



Desert Hills Fire District

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Desert Hills Fire District Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting, April 16, 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, April 16, 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
Rich Fountain
Dana VanLeuven
Linda Hanks

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 March 19, 2025: Board Member Hanks, motioned to accept meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Board Member VanLeuven, all in favor.

6. Reports:

a) **Fire Administration Report:** Battalion Chief Stanec reports:

- Communications; we have DPS Rangers scheduled April 30th to fly us up to RAM Mountain to shut off equipment. We are really hoping we will be ready by April 30th, if not I'm sure the Rangers will work with us on a new date. The hold up right now is the FCC. The application has been submitted, we are waiting on engineering.
- Senate appropriation; the application period for the congressional district spending has opened, it closes April 25th. I have resubmitted our EMS project that was approved in the last fiscal year. We will also be applying for a water tender.
- Captains testing; we have a captain's vacancy; testing is scheduled April 23th. We have four (4) candidates that have applied. We have secured four (4) or five (5) outside evaluators. The candidates will be scored on interviews, leadership and conflict, a resolution scenario, and an incident command scenario.
- There is some State Funding available for mental health for firefighters. It a company called Vitanya, it's a lengthy metal health process. I have been working with Chief Pardi at Fort Mohave Fire Department, also working with Heal to Heros. They are the foundation that is approved through the state to be the outlet for this funding. It looks like the governor signed off on releasing additional funds for Mohave County to receive \$350,000.

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

- Call stats are at 234 calls for service which is 69 calls since last meeting. There was one fire of a Sprinter type van in Craggy Wash and one motor vehicle accident that ran into a building. Early this morning there was a residential assignment, electric fire smell in Crystal Beach. Thankfully for the quick action of Captain Erickson and crew, they located the electrical issue and shut down the power and kept the damage very minimal.
- Training update; after the Fire Ground Survival class, Captain Erickson, Captain Glomboski and myself took we decide we need to build some props of our own. Through the efforts of Fire Inspector Stancil, he worked with three (3) business, Merrill Homes, Premier Grage Doors and Builders First Supply who donated all the supplies we needed to build the props. Captain Erickson and crew have been working diligently to get them built. Harbor Freight made a large donation of tools.

Engineer Johnson and I will be taking the Instructor II class hosted by Mohave Valley FD in July. We did the Instructor I last summer. This will be the final certificate.

Engineers Lawrence and Barragan took the Leadership I academy hosted by Bullhead City FD.

I will be attending a "Save your own" class in Bullhead City FD next week. BC Stanec took this class last year. This is intended to prepare us for the unfortunate event that we have a tragedy happen to one of our own people and how to navigate that.

Captain Glomboski is going to Mohave Valley FD on May 25th to help the Fire Ground Survival instructor teach the class to them.

- We have received about 90% of the tools ordered with the Auxiliary donation.
- I spoke with the sales rep for the new engine. The build is still on time. The chassis is in Michigan.
- The two (2) staff trucks should be done by the end of the month.
- We are conducting annual hose testing in Lake Havasu City. About 75% of our hose is new so we don't expect very minimal failure.

c) **Auxiliary Report:** President Rich Fountain reports; we did the final breakfast and had more people than we anticipated. We had a very successful year. We had huge donations this year and we feel it was because people could walk and see the banner on the wall with the goals for the year on what the district needed. A \$20,000 cash donation was amazing.

Rich confirmed that the auxiliary will be able to donate the funds need for a Connex box, to be brought to the next board meeting for approval to expect the donation.

7. **New Business:**

- a.) Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report. Administrative Specialist Harrison states that the Grant Savings Account is \$25,894.99, Payroll Account \$12,778.04, Special Revenue Checking Account \$13,358.87, Special Revenue Savings Account \$333,273.93, Warrant Account \$1,813,293.42, Petty Cash \$100.00, with a total balance of \$2,198,699.25. 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: Chief Evaluations; BC Stanec hands out evaluation forms to all the board members for the fire chiefs evals. He explained last year they met in executive session to present each chief their evaluation. BM VanLeuven commented that our process is what he is use to going through. He had a recommendation for each chief to write a letter to the board on their accomplishments, all aspects of their job and improvements for the district.
- c.) Discussion and possible action re: Budget Workshop; Battalion Chief Stanec reports: Last board meetings budget workshop we talked about levy limit, wages, staffing levels, new engines, and a capital replacement plan. Administrative Specialist Harrison and I have worked diligently to come up with a plan for the budget that met the expectation of the Board. The budget presented is a comparison between this year's budget and our proposed budget this coming fiscal year. We have presented the budget with 8% increases in pay globally for the department with full staffing levels. This increase in wages makes us competitive with other departments in our area. We feel an 8% increase shows we care about our employees, the trend may not be a sustainable long term, but we feel it's doable for this next fiscal year. Admin Harrison adds that we kept the tax revenue at 3.5% and lowered the grant revenue and expense from \$2,000,000 to \$1,000,000, which is more realistic. We have not received our FDAT yet.

We received the workers comp quotes, which went up about \$6000. Securis' quote came in at \$98,371, with a \$59,023 capitalization that we can pay over six years. 7710's quote came in at \$91,559. The board agrees to stay with 7710.

BC Stanec explains the Capital Improvement Plan; this plan was created to save money and planning for large future expenses. We know that we have the Rosenbauer annual cost of \$103,000 thru FY31/32, along with the 2024 HME \$249,000 payment for this current year and next budget year. I did not fund anything for FY25/26 except for two (2) new or remodeled fire stations at \$50,000 a year. Next is \$10,000 reoccurring expense for turnouts. I did not put a water tender on the capital plan. Looking at the capital plan on the two (2) bottom lines you will see our annual capital cost, below that is what we are funding towards the capital improvement. The annual costs are reflected on the budget and expenditures and the funding on the budget as restricted reserves. If we start following this plan it will be saving for the future. We can keep building it up as needed. This plan allows us to see what we have set aside and what the funds are budgeted for.

BC Stanec states that at this time we're not asking for any action, it is for feedback or any changes to the proposed budget. Next month we will present the Proposed Budget that will get posted.

8. Board Member Comments:

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

9. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:50 by Board Member Schafer, seconded by Board Member Fountain, all in favor.