



Desert Hills Fire District

3983 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404
(928) 764-3333 (FAX) 764-2397

Desert Hills Fire District Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting, May 19, 2021

1. Call to order

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

4. Call to the Public: None

5. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2021: Board Member Schafer motioned to accept meeting minutes as written, seconded by Board Member Beltran, all in favor.

6. Reports:

a) **Fire Administration Report:** BC Stanec states;

- We hired 2, potentially 3 POC's. We're having some staffing issues, with one employee out on FMLA, Wildland season and summer vacations. We put the two POCs through new hire orientation last week. The third works full time, BC Bunn has been working to get staffing through orientation. The hopes with the three is to give us relief and help through the summer.
- We received notification of funding for the VFA Grant in the amount of \$1009.40. We sent four (4) firefighters to Prescott Wildland Academy.
- Captain Reeder was presented with an EMS Appreciation Award at last week's Western Arizona Council of EMS meeting for his outstanding work in EMS.

b) **Fire Operation Report:** BC Bunn states;

- We are currently at 327. We had two (2) big fires since the last meeting, one (1) fire at Havasu Heights it was an outside track/rubbish which spread to an RV. B-Shift crews did an awesome job protecting exposures and containing the fire to the area it was in with limited amounts of water. We utilized Yucca

Fire for mutual Aid with their big tender. The second fire was on Folzman Drive in Havasu Gardens. A shift crew did an amazing job saving two (2) mobile homes that could have been lost. We utilized LHCDFD for mutual aid, two engines, BC and Cert team.

- The REMS team was deployed to the Tussock Fire which was located 7 miles southwest of Crown King. Engine Boss Sayre, Captain/Medic Young, FF/Medic Lawrence and FF Nelson deployed for a week. This deployment marks an historical time for Deserts Hills Fire District as this is a new team for us. The district and the FF's are invested in the making the program succeed. We are the only Certified REMS team in the County.
- The transition to the MSA air packs should be completed by the end of the month.
- 1511R has returned from Canyon Country, repaired.
- Drivers training rodeo was completed for all personnel.
- Captain Reeder taught a PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) for all DHFD medics. We've made it mandatory for all our medics to have this cert it's not mandatory by the hospital making our medic going to the next level.
- The REMS team completed their quarterly training.

c) **Correspondence:** None

7. **New Business:**

- a.) Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report. Administrative Specialist Harrison states that the Grant Savings Account is \$64,873.96, Payroll Account \$12,355.83, Petty Cash \$100.00, Special Revenue Checking Account \$15,897.19, Special Revenue Savings Account \$49,818.86, Warrant Account \$861,794.88, with a total balance of \$1,004,840.72. 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: Seasonal Personnel for Wildland Season. BC Stanec states; We were approached by a gal that has extensive background in wildland fire fighting, she worked for the State Forestry in Washington, as a MED Unit Leader. She lives in the area and is on with the Southwest Incident Management Team, however she needs a host agency to back her. We would be responsible for the wildfire billing once she is back from a fire. When we receive the money from the state, we would pay her. She would drive her own vehicle. The benefit to us, it gives Desert Hill Fire District exposure and there is a chance depending on the fire we could send her as a BLS kit which we can bill for at a rate of @ \$150.00 per day. In addition, she would volunteer to train our fire line medics, keeping them update when needed. BC Stanec states he contacted the Red Card Committee with the state, which was able to look pull up her information from Washington and blessed her as a Med Unit Leader in the state of Arizona. Next, I contacted Shannon Kelly from the wildland finance department with the state, Shannon said we would classify her as Volunteer which falls into seasonal, single resource, and falls under the AD Rate, which is a federal pay scale. According Pinetop Fire they say there is really no benefit to us and it is low risk to us. She would be based at camp not out fighting fires. Board Member Roger asked as a volunteer she is compensated for the fires she goes on, so if Desert Hills Fire doesn't get reimbursed does it take away our liability to pay her? BC Stanec responds that we would have her as a 1099 Contract Laborer with a formal contract that outlines reimbursement. Board Member Roger states, another issue would be Workers Compensation, because a volunteer would fall under our workers compensation policy unless they provide their own workers comp policy so that cost needs to be in the equation. BC Stanec responds that was his biggest concern. Board Member Schafer asks what do single resource med unit leaders do, BC Stanec answers they manage the medical teams at the fire. Board Member Beltran asks BC Stanec what he thinks, BC Stanec explains that it adds another element to us plus the training aspect. We can try it for this wildland season, if it works then we'll do next season. If it's too much trouble than we don't have to continue. Board Member Roger states that he doesn't understand the risk return. The return is small unless there is a benefit that she has offer. BC Stanec responds that the training, mentoring and experience she would provide to our medics is beneficial to their future in wildland fire. Admin Secretary reminds the group that she needs to check with Wildland billing to see if a 1099 contract laborer. Board Member Beltran motions to approve Volunteer/Seasonal Personnel for Wild Land Fire Fighting with the AD rate, seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.
- c.) Discussion and possible action re: Proposed Budget. BC Stanec states; At the last Board Meeting we had a budget workshop, had a completed budget except for our Workers Comp. 7710 did get back to us since last board meeting. The cost of worker's comp cost fell within what we previous budgeted. The good news was our EMOD went down from 2.01 to 1.27, however our price stayed the same even with the drop. BC Stanec feels we should stay with 7710 at least for another year. Another change to the budget B. I did a little research and found out we are not doing right by Administrative Specialist Harrison; there something called the 20-20 criteria that falls under ARS 38-71123 B, which states if an employee works in a government system more than 20 hours per week for twenty weeks in a year, they qualify for

state retirement. I contacted Mohave Valley FD, Fort Mohave FD, Golden Valley FD and I learned that all of their admins receive state retirement. We looked into state retirement, employee contribution is 12.41% and the employer is 12.41% and you have to vest for 20 years. Admin. Spec. Harrison is opting out of the AZ State Retirement. So, we looked into other options for retirement and found our PSPR is affiliated with Nationwide Insurance and they have a retirement plan for admins. Nationwide has a 401a (employer contribution) and a 457 (employee contribution). We figure 12.41% retirement into budget B. Board Member Roger asked “does this fulfill our obligation for the state”. Nationwide is a state plan, and it states that any State of Arizona employee receiving compensation can participate.

Admin Specialist Harrison stated at last month’s Board Meeting we talked about Grant expenses being incorrect, those expenses are correct.

Board Member Beltran motions accept proposed budget B to be posted for 30 days, seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.

8. Board Member Comments:

- a) New Business to be considered on future agendas: None
- b) Comments: Chief Dennen explains he’s on the Anderson Memorial Walkway Foundation and the foundation uses the Si-Mock room for their meetings. As appreciation to Desert Hills Fire District they’re going to place a brick in the first responders are under the bridge. It will say Thank You to Desert Hills Fire District.

9. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 9:44 by Board Member Wilson, seconded by Board Member Beltran, all in favor.