



# Desert Hills Fire District

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## Desert Hills Fire District Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting, March 18, 2026

### 1. Call to order

Board Member Roger called to order the Desert Hills Fire District Board meeting at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026**, 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  
Rich Fountain  
Dana VanLeuven  
Linda Hanks

Also, in attendance:

Chief Stanec  
Administrative Specialist Harrison

### 4. Call to the Public: None

### 5. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2026: Board Member Hanks motioned to accept meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor.

### 6. Reports:

#### a) **Fire Chief Report:** Chief Stanec reports the following;

- BC Bunn is on Workers Compensation for approximately 6 months. During this time, we hired a part-time temporary Fire Inspector, James Kartinen. He has 20 years of service in Fort Mohave Mesa. He was their Fire Marshall for many years. James Kartinen introduced himself and told a little bit about his background.
- Our Congressional District Spending, we are still slated to receive the \$210,000 funding. The portal has not opened yet. It's coming soon. The new application period is open; it closes Friday. The group of fire departments in the communications project has decided to take a more regional approach for this funding and Mohave Valley FD will be taking the lead. This will include

station alerting, automated dispatching, radios, and other items needed.

- Senate bill 1832 that just passed. This bill allows us to bill \$500 for each medical call to state land or BLM land. We just submitted a bill. If this one goes through, we will go back 90 days and bill for any other runs to those areas.

**b) Auxiliary Report:** Rich Fountain reports; Linda and I did not attend this past pancake breakfast, but Captain Erickson and crew did an outstanding job. They served 541 breakfasts. I think we are well on our way to meet our donation goals for the year. We have one more breakfast on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. New Business:

- a. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report. Administrative Specialist Harrison states that the Grant Savings Account is \$3,093.29, Payroll Account \$3,018.74, Special Revenue Checking Account \$11,330.78, Special Revenue Savings Account \$76,688.40, Warrant Account \$2,877,248.20, Petty Cash \$127.57, with a total balance of \$2,971,506.98. Motioned by Board Member Fountain to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Board Member VanLeuven, all in favor.
- b. Discussion and possible action re: Approval for Bathroom Shower Repair. Chief Stanec reports; our firefighters wanted to remodel the upstairs bathroom a few months ago and found a few businesses that would donate supplies. This Monday water was running on to the floor, coming from the shower. We reached out to a plumber, and he came out to delicately repair the leak, but it broke more. He had to open it up to gain access to the leak and cap it off. At this time crews will be showering at the CRA. Our main concern is the mold and the asbestos. I would like the board to allocate funds to make emergency repairs. Board Member Fountain approves the to repair and replace the shower not to exceed \$5000, seconded by Board Member Roger, all in favor.
- c. Discussion and possible action re: Approval to purchase controlled substance security boxes; Chief Stanec reports that the DEA federally change mandates when it comes to controlled substances, which all our paramedics carry. To meet the intent of the federal law we need to purchase double locking boxes for our apparatus to put the controlled substance in. We also need locking boxes in the stations when they are not on the engines. Firefighter Holcombe took on this project. She researched all types and costs of boxes. We reached out to a local company, KSH Products. They can construct these metal boxes with a double locking system for \$2,351. There would be a box at station 1, a box at station 2 and a box for each first out fire engine. Board Member Rogers motioned to approve the funding for the controlled substance lock boxes, seconded by Board Member Fountain, all in favor.
- d. Discussion and possible action re: Approval to switch to Colorado City Dispatch Center for dispatching; Chief Stanec states that our collective group decided last month that Colorado City is the new home for our dispatch. Kingman Fire and their dispatch center can't provide the things that Colorado City can do for us. Definitely a tough decision, but ultimately the five fire departments who joined together voted that Colorado City was our best option. Last week I was up there working on all that behind the scenes for the dispatch center. We must give AMR 60-day notice, and we'll send a formal letter explaining we're changing dispatch centers. I have talked to Brad Shelton; he is supportive of us even though we're a customer of theirs, and they're supportive of going to a fire base dispatch center. Member VanLeuven motioned to approve switching dispatch centers to Colorado City, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor.
- e. Discussion and possible action re: Budget Workshop; Chief Stanec begins by stating we have been diligently working on the budget.

We received our levy projections from the county and if we keep the 3.5% rate, it will bring in \$3,122,524. And that is an increase of \$208,485 to our budget.

We've been working on organizational changes, possibly bringing on shift BC's to lighten the load on the chief, giving those shift BC's current responsibilities in training, EMS, fleet maintenance. We're looking at a 3% increase in wages across the board; that's an increase of \$89,895, without the promotions. If we do the promotions and the 3% pay increase, we're looking at \$157,938 increase.

Health insurance is going up 17.2%; that's an increase of \$46,000. It's not just Desert Hills health insurance increasing; it's a state problem. We are still shopping around for other options.

Admin Harrison states; that if we stay with our 3.5% rate, which is a \$208,485 increase and go with the 3% increase with 9 promotions, that's \$204,000 just in wages and insurance. If we increase the levy to 3.55%, that's an increase of \$253,092. An increase to 3.75% would be \$431,522. Chief Stanec stated there is not a statutory saying we have to increase by a quarter percent. We are going to try and keep the levy at 3.5%; we do not want to raise taxes on our community. It may have to go up a couple percent.

We're pretty confident that we'll come up with a good budget to give to the board and walk you through every step of the way.

Admin Harrison would like guidance on wages and promotions. Chief Stanec states the model he has in mind is; Fire Chief, Operations Chief, 3 shift BC's, A, B & C shifts, with dedicated functions to those roles and responsibilities. By moving 3 people up the ranks, that will leave 3 Captain vacancies, then 3 Engineer vacancies. That is 9 promotions that we're looking at and I am not looking at increasing staffing currently; it's just putting people in different functions, same number of people will run calls. In the future we will look at SAFER Grants to add to boost our staffing back up. This model will compensate the staff for taking on more responsibilities.

## **8. Board Member Comments:**

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

## **9. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 9:57am; Board Member Roger motioned to Adjourn, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor.