

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE VERNON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES

March 28, 2023, AT 5:30 PM at the Vernon Public Library, Vernon, AZ85940

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Grey Murphy at 5:30
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul Kovacic, Randy Mifflin, Grey Murphy, on the phone are John Vehar, Gregg McClendon
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER** by Chief Niehuis
4. **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Paula Johnson
5. **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A. Financial Report and discussion: Ben from JV Group presented the February report. We started the month with \$107,079.23 and ended with \$149,673.36 in the county account. The Special Revenue account ended with \$123,092.54. Payroll accounts for \$22,208.06. We spent \$73,034.00.
 - B. Chair Summary: Grey Murphy stated that he is acting as chair and has no comments.
 - C. Chief Report and discussion – See Chief's report.
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. The Board has reviewed the Financial Report for February 2023
 - B. The Board has reviewed and approve the February 2023 meeting minutes.
7. **BUSINESS**
 - A. Motion that the Board has approved the consent agenda. Paul Kovacic Motioned, Randy Mifflin 2nd, Vote: Yes Unanimous
 - B. Motion to accept the EF recovery billing agreement: Motion by Randy Mifflin, Paul Kovacic 2nd. Open for discussion. Discussion closed. Called for the Vote: Yes Unanimous
 - C. Resolution 2023-001 new fee schedule, EF recovery, collections of bad debts, and subscriptions. Motion by John Vehar, 2nd by Gregg McClendon. Grey Murphy read resolution 2023-001 in its entirety, open for discussion. Discussion closed. Grey Murphy repeated the motion and called for the vote. Vote: Yes Unanimous
 - D. Chief Niehuis and DC Perrone recent trip to the Capital. The Chiefs attended the confirmation hearing for the new DFFM director Mr. Tom Flores. While at the capital they were able to secure support for our ARPA requests from AZ Senator Hatathlie, Representatives Tsosie and Peshlakai and they met with Nick Capozzi from the Governor's Office to discuss our ARPA program and request. They made contact with some of the lobbyists that are working for fire district funding. All and all it was a successful meeting.
 - E. Preliminary discussion of the May 16 budget workshop. Chief Niehuis and Ben Archer-Clowes related the findings from a group that met to discuss options for the remaining of this fiscal year and the next fiscal years. The Chief will bring the Board a budget in May that can be sustainable because ARPA is allowing us to draw from the current grant to offset the payroll expenses for the rest of this fiscal year. With this additional it looks like we will be able to end in the black. And any ARPA funding left we can use for payroll to start the next fiscal year. Ben did agree his projections look good the next two years with these changes.
 - F. Grants: DC Nick Perrone related the following update: We were turned down for the CWPP/Fuel Mitigation grant, but Apache County did receive this grant and VFD will participate with AC grant. Still waiting to hear from the Pascua Yaqui – New truck which we submitted over a year ago. Other grants we have submitted and still waiting to hear are the Gila River – Water Tender, AFG grant for SCBAS, Adashi / AZ – Software/hardware command program, Gary Sinise Foundation grant. We are in the process to apply for the Salt River Pima- Type 3 wildland engine, and 5 other grants we can still apply for this year.
 - G. Donation of 1984 Type 1 engine to Oatman FD. Oatman fire board is meeting to approve of the purchase from Vernon Fire District for \$1.00 the 1984 Type 1 Engine as is.
8. Call to the Public – Paula Johnson expressed her appreciation for the Vernon Fire District and all its members..
9. Future Agenda items: Saunders will be giving the 2022/2023 Audit report to the Board to accept at the April meeting.
10. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn by Randy Mifflin, 2nd by Paul Kovacic, Vote: Yes Unanimous Time:6:35 PM