

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
NORTHERN ARIZONA FIRE DISTRICT  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020**

**NOTICE:** Due to Coronavirus/COVID-19, Arizona Executive Order #2020-18, and CDC recommendations on social distancing, the building is closed to the public and this meeting will be conducted electronically. Members of the public may call in to hear the live audio by joining the Zoom meeting. Public comment or audio is not allowed during the meeting and attendants are to listen only, per the guidance published by the Attorney General for the State of Arizona.

The Governing Board of the Northern Arizona Fire District met via Zoom from remote locations this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020, at 6:00 p.m. for its regular monthly meeting. The Zoom meeting website, meeting phone number and meeting ID were all listed on the Agenda that has been provided and posted.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Jim Bailey at 6:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chairman Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS** – Board members present: Board Chairman Jim Bailey, Director John Bryant, Director Mike Collins, Director Sue Wilkin, and Director Sue Brown, were all present via Zoom from remote locations.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (for approval by unanimous consent after corrections/additions)  
Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of November 19, 2020 and the Special Meeting minutes of December 3, 2020, as submitted. Director Collins seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous decision. Motion carried.
5. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**
  - A. **Chief's Report** – Chief Rhoades gave his report in accordance with his memorandum and the Monthly Performance Report, both in the board packet. We had 452 call for the month of November, with the majority being EMS calls. By districts, Station 31 had 254 calls and 130 calls out of Station 32. That is a significant number of calls in the densest population within our district. Our mutual aid system is working very well. We had two structure fires yesterday (within about 20 minutes of each other) and with both NAFD and KFD on the fires we called a second and a third alarm. We had units from Desert Hills, Bullhead City, and Golden Valley. We continue to evaluate minimum staffing, effective January 1 we are re-assigning the Battalion Chiefs back to an engine, based on our staffing, the availability of paramedics, and the cost of overtime. They will continue to be Battalion Chiefs and continue their duties, just on an engine. This is the plan up until June 30<sup>th</sup> then leave them on an engine and reopen Station 33 with 2 personnel – a POC and a Captain – effective July 1. The volunteer recruitment will kick-off in January with banners and open houses in the Truxton, Chloride, and Northern Kingman areas by using some guidance for experienced firefighters. An update on rebranding and a rebranding schedule will be out shortly. We are in the design process now.
  - B. **Financial Report** – No discussion
6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE:**
  - A. **Approval of the November Financial Report.** Motion was made by Chairman Bailey to approve the November financial report. Director Wilkin seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous decision. Motion carried.



**B. Discussion and possible approval of reallocation of position to a higher pay grade, per HR Policy 3-001 Compensation Administration.** Chief Rhoades explained that although this area is grey as to whether or not he needs to bring this to the board, but for the sake of transparency, he has brought it to the board. In order to handle training and scheduling training, he would like to create a Shift Coordinator for each shift, we have an SOP outlining what they do. They will work closely with the BCs at NAFD and KFD for the delivery of training. This will be above their normal duties as each are Captains – Grant, Baca and Lawless – with a 1 step increase. Chairman Bailey made the motion to approve the reallocation of position to a higher pay grade, per HR Policy 3-001 Compensation Administration. Director Bryant seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous decision. Motion carried.

**C. Discussion and presentation by Sue Wilkin and Sue Brown regarding opening five fire stations.** Director Wilkin read the following statement, “I believe that the continued closure of our fire stations in Valle Vista, Chloride, and Truxton are a disservice to the community and constitute a potential misuse of public funds as these communities are still paying taxes to the district and receiving nothing in return. Mrs. Brown and I have spoken with multiple taxpayers who are unable to purchase fire insurance as their local station is closed. We believe it is important that immediate action be taken, before lives or additional property are lost. The community consensus is to have their former districts returned to them, along with all real estate, vehicles and equipment, including any equipment purchased through grants since the consolidation. The taxpayers have no confidence in our board or chief and we have a responsibility to regain public trust at all cost. Lastly, it is the job of the fire chief to plan and implement all things pertaining to fire stations, not the Board of Directors!”

Chairman Bailey: That is what they have been trying to do, that is why he asked Director Wilkin and Director Brown to go ahead and make a presentation because you ran on the campaign promise that you were going to open five fire stations, so you must have some type of plan. That is what he was interested in hearing. Exactly what you are reading in your notes about your people in the districts wanting their fire stations opened, that is what I asked you to do – to bring your plan.

Director Wilkin: Correct, that is the plan – give them back their fire stations and their equipment.

Chairman Bailey: So, your plan actually wasn't to open the fire stations, just to give them back to the communities they belong to?

Director Wilkin: Well, first of all let's back up a minute. I didn't run for election this last year, so don't include me in that.

Chairman Bailey: I only said that because you are all in the same group and was more to Director Brown, since she did sign her name to that in the paper. I know you are close friends out there from the same community, so that is why I asked you to bring the presentation.

Director Wilkin: What you don't understand is that we also talked to people in other communities, we didn't limit it to Valle Vista.

Chairman Bailey: That is exactly why I wanted to hear your presentation on how you were going to open five fire stations and how you actually told the public we were going to do that, or you were going to do that if you got the three seats you were seeking on the board. So, if you don't have a plan and the plan is to give that back to the communities, where those fire districts were before Wayne Eder consolidated all those, we already been over this before. As a fire district, we cannot kick people out of the fire district. It is up to them to organize their removal from the fire district. We actually gave the information and had it on the board agenda more than once. We threw the ball into their court and we were even going to give them access to Donna to do a meeting with them



and explain to them how to do that, but they said they didn't want to do that. If they would like to do that, we can still make that available and put it on a future meeting agenda and have Donna check in to give a little presentation on how they go about removing themselves from the fire district. But other than that, it is not up to the board to do that, it is up to them and they have already been told that. If Donna is willing to do that, we can put that on a future meeting agenda.

Director Wilkin: I'm sure we would appreciate her offer and I'm sure this will go forward.

Chairman Bailey: Okay. You'll have to let Rhonda know if you want it on a future meeting agenda.

Director Wilkin: That's fine. Thank you.

7. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC** – The District may, but is not required to, give the public an opportunity to speak to any issue. A.R.S. §38-431.01(H).

Call to the public has been suspended due to the guidance of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the recommendation and approval of the Attorney General's Office, letter dated March 13, 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19.

With the increase of the cases, the fire stations are closed to the public and anyone who comes into the fire administration office must wear a mask – to protect our people.

We received three comments that were shared with the Board of Directors prior to the meeting and are part of public record.

Chairman Bailey asked if any board members would like to add an item to a future meeting agenda based on the public comments received. No items were requested.

Public comments can still be submitted by the public in writing – including your name and address – to the NAFD Fire Administration office either through email, dropped off at the Admin office, or by mail. Comments must be received by 9:00 am on the morning of the meeting. All comments will be shared with the Board of Directors and made a part of the public record. Members of the public are welcome to watch or listen to the meeting via Zoom.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – No announcements.
9. **ADJOURNMENT** – Chairman Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting and Director Wilkin seconded it. Passed by unanimous decision. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

These minutes were prepared and posted by Rhonda Johnson on December 21, 2020.

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James Bailey, Board Chairman

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Mike Collins, Board Clerk