

MEETING MINUTES OF THE VERNON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD

9/24/2024 AT 5:30 PM at the Vernon Library

The meeting room will be accessible to the public at 5:20 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER REGULAR BOARD MEETING**, at 5:30pm By John Vehar
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**, present was John Vehar, Paul Kovacic, Grey Murphy, Gregg McClendon. Randy Mifflin on the phone.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLIEGENCE AND PRAYER**, by Chief Niehuis
4. **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**, Kathy Schlichting, Wendy Sharp, Chief Niehuis, Jacob York on phone representing JVG. Bill Dales, Bev Dales, Beth Humphrey, John Humphrey, Jonathan Humphrey, William Humphrey, Kelise Humphrey, Debbie Humphrey, Ben Humphrey, Dee Scienski, Nick Scienski, Firefighter Brandon Green, Captain Nathan Aho, Captain Kevin Vickers, Tim Wallen and Debbie Wallen
5. **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A. **Chair Summary**- John Vehar had nothing to report
 - B. **Financial Report and Discussion** – Jacob York from JVG gave the financial report for August 2024. Tax Revenue collected is \$8,843 which is over budget by \$3,098, non-Tax revenue collected is \$108,428 which is over budget by 62,153. Wildland revenue of \$82,274, which is over budget by \$40,607. Expenses are \$109,175 which is over budget by \$1,389.
 - C. **Chief's Report and discussion** – See attachment, Chief Niehuis ended report with statement of meeting with AZ Special Small District Alliance will have more details at next Board meeting and let Board know of repairs made to the front porch cover on Station 25 due to water damage
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. The Board has reviewed the Financial Report for the month of August 2024
 - B. The Board has reviewed and approved the meeting minutes for 7/15/2024, 8/27/2024
7. **BUSINESS**
 - A. **Motion that the Board has approved the consent agenda.** Motion to approve the consent agenda by Grey Murphy, 2nd by Gregg McClendon, call for vote, vote yes unanimous
 - B. **Discussion and possible action: Vehicles**, Chief Niehuis discussed Infinity Fire Communications invoices and estimate for radio, emergency lights and parts needed to be put on 2023 Ford F150, paid for with SB1720 Grant. Chief Niehuis asked the Board to approve payment \$8,869.88. Grey Murphy motion to approve amount \$8,869.88 for the 2023 Ford F150, 2nd by Randy Mifflin, call for vote, vote yes unanimous. Chief Niehuis also stated all vehicles are running and ready to roll out for the next possible wildland assignment.
 - C. **Discussion and possible action: Grants**, Chief Niehuis stated 2024 Healthy Forest Initiative Grant for Fuel reduction from AZ Dept. of Forestry and Fire Management was denied, nothing further to report.
 - D. **Discussion and possible action: Tower**, Chief Niehuis discussed that nothing new has come up, outcome unknown. Chief Niehuis will continue to reach out to Commnet for updates.
 - E. **Discussion and possible action: Open Board seat**, Kathy Schlichting discussed open Board seat, advertising locally starting in October, interviewing and selection to take place at the November Board meeting, to be seated at December Board meeting, Consensus by the Board for Kathy Schlichting to go forward.
 - F. **Discussion and possible action: Employee issues**, John Vehar tabled for next month's Board meeting.
 - G. **CALL THE PUBLIC**, Bill Dales read a letter he wrote speaking on behalf of Chief Dave Niehuis character and leadership while Fire Chief for Vernon Fire District. Tim Wallen presented the Board with multiple letters of character references speaking on behalf of Chief Niehuis.
8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**, AFDA conference, AZ Special Small District Alliance, Open Board seat and update on Station 26
9. **ADJOURNMENT**, John Vehar called for a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Grey Murphy to adjourn meeting, 2nd by Paul Kovacic, call for vote, vote yes unanimous. John Vehar called for adjournment at 5:55pm.