



Desert Hills Fire District

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Desert Hills Fire District Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting, February 16, 2022

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 16, 2022**, 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
Brad Shelton - Absent
Curtis Schafer
Char Beltran
Jimmy Wilson

Also, in attendance:

Battalion Chief Stanec
Battalion Chief Bunn
Administrative Specialist Harrison

4) Call to the Public: None

5) Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2022: Board Member Schafer motioned to accept the meeting minutes as written; seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.

6) Reports:

Fire Administration Report and Operation Report: Battalion Chief Stanec is reporting;

Sad news Delores "Dee" Moscou, passed away on January 28th. For the past 30 plus years she was a big supporter of the fire department and the sheriff canine unit with donations and helped any way she could. She was one of the founders of the DHFD Women's Auxiliary. In 2013 Dee was appointed by Mohave County Board of Supervisors as the Administrator of the Fire District. She was responsible to select the next fire board. She was also a Board Member from 2016 – 2018. She's had huge impacted on the Desert Hills Fire District. On March 11th, with her family we are hosting a celebration of life for her here at the station, whatever we can do to support the family. As a dedication to Dee, we ordered a park bench that will sit in front of the fire station. We purchased the bench, however the Auxiliary reimbursed us, it should be here this week or next.

In January we attended the AFDA conference in Tucson, great educational experience. Legislatively there's a statewide push from the Professional Fire Fighter Association, Arizona Fire Chief Association and the Fire District Association, called HCR2004, it's a funding mechanism for Fire Districts. They were trying to get it on November's ballot at the state level but it didn't make thru committee on Monday. Now it's up to the above entities to petition and get signatures to get it on the ballot. What this would do is allow 1/10%

of sales tax that Fire Districts would receive in addition to the property tax we receive. It would come out to 150 million which would be shared with the 144 fire districts. The amount that is received per fire district is based on the district size. For Desert Hill it would mean approximately \$1,400,000.00 to our budget.

An item from the conference was 'Ring Doorbell'. They are doing a program called Community Safety Platform which now works with Fire Departments, Police Departments and other entities which will have a voice to the community. For example, if there is a structure fire, we can communicate that there is a fire on this street, stay clear, road closure. This will allow a new platform to talk to the community. We are working with the Ring Representative and it's no cost to us. A selling point was fire prevention, if there was a suspected arson fire, we would be able to coordinate on their maps and ask the public anonymously for assistance that may have been on their ring systems.

Lastly the Auxiliary met last night and had nice things to say about the Fire Department. They were up to about 400 people at the last breakfast and had to open the classroom for more spots. We are working on a wish list to submit to them.

Operation Report: Battalion Chief Bunn is reporting; BC Bunn states we are currently at 123 calls for the service – 75 calls since last board meeting.

AFG Grant – we had two companies come in, Plymovent and MagneGrip and talk about their equipment, we chose Plymovent and equipment has been ordered and monies have been requested from FEMA for a down payment on the equipment. I am anticipating 8-12 week for installation timeframe.

We will be very busy month coming up. We have FIT testing, Hose testing on pancake Saturday and Pump testing.

The two engines we received from San Bernardino will be in placed in service by the end of the month. Captain Sayre has been conducting training for all crews and will conclude on the 24th and they will be going to station 2.

We will be sending 4 people to the Officer Development class being hosted by Bullhead Fire Department and will run from February 28th thru March 3rd then March 7th thru March 10th.

Guy Lawrence and David Nelson will be attending the annual Wildland Academy in Prescott the second week in March.

The 100 Club Grant, the gear came in at a little over \$8,200.00 worth of turn-out gear.

I'm going back to college to get my bachelor degree. I would like to thank the board and District for their support now and in the future. It should be about 18 months and I will be done.

Correspondence: None

7) **New Business:**

- a.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report.** The Grant Savings Account has \$19,178.12, Payroll Account \$11,432.10, Special Revenue Checking Account \$8,177.16, Special Revenue Savings Account \$134,298.44, Warrant Account \$1,107,269.22, Petty Cash \$100.00, with a total balance of \$1,280,455.04. Motioned by Board Member Schafer to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Board Member Beltran, all in favor.
- b.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval to reclassify one vacant Firefighter position to a Fire Prevention Specialist.** BC Stanec explains with the growth and commercial development in our area we need to step up our fire prevention game. Myself, BC Bunn and Admin Harrison had discussed the need for fire prevention for the next budget. After further discussion we decided it needed to be sooner than that. We're behind in keeping up with plan review, site surveys, site inspections. Since COVID we have not been able to do annual reinspection's. Our best solution was to take one of the funded firefighter positions and reclassify it to fire prevention. We have qualified personnel to do this job, so the position will be internal.

BC Stanec states that we have the job description and minutes from when we created the position in April 2019. At that time, it was a light duty, short term position. We want to make sure the qualified candidate is compensated appropriately for a fulltime 40-hour work week and not take a loss in pay. During the light duty time in 2019-2020 for permit fees, we made almost \$12,000. Before then it was \$6,000 than \$5,000 and \$4,000 yearly. This will give us someone to keep up with the permit process, application fees, plan reviews and site inspections.

BM Wilson asked when contractors build a new commercial building and run a fire line, do we go and inspect that fire line. BC Stanec answers yes, however the firefighter who will go and inspect the property has to do it while on shift. Working with the contractors, developers who want to schedule an appointment with a Fire Prevention person but can't because that person is not on shift and can't be scheduled until the person is back on shift, so it can cause a riff.

BM Curtis asks if we need to purchase a vehicle for that person to use and BC Stanec responds no, we have 3 staff vehicles.

BM Beltran asks what is the impact on the budget. Admin Harrison answers there won't be an impact on the budget. The new Fire Inspector will be paid what they are currently being paid, with a new job title. BC Stanec states our intention is to fill that now vacant firefighter position in the next FY's budget.

Motioned by Board Member Beltran to reclassify one vacant Firefighter position to a Fire Prevention Specialist and adjust the Fire Prevention pay scale as stated, seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.

8) Board Member Comments:

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

9) Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:31am by Board Member Beltran, seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.