



# Desert Hills Fire District

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## Desert Hills Fire District Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting September 18, 2024

### 1. Call to order

Board Member Schafer called to order the Desert Hills Fire District Board meeting at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2024**, at the Desert Hills Fire Station Si-Mock Room located at 3983 London Bridge Road, Lake Havasu City, AZ.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance commenced by Board Member Schafer

### 3. Roll Call

The following Board Members were present:

Tom Roger - absent  
Curtis Schafer  
Char Beltran - absent  
Jimmy Wilson-  
Rich Fountain

Also, in attendance:

Battalion Chief Stanec  
Battalion Chief Bunn  
Administrative Specialist Harrison

4. Call to the Public: Dana VanLuven introduced himself, as the new Board Member beginning December 2024. He's a resident of North Pointe and served 27 years in the fire service in Big Bear CA.

5. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2024: Board Member Fountain motioned to accept meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor.

### 6. Reports:

a) **Fire Administration Report:** Battalion Chief Stanec reports;

- We hired a young man, Jerit Thurman from Parker/Buckskin area. We are fully staffed again.
- Our annual physicals begin this week through next week.
- At the last board meeting, five spots were approved for Paramedic classes. After that meeting, we had a sit-down meeting with the 5 individuals and three backed out for personal reasons. We are sponsoring Michael Terriquez and Jay Robinson; they started their classes on Monday, September 23. We will be able to sponsor the three available spots in the future.
- The board approved Cyber Security has been applied for. We are waiting to hear back from the Department of Homeland Security for that software.
- I need to talk about our critical infrastructure, the radio tower on Ram Mountain located in Havasu Heights. A few property owners surrounding the mountain have blocked the entrance so we cannot gain access to the property where our equipment sits. We are working with other companies and sites. I have met with Horizon Communications out of Mohave Valley. They are working on propagation maps for us to see alternate sites that maybe suitable for our needs. The alternative sites we are looking at is Goat Mountain by the airport. Mohave County does have a building and tower, they have space to put some infrastructure there. The problem is we would need a second repeater site because Havasu Heights and I40 area Goat Mountain doesn't hit because Ram Mountain is in the way. We have a tower at station 2. Alan from Wirefree Communication has three to four towers his working on and said we could join his towers. He has one at Terribles and one at River Bound. He applied and got a temporary permit with BLM for just

below Ram Mountain and the old frontier tower west of Hwy 95. So right now, we are just working on getting propagation maps to see where the best sites are. Another site would be Crossman Peak but that one would be difficult to get to and it does not have power. This project may cost up to \$100,000 to boost our infrastructure and secure the ideal location.

- Captain Reeder is working the WACEMS grant, which is the EMS grant for our EMS reporting software he applies for every year.

b) **Fire Operation Report:** Battalion Chief Bunn reports;

- We are at 588 calls. Nothing significant to report minus two wildland deployments.
- We sent two people to Fire School; Jessica Holcombe took Fire Hydraulics and Kaleb Mann took Basic Firefighter Skills. They both reported class were amazing and they had a great time. We're sending two Captains to the BC Academy; Captain Reeder and Captain Sayre. It is hosted by AZFCA in Avondale. It's excellent leadership training. Captain Erikson just last week took the Train the Trainer class for UTV/ATV and trailer operations now he certified and can teach our guys on safety of the equipment. Jessica Holcombe and Michael Terriquez will participate in the upcoming pump/engineer academy hosted by LHFD beginning the last week of October.
- The ARPA Grant I was working on was approved Monday for \$156,748.66 to buy two new command trucks, that will allow the outfitting and purchasing of the vehicles. This is a zero match for us.
- I am asking the Board to sponsor me to attend National Fire Academy training in Emmitsburg, MD. There are two classes I wish to attend, Special Operations Program Management, Managing on Effective Fire Prevention Program. One class will be free through FEMA. I've applied for both and will let you know if approved.

c) **DHFD Auxiliary Report:** BM Fountain reports; We had our first meeting yesterday after the summer and the first pancake breakfast is October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

- a.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report.** Administrative Specialist Harrison states that the Grant Savings Account is \$51,723.47, Payroll Account \$42,257.80, Special Revenue Checking Account \$8,583.17, Special Revenue Savings Account \$531,559.69, Warrant Account \$949,340.24, Petty Cash \$100.00, with a total balance of \$1,583,564.37. Motioned by Board Member Fountain to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Board Member Curtis, all in favor.
- b.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval for the AFG Grant to purchase SCBA Air Packs.** BC Bunn reports; as you know we received the AFG Grant for air packs. I formed a committee, myself, FF Borg, and Capt. Glomboski. We had three vendors come in and show cased their equipment. We are going with LN Curtis & Sons; they came in with the best bang for our buck for MSA SCBA Air Packs. The total cost is \$209,000, FEMA share is \$199,047.61 and our share is \$9,952.39. Motioned by Board Member Wilson to approve the AFG Grant purchase of MSA self-contained breathing apparatus form LN Curtis and Sons with the amount not to exceed \$209,000, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor.
- c.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval for an Internet Phone Service.** BC Stanec reports about a month ago we had a phone outage. The outage identified the need for a back-up phone system. I've been talking with Alan from Wirefree Communication and he suggested internet phones since we have a fiber hub at station 1. We would keep one Frontier line for back up. Switching to internet phones with one Frontier line we will be saving about \$245 a month. The features these phones have are amazing. There are like 1200 features. You can have an app on your cell phone, calls can be forward right to your phone, calls made from your cell shows as coming from your office extension. This feature will be great for fire prevention. There is an initial cost to hardware lines and purchase the phones, that cost is \$1,264.94 one-time fee. The monthly saving will pay for the initial cost in 5 ½ months. Motioned by Board Member Schafer to upgrade to the internet phone system, seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.
- d.)

7. **Board Member Comments:**

- a) New Business to be considered on future agendas: None  
b) Comments: None

8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 9:30am by Board Member Curtis, seconded by Board Member Fountain, all in favor.