



NOTICE OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FOREST LAKES FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA FOR POSTING



The Board of the Forest Lakes Fire District will meet in regular session on January 21, 2025 at 10:00 am. Due to the threat of inclement weather, board members will participate via video conference using Microsoft Teams. Board members will receive a meeting invite via Outlook. Chief Rodriguez and Admin. Asst. Wanda Bennett will be at the Forest Lakes Fire District Office, 1508 North Merzville Rd., Forest Lakes, Arizona for members of the public who wish to attend in person. The meeting room will be available to the public via the south side Administration entrance at 9:30 am. The Board may vote to go into executive session on any agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice with the District's attorney on matters as set forth in the agenda item. The following topics and any variables thereto, will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items except those noted are set for possible action.

- 1 CALL TO ORDER. (Julie Swanson)
- 2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. (May be omitted due to virtual format).
- 3 ROLL CALL OF FIRE BOARD MEMBERS. (Dennis Massion, Israel Torres, Julie Swanson, Sue Conrad and Pete Batschelet)

Declaration of quorum.

Any members of the public.
- 4 CHAIR'S WELCOME AND ACTIVITY REPORT (Julie)
 - a) Today's board meeting is the second for the winter schedule, for which the meetings will be held at 10 am via TEAMS on the Thursday prior to the 3rd Saturday of the month. This schedule is in effect through April 2025, unless otherwise notified.
 - b) Brief Recap, STRAP Update, Session 3, which was held Thursday November 14th.
 - c) There will be no STRAP Update, Session 4. The last STRAP session is usually brief anyway, with Pete's review of the 5 Year Plan being the key element. With the 5 Year Plan from Session #3 nearly publication ready, any fine tuning can be handled by email. It can also be handled as a Finance Committee meeting.
 - d) A special meeting was held December 2nd to elect new table officers and committee chairs. Report to follow under new business.
- 5 CALL TO THE PUBLIC/AUDIENCE COMMENTS. Consideration and discussion of comments from the public prior to the board taking action. Note: Comments may be limited to 3 minutes. The Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on any item raised in the call to the public. However, individual Board members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct that staff review the matter or that the matter be placed on a future agenda. The Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law.
- 6 REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 19, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING.
- 7 REVIEW AND APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2024.(Pete)



8 BUSINESS.

- a) Motion and Possible Action re: Approve Annual Audit Based on Presentation of Audit Results by Andrew Went. (Julie)

Per Andrew Went, ATLAS CPAs:

ATLAS CPAs & Advisors performed the District's audit for the year ended June 30, 2024 and has issued a clean unmodified opinion. We did not have any findings or concerns on the District's audited financial statements for the current fiscal year.

- b) Status Update, Board Organization, As of December 2nd (Julie)

Table Officers

Board Chair	Julie Swanson
Board Clerk	Israel Torres
Board Treasurer	Pete Batschelet
Board Member	Dennis Massion
Board Member	Sue Conrad

Committee Chairs

STRAP Committee	Julie Swanson
Finance Committee	Pete Batschelet
Governmental Advocacy Committee	Israel Torres
Policies, Procedures and Bylaws Committee	Dennis Massion
Master Plan Committee	Sue Conrad

- c) Discussion re: Possible Presentation Regarding Homeowner's Insurance. (Israel)

Israel has drafted a letter to Ms. Barbara Richardson, Director, Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (DIFI), suitable for Chief Rodriguez to send to the Director of Insurance requesting a presentation, if approved by the board, regarding strategies that homeowners in our district can employ to work with their insurers in the prevention of property loss, particularly in light of the wildfire risks that impact our community. In the letter Israel suggests the following areas be addressed:

How homeowners in high-risk fire areas, like Forest Lakes, can work with insurers to implement risk-reduction measures and gain recognition for their efforts.

How DIFI can facilitate collaboration between insurers and fire districts to establish insurance products or discounts for policyholders who actively participate in risk mitigation programs.

Potential cost-saving strategies for homeowners that align with both wildfire prevention and insurance cost reductions.

Best practices for creating incentives that encourage policyholders to take preventive actions that help reduce wildfire risk.

- d) Status Update on Governmental Advocacy Committee. (Israel)
- e) Status Update on Finance Committee and STRAP (Pete)



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- f) Status Update re: Grant Activities. (Dave/John Nelson)
- g) Discussion re: AFDA Conference. Takeaways, comments. (Julie, Sue, Dave, Wanda)
- 9 FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT. (Chief Rodriguez)
- 10 CALL TO THE PUBLIC/AUDIENCE COMMENTS. Consideration and discussion of comments from the public after the board takes action. Note: Comments may be limited to 3 minutes. The Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on any item raised in the call to the public. However, individual Board members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct that staff review the matter or that the matter be placed on a future agenda. The Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law.
- 11 FIRE BOARD COMMENTS. Board members may identify issues they would like placed on a future agenda but may not propose action or express their opinions on such items.
[NOTE to those in attendance: The Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised or proposed for a future meeting due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law.]
- 12 ADJOURNMENT.