

MEETING MINUTES OF THE VERNON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD

5/27/2026 AT 5:30 PM AT THE VERNON LIBRARY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF VERNON FIRE DISTRICT, 25 ACR 3142, VERNON, AZ 85940. PHONE: (928) 537-4895.

1. **CALL TO ORDER REGULAR BOARD MEETING**, Board Chair John Vehar called the meeting to order at 5:30pm
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**, John Vehar, Grey Murphy, Tony Anderson, Gregg McClendon in person and Randy Mifflin via Zoom.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLIEGENCE AND PRAYER**, The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Randy Mifflin said prayer over the meeting.
4. **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**, Wendy Sharp, Chief John Connolly, Firefighter John Patterson. Jacob York with JVG Accounting via Zoom.
5. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**, John Vehar gave the call to the public, No public comment
6. **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A. Chair Summary – Board Chair John Vehar reminded Board members that the Public Hearing for FY 26/27 Budget will start at 5pm on 6/24/2026
 - B. Financial Report and Discussion – Jacob York with JVG Accounting gave the Financial Report for April 2026. Key point: Revenue for the month of April is \$128,786, which is over budget by \$10,435. Tax revenue for April is \$125,737, which is over budget by \$51,461. Non-Tax revenue for April is \$3,050, which is under budget by \$41,025, driven by wildland. Wildland revenue for April is \$0. Expenses for April are \$131,197, which is under budget by \$20,740. Personnel cost are under budget \$25,109, driven by wildland. Buildings & Land is over budget \$5,689, driven by higher than anticipated facility repairs and maintenance. Travel and Training is under budget by \$5,251, driven by wildland. Managerial expenses are over budget \$5,927, driven by timing of accounting/audit fees. Year to date total revenue is \$1,231,102, which is over budget by \$177,546. Year to date expense is \$1,276,264, which is over budget by \$142,621. Cash is \$697,728 as of April 30, 2026
 - C. Chief's Report and discussion – Chief Connolly gave Chief report, reported a total of 49 calls from April 20, 2026 to May 20, 2026. No Wildland assignments for the month of May. Miscellaneous items, Currently in Stage 1 Fire restrictions. BC testing went well. BC Vickers position will be official on July 1, 2026 along with Captain Hunsaker. Badge pinning will be held at July 22, 2026 Board meeting. Subscription invoicing will be sent by email only starting 2027. Will be sending Captains to Summit Hospital for BLS Instructor training on July 28, 2026 with the American Heart Association. Letter of recognition for the structure fire on May 15, 2026.
 - D. The Board has reviewed the Financial Report for the month of April, 2026
 - E. The Board has reviewed and approved the meeting minutes for 4/22/2026
 - F. Motion that the Board has approved the consent agenda. Grey Murphy motioned to approve the consent agenda, and Randy Mifflin seconded the motion. John Vehar called for a vote, and the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.
 - G. **Discussion and possible action: Audit Report presented by Saunders Company, LTD.** Vernon Fire District passed audit with no internal control findings or corrections needed. Top level of Option given by Saunders Company, LTD for FY 25/26 Audit. Audit report turned into Apache County Treasurer and posted at specified posting locations.
 - H. **Discussion and possible action: Tentative Adoption for FY 26/27 Budget & approval for 20-day posting of Public Hearing.** Jacob York with JVG accounting gave a power point which included the following: Operational Expenses, reviewed historical trends and discuss operational needs of District with Chief and staff. Fire Communication Services increase of \$7,500. Debt Service, decrease \$30,300 due to retirement of debt, \$11,500 final Engine payment paid off early. Funding from/to Reserve, \$22,500 funding to Reserve account. \$16,000 deficit on operational budget (funding from reserve) plus margin of wildland of \$38,500 (funding to reserve). Personnel Expenses, 5% step increase for all eligible, Workers comp increase of \$21,000, increase in staffing totals, addition of Battalion Chief position and all positions filled. Tax Revenue, Property Tax Revenue assessed valuation of \$22,486,931 increase of 9% or \$69,990 increase at current rate. FDAT \$157,407. Non-Tax Revenue, Wildland- \$250,000 remained the same, Lease revenue- \$19,400, increase of \$12,000 subject to tower lease. Public Services- \$16,000, increase of \$6,000 for commercial burns. Billing- \$50,000 remained the same. Grants- \$200,000, decrease of \$300,000. Motion was made by John Vehar and seconded by Grey Murphy on 3.75 tax rate on \$1,542,067, all in favor.
 - I. **Discussion and possible action: Vehicles**, Engine 26 (E26) returned from shop, all equipment off truck, prepping for sale. Engine 25 (E25) brake repairs, will be out of service for few hours during repairs. Tender 25 & Tender 26 both need pump repairs. Brush 26 out of service, removing pump and tank. BC25 in shop at Show Low Ford getting VCT valve and timing chain replaced. BC26 in shop at Show Low Ford getting O2 sensor, coil packs & spark plugs replaced. BC26 also has transmission and transfer case issues, quoted \$8,000.
 - J. **Discussion and possible action: Grants**, AFG grant will be submitted May 28th, NAEMS grant \$2400 was received for EMS supplies.
 - K. **Discussion and possible action: Station 3 property updates**, no updates at this time
 - L. **Discussion and possible action: Chief performance review**, motion to adjourn regular session and go into Executive session was made at 6:24pm by Gregg McClendon and seconded by Grey Murphy, all in favor.
Regular session was reopened at 6:36pm.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Vehicles, grants, Public Hearing for Budget, Station 3 updates

ADJOURNMENT, Motion to adjourn made by Grey Murphy, seconded by Randy Mifflin, all in favor. John Vehar called for adjournment of the Vernon Fire District Board meeting at 6:38pm.