



WATER WHEEL FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT

10603 N. Houston Mesa Road
Payson, Arizona 85541
928-474-3088 (office)
928-472-3392 (FAX)



Water Wheel Fire & Medical District Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held October 10, 2023

A public meeting of the Water Wheel Fire & Medical District was convened on October 10, 2023 at the Whispering Pines Fire Station 71, 10603 Houston Mesa Road, in Whispering Pines.

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order:

Chris Oberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Pledge was led by Al Kendall

III. Roll Call of Board Members:

Present were Chris Oberg, Geoff Caldwell, Dan Newman. Al Kendall and Steve Stevens

A quorum of board members were in attendance.

IV. Motion to approve the minutes of the following business meetings:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 19, 2023

A motion to accept the minutes from the meet held on September 2023. Dan Newman seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

V. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

a. Monthly Financial Report

- i. Monthly Financial Report for September 2023.
- ii. Approval of Reconciliation Reports for September 2023.

b. Chairman's Report None

c. Fire Chief's Report

- i. Operations
- ii. Equipment
- iii. Administration

d. Discussion and possible action re: Chief's Report

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:



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- A. Approve Resolution 2023-2024.005, amending the boundaries of the Fire District to include parcel 302-07-015, located in Verde Glen at the request of the property owner. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Approve Resolution 2023-2024.004, amending the boundaries of the Fire District to include parcel 302-05-024E, located in Verde Glen at the request of the property owner. Motion passed unanimously
- C. Approve the purchase of a new generator for E71 needed to operate scene lighting and smoke removal positive pressure ventilation fan. This replaces a 24 year old generator that failed recently and cannot be repaired. Motion approved and passed unanimously.
- D. Discuss the recent ISO inspection and the possible affects the downgrading of our PPC rating to a 5 from a 9/10 may have on the property owners as well as any plans to try to recover from this retrogression of our rating. The public expressed dire concern over the need to improve both capacity of water delivery to fire sites and retention of competent personnel to fight fire and administer medical triage services. The chief explained the ISO auditors came after two employees had terminated leaving the district short of personnel. Recently the district sold a water tender truck (mfg 1984) which diminished the districts ability to deliver water to a fire. The Water tender was old and had a manual transmission which was difficult to drive and challenging even for a skilled driver because of our dirt roads and hilly terrain. A workshop has been planned by a board member and public attendees to work on the ISO deficiencies. No Board actions taken at this time.

The remaining agenda items were tabled for a later meeting because of time.

- E. Executive session of the Board to consider the revision of the Fire Chief's employment contract.
- F. Approve the revision of the Fire Chief's employment contract.
- G. Approve a revision of the Policy 2.3.10, Reserve Program Guidelines, allowing the Fire Chief or designee discretion in authorizing Reserve Personnel to work more than 40 hours in a work week if necessary to support the manpower needs of the Fire District.

VI. CALL TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS.

The public expressed dissatisfaction with management of the fire district and the board's oversight of same. Such as:

- * Retaining employees and hiring new employees.
- * Frivolous spending of district funds.
- * Firewise activity in Bonita Creek area.
- * Volunteers or lack thereof involvement in fire service and medical service.
- * Degrading of ISO rating.
- * There was a misunderstanding about the intent of the board meeting which some of the public assumed would be a remedial workshop. Such was not the board's understanding. Further, the board is constrained by open meeting regulations.



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The chief responded to each of these deficiencies and costs of these remedies. He also reflected on his experience with volunteer's inability to perform fire or medical tasks. He explained the challenges in finding qualified fulltime employees, as all fire stations are seeking job applicants. With scarce resources and few applicants all fire districts struggle to maintain quality and timely service. No action taken by the board at this time.

VII. CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

Dated this 10th day of October 2023.

Water Wheel Fire & Medical District

Geoff Caldwell _____ Clerk