with Senator Hatathlie and May Messlik. The discussion went well, and the senator was very much in favor of finding the district funding thru ARPA or other means. .

G. Deputy Chief Nick Perrone related his discussion with Oatman Fire Chief and how this district was in desperate need of equipment. He stated we have tried to sell the 1984 Type 1 engine 3 different times but because of the year and the items wrong with it no one wants to purchase it. Oatman FD is requesting to purchase it for \$1.00 as is and they would come it. Randy Mifflin motion to sell 1984 Type 1 engine as is for \$1.00 to the Oatman FD. Gregg McClendon 2nd Vote: Yes Unanimous

H. Kathy Schlichting presented the board with their polos having the printing done on them. Each board member has chosen to pay for the polos themselves. Next to be ordered is a blue oxford shirt for each member.

8. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC** — 3-minute limit - Consideration and discussion of comments and complaints from the public. Those wishing to address the Vernon Fire District Board need not request permission in advance. The Fire Board is not permitted to discuss or act on any item raised in the call to the public, unless the item is specifically noticed for discussion and legal action. However, individual Board members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct that staff review the matter or that the matter to be placed on a future agenda. The Fire Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law. Gunther Haffke stated that advertising to let the public know is a good idea.

9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Follow up on item B and F

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Mifflin motioned to adjourn meeting, Gray Murphy 2nd. Vote: Yes, Unanimous
Adjourn at 7:34 PM