



Desert Hills Fire District

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Desert Hills Fire District Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting November, 2024

1. Call to order

Board Member Roger called to order the Desert Hills Fire District Board meeting at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 20**, 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
Char Beltran
Jimmy Wilson
Rich Fountain

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 October 16, 2024: Board Member Schafer motioned to accept meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.

6. Swearing in of New Board Member and select Chairman: The 2024 primary election acknowledges that we have one new Board Member Dana VanLeuven and one renewed board member Tom Roger. Battalion Chief Stanec swears in Tom Roger and Dana VanLeuven. We would like to say Thank You to Board Member Jimmy Wilson for all the years with Desert Hills Fire District and we are sorry to see him go. Tom Roger was elected to remain as Chairman of the Board. Board Member Schafer motions for Tom Roger to remain as Chairman of the Board, seconded by Board Member Beltran.

7. Reports:

- a) **Auditors Reports:** Jennifer from HintonBurdick CPA will review the annual audit. She's start by going over the audit reports. The first report is the Auditors Report and she is happy to report that we have a clean and unmodified opinion again this year. The Internal Control Report shows no internal weakness or deficiencies. The State Legal Compliance Report we found the district is are in compliance with the state statue.

The Government Wide Financials, which include capital assets and debts, our total equity is \$1,940,182. Our net position increased by \$738,177 during the year. Capital Assets increased by \$149,135 during the year. Long term liabilities, the notes payable are at \$600,000, SBITA payable is \$83,152, compensated absences are \$110,753 and net pension is \$715,439.

The General Fund Balance Sheet trend, the last 5 years we have a good upward projectory. The total assets are just a bit over 2 million. The fund balance is just under 1.9 million. The total liabilities are \$189,000.

The cash balance has increased over 200% over the last 5 years. There are no cash restricted balances. Our revenue exceeded our expense, which is a positive trend. Revenue came in at just over 3.4 million and expenses just over 2.9 million, which ended with an increase in the fund balance of \$477,248 for fiscal year 2024.

The budget to actual, the total revenue increased approximately \$479,000 from prior year. The increase was in property tax, the FDAT, Grants were up and interest income. On the expense side, we had a decrease of \$332,000 from the prior year. Personnel cost were up, repairs and maintenance were up and grant related expenses were up. Wildland expenses decreased.

Jennifer wants to thank the Administrative Specialist Harrison and the Chiefs for all their help with the audit. She knows how much work it takes to get ready and keep everything pretty clean through out the year. Jennifer appreciates the time and effort put in.

b) Fire Administrative Report: Battalion Chief Stanec reports;

- Kick off for the Christmas season was last Monday. We started advertising for families to receive toys for toy drive. That will run tentatively through December 13th. The week of December 18-20 this room will be filled with toys. Administrative Specialist Harrison will coordinate the families coming in shopping for their kids. December 7th is our Pancake Breakfast and we will be having a toy drive. On December 14th we partnered with Bunker Bar again for a toy drive. Lacey and the group out there are amazing people. It's a fun day and Santa get flown in on a helicopter. We encourage everyone to come out and bring a toy to that family event. December 23rd, Santa Claus is scheduled to be on the engine out at Havasu Heights to give away toys to the kids in the community. December 24th Santa will be on an engine here and start at Crystal Beach and work himself through the Desert Hills area with toys. December 30th is our Christmas party/awards banquet at Hangar 24.
- The infrastructure upgrade. I've been working with Horizon Technologies; they have placed the order for all the equipment. Hopefully we will be up and running in a month or so.
- Back in December of 2023 we applied for Senate Bill 1720, which got put in the hands of DFFM, our Wildland folks. It was to provide Wildland apparatus to Fire Departments in the state. I applied for a Water Tender for \$385,000 last December. We were not initially awarded any funding. Then on Monday I got a call the State, they have \$300,000 they want to give us, because we were the next highest scoring applicant. We have a meeting this afternoon with the DFFM Grant committee on the parameters of the leftover money. Not sure if we can get a water tender because the price is now is up to \$485,000 this year. We will bring this back to the board after we have more information.

c) Fire Operation Report: Battalion Chief Bunn reports;

- Call Stats; we are at 726 calls for service, a difference of 82 calls from last month. Nothing significant to report.
- Training update; Captains Reeder and Sayre completed the Battalion Chiefs Academy. It was a four-week program put on by hosted by Avondale Fire They came back and reported phenomenal training. FF/Paramedic Holcombe and FF Terriquez completed a two-week pump academy hosted by Lake Havasu Fire. Both did extremely well per BC Macklem and we would like to extend our thanks to LHFD for hosting and including us in this training. FF/Paramedic Lawrence is gone this week to a wildland saw class in Golden Valley. Both BC Stanec and myself have been accepted to attend National Fire Academy this year. I got into two classes and BC Stanec got into one. We'll be gone at the same time in March, I will also be going the beginning of January, I'm taking a Special Operation Program Management and then Effective Fire Prevention Program and BC Stanec will be attending New Executive Chief Officer class.
- AFG Grant update, I have two pallets of new self-containing breathing apparatuses sitting in the back bay. I applied for an amendment to the grant for the remaining \$40,000. I am waiting for FEMA to approve the amendment. My plan is to have them in service the second week in December.
- ARPA Grant update: Both new command trucks have arrived. I submitted a bid for the out-fitting which is the lighting, graphics, radios. Waiting for that to be cleared by the county.
- WACEMS Grant: Every year Captain Reeder writes a grant through Western Area Council on EMS; he got awarded again this year. \$7,400 will pay for our Image Trend software (patient care reporting software). Thank you again Captain Reeder.

d) DHFD Auxiliary Report: BM Fountain reports; We served 400 Pancake breakfasts and 244 Spaghetti dinners. We did get a donation of \$5,000 from our neighbor in View Point. Relics and Rods donated \$1,000 for the toy drive.

New Business:

- a.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report.** Administrative Specialist Harrison states that the Grant Savings Account is \$213,619.68, Payroll Account \$34,293.74, Special Revenue Checking Account \$30,489.14, Special Revenue Savings Account \$543,267.77, Warrant Account \$1,090,464.49, Petty Cash \$100.00, with a total balance of \$1,912,234.82. Motioned by Board Member Schafer to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Board Member Wilson, all in favor.

8. Board Member Comments:

- a) New Business to be considered on future agendas: None
- b) Comments: Board Member Roger thanked the Rich Fountain and the auxiliary for the their contribution to the District.

- 9. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 9:34am by Board Member Beltran, seconded by Board Member Fountian, all in favor.