



Desert Hills Fire District

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Desert Hills Fire District Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting, February 19, 2025

1. Call to order

Board Member Roger called to order the Desert Hills Fire District Board meeting at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025**, 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 Roger

3. Roll Call

The following Board Members were present:

Tom Roger
Curtis Schafer
Linda Hanks
Rich Fountain
Dana VanLeuven

Also, in attendance:

Battalion Chief Stanec
Battalion Chief Bunn
Administrative Specialist Harrison

4. Call to the Public: BC Bunn introduced our mechanic, Chirs from Emergency Vehicle Repair LLC

5. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2025: Board Member Fountain motioned to accept meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Board Member VanLeuven, Board Member Schafer abstains, all in favor.

6. Reports:

a) **Fire Administration Report:** Battalion Chief Stanec reports; Good morning, everybody.

Cybersecurity has been an issue. If you remember, we did get grant funding to upgrade cybersecurity throughout all facets of our fire department. Admin Harrison and our vendor Keith, have been working slowly and steadily at cybersecurity. Unfortunately, Keith's mother isn't doing well in Las Vegas, so he stepped away for about a month to be up with his mom. So that's kind of left us hanging. Emails were brought up before the board meeting. Please be diligent. Don't click on anything that looks weird, if it's not coming from us, or a member of the public reach out to one of us before clicking on it. We've spread the word throughout the department. Our Horizon Technology rep had sent us an invoice for \$87,000 for the radio towers, which was a legitimate invoice. Somehow that email got intercepted by somebody else with an email address very close to the original email address. They were requesting the money to be electronically transferred. We contacted Horizon Technology and they confirmed they were not requesting the money to be wired.

Communications project. Not a lot has happened since our last board meeting due to the fact that Goat Mountain is having a new TV antenna installed. Our equipment was going to go on the old tower and then get moved to the new tower.

That's stopped progress up there because we didn't want to hinder their installation. I talked to Robert yesterday and it sounds like there might be a window either the end of this week or beginning of next week for them to get up there.

On another good note in the wildland world, Engineer Guy Lawrence was initiated as an engine boss trainee on January 28th. He has to do additional training and he get signatures in his task book over the next three years to become an engine boss. Give Guy a big round of applause. I am an engine boss now. So, that makes us versatile in the wildland world.

The Colorado River Adventures had reached out to us. Their staff wanted CPR training, medical first aid training. Captain Reeder took that project on. He hosted a class last week with 12 to 14 participants for basic CPR, basic first aid. He also gave them an emergency response plan, if somebody is injured in the park, what they can do as a staff to help. Chief indicated to Captain Reeder to talk more on it. Captain Reeder states "he just wrote an incident action plan. I created roles and responsibilities for the staff members when it comes to recognition, response, the golf cart at the entrance to guide us in. We're very close, so we're looking for space numbers in our book. It helps to have somebody there. We talked about personal limitations. Can they actually get the patient, if it's a cardiac arrest, off a bed or out of a bathroom onto a hard floor so we can provide compressions. Who's calling 911. I trained them on AED and they're looking into buying one. They were very thankful and it was a really fun class.

Last week I attended a conference in Las Vegas. It was the Western Fire Chiefs Association. It was their first ever conference. Top notch. There were people from Hawaii, Alaska, down the coast, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona. All the states were represented. The director from the National Fire Academy spoke. I took a lot of classes that had National Academy instructors. It was more geared towards being the Chief and dealing with the struggles of being a chief mentally, physically. There was Wildland Tracks, technology tracks. What's coming, how we can utilize AI to help us in the fire service, what to be cautious of with AI. It was a very informative conference. I hope to attend again if they continue it. I've already started implementing a few things that I've learned.

The Havasu Heights projects, they are going to start blacktopping Havasu Heights Boulevard from the pavement down the gravel road in front of our fire station. The Apex Group, Campbell, Oxley, Rancho's Havasu have stepped up and they want to donate blacktop in front of our fire station. I believe Monday, they're going to start that project. They have to cut out our old slab and remove it at no cost to us. They are starting at the far east and go west. It should take about a week.

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

Call Stat – We are at 110 calls for service 68 since last month. We had a couple small fires, I-40 overpass F250 caught fire and old RV out in Craggy wash last week.

Training update – We hosted ISO (Incident Safety Officer) here a couple weeks ago, great feedback from the students and everybody had a great time. Great interaction. We had about ten or eleven different departments came here to train. First time we ever hosted NFA class. Tomorrow is the last day of live fire training with LHCFD. We're very grateful for the opportunity to go and training the city. Chief Stanec and I are heading back to Maryland for the National Fire Academy. I'm taking Managing Effective Fire Prevention Program. Chief Stance's is taking a new Executive Chief Officer class. Myself, Captain Glomboski and Captain Erickson are going to be traveling to Bullhead for a week, taking a train to trainer course in fire ground survivability sponsored by the IAFF. The props for this were gotten through a regional AFG Grant by Fort Mojave Mesa Fire. The goal was, to get the props, get people trained, and then yearly all departments will get those props for a month. So, when we have the props here, myself, Captain Glomboski and Captain Erickson will be able to train our people and put them through the courses.

ARPA update on the two new staff vehicles. I just got a call last night. The graphics are done, the rest of the equipment shipped yesterday to State 48 in Kingman. I'm hoping to drop them off before we go to Maryland so when we get back the new staff vehicles will be put in service.

c) **Auxiliary Report:** Auxiliary President Rich Fountain reports; I have couple of things. Chief Bunn is currently undergoing a training as a pancake flipper. We served 594 breakfasts and we served 379 spaghetti dinners. We're well on our way to our goal to supply the \$40,000 this year to for new equipment. We had another one of our neighbors just donated \$3,000.

7. **New Business:**

- a.) Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report. Administrative Specialist Harrison states that the Grant Savings Account is \$9,867.50, Payroll Account \$9,842.70, Special Revenue Checking Account \$14,940.58, Special Revenue Savings Account \$741,012.57 Warrant Account \$2,003,217.45, Petty Cash \$100.00, with a total balance of \$2,778,980.80. Motioned by Board Member Schafer to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Board Member Fountain, all in favor.

- b.) Discussion and possible action re: Approval to purchase of New Type 1 Engine. BC Bunn reports the vehicle maintenance budget for 24/25 was set at \$90,000 up from \$70,000 in 23/24. We are already over our budget for the year and it's not over yet. As you can see for the last three years, we are trending up in vehicle repair expense. Our fleet age currently with a new type one engine will be 16 3/4 years, without the new engine it will be 22 years. Which in turn was part of my reason for having Chris from Emergency Vehicle Service LLC here. If anyone's got any questions for him, this would be a time to ask.

Board Member Roger thanks Chris for coming and asks how much more needs to go into this equipment.

Obviously, the Rosenbauer is new and under warranty, what else could go wrong? Do you have some insight? Do you regularly work on fire engines?

Chris responds that we specialize in fire apparatus emergency vehicles. To bringing these engines up to par it could be something as simple as a couple relief valves here and there. Your Pierce engine (1521) has 150,000 miles on it. It has 9,000 engine hours. And 1000 pump hours only, which doesn't sound like a lot but that is a lot.

The Pierce (1541) has 120,000 miles, 10,000 engine hours and just over 1084 pump hours. These numbers are getting to where we have to split a pump in half and start doing clearance readings. The pressures of what NFPA says should happen is 150 psi at 150 ft hose. The engine has to be another 6,700 RPM higher to make up that difference. Because we're starting to lose clearances and our clearance rings around the impellers. If we have to split a pump in half and we're talking \$40,000 to \$50,000 to rebuild the pump. No disrespect with anything I say, please. 1521 and 1541 should be in reserve status.

Board Member Roger thanks Chris for his information.

BC Bunn states, this HME Commercial Type 1 is the engine I've been doing research on. Currently I'm working with the builder. The engine that I was looking to buy sold, but HME is building another one because the demand is so high. If we get approval to purchase this one will be available in early December. This is a commercial cab, an international chassis. The price of this engine right now is \$498,801 but we will not go over \$500,000.

BM VanLeuven asks "on the \$500,000 is that for the apparatus only. There is always more cost putting a new engine in service." BC Bunn replies he will be putting 1 of the red engines out of service and stripping it for the new engine.

BM Schafer asks "What is the warranty?" BC Bunn replies there is a general three-year warranty on the chassis. Body structural has 10-years. Body paint is 5-years. It's the same warranties that we got on the Rosenbauer.

We get that one-year tip to toe/top to bottom

BC Bunn states; when we bought the Rosenbauer we took out a 7-year loan on \$700,000. The total interest rate paid is \$21,000. If we were to finance this engine for 10-years the interest would be \$170,000. We can purchase the engine through Sourcewell which gives us a 15% discount. If we paid 50% up front, 50% upon delivery, it would be two payments of 249,430, there's a 50% prepayment discount of \$8,640. So that would drop the overall price to \$490,221. Or we can do 100% up front. There's a 100% prepayment discount of \$19,200 which should drop the price to 479,661.

We are utilizing Sourcewell, they do all the legwork and vet the entities. We are members of Sourcewell and that's who we used to buy the Rosenbauer engine. Also using Sourcewell is following our Purchasing and Procurement Policy 213.7.

BC Stanec states, I like the idea of paying 50% up front. If you remember we had \$500,000 set aside in this budget for capital. We spent 100,000 of that on the communications project. So, we have \$400,000 designated to capital. If we pay the \$250,000 up front in this budget year out of the capital account. We then ensure that we budget \$250,000 in the next budget year to make the final payment. Capital in the future will be done through a capital improvement plan to set the next administration and district up for success for the next 10 years. I'm confident that if we make this purchase now, that'll help pave the way to set that up. And we'll be putting money aside for the future to make these big purchases.

BC Bunn asks the Board for permission to go ahead and buy this Type 1 engine with a 50/50 split payment.

Board Member Roger states, that was a great presentation. But I would like feedback. I'd like to start with BM VanLeuven, if you have any comments on this, you know the equipment, you know the cost of maintenance. What are your thoughts?

Board Member VanLeuven states, to get over that hump and have reliable equipment, it's a big ask for the community, the taxpayers and to spend that kind of money. But on the other side, you need reliable equipment. These guys need reliable equipment. They can't do their job without it. One thing that I would like to see, and we had this discussion is a plan for your vehicle equipment replacement so that there's money going into that fund every year. And you guys have come a long way in this department from what I'm learning from where you were to the day. So, kudos to you for where you're at. You do have the money to be able to purchase this and I think it's something that's definitely needed. So, if you set up that Plan, hopefully through some of the savings from all the maintenance and proper budgeting in the future to start funding the equipment replacement.

BM Fountain states with the 3 new staff vehicles and 2 new engines you can put this forward plan into place. I like the strategy.

BM Roger states he like the strategy and having funds that's earmarked specifically for equipment replacement. I'm not in opposition to buying, but we also have to look at this upcoming budget.

Motioned by Board Member Schafer to approve purchase a new type 1 apparatus, with payments of 50/50, seconded by Board Member VanLeuven, all in favor.

- c.) Discussion and possible action re: Approval to purchase a Type 6 Engine with SB1720 funding:
BC Stanec begins that the board did except this funding. Once accepted we created a committee. The committee was made up of Guy Lawrence, Jason Sayre and Andrew Shiner, one of our newer firefighters that has a specialty in building apparatus. We met three or four times. We definitely valued the input of the committee members. The committee agreed on a Ford chassis. We selected Firetrucks Unlimited to be our vendor. It meets all the NFPA requirements. It has lights, sirens and everything we want out the door for \$288,100, which gives us another \$11,900 to upfit the engine. It's going to need a \$3,500 radio, hoses and nozzles, etc. The lead time on the build is about 4 months. The state has already gave us the money. I'm asking that we go with Fire Trucks Unlimited for the build and specs that the committee has selected for the \$288,100, with the excess funding earmarked to outfit that vehicle with the needs of the wildland committee.
BM Roger motion to approve the purchase of a new type 6 engine through Fire Trucks Unlimited for \$288,500 with the additional funds available to go to any additional equipment not to exceed \$300,000 from the SB 1720 Grant funding, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor.
- d.) Discussion and possible approval re: Approval to repair electrical receptacle for apparatus bay.
BC Stanec states: Saturday at spaghetti dinner we lost power to the bay and burned up an electrical outlet due to all the roasters plugged in. Our 50-year-old station could not handle that much power. The solution is to put a larger electrical panel with extra spots for breakers.
Our auxiliary stepped up yesterday and voted to pay for that bill. So, there's going to be no action needed.

8. Board Member Comments:

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

9. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 10:06 by Board Member Roger, seconded by Board Member Fountain, all in favor.