

AVRA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

15790 W Silverbell Road Marana, AZ 85653 Phone: 520-682-3255 Fax: 520-682-5458



MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

www.avfire.org

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Meeting Time: 4:30 PM

Location: 21021 E. Homestead Drive, Red Rock, AZ 85145

RECORDING ON

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Castaneda called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM

Board Members in AttendanceStaff in AttendanceOthers In AttendanceChairman CastanedaChief DelfsCaptain Gillmore, Union President

Vice-Chairman Armendarez, by phone Assistant Chief Klein Director Neilson Lorrie Palmquist

Director Goss

Absent/Excused

Clerk Bren

Counsel Wencker

4. **RECOGNITION OF PERSONNEL** None

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC None

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CURRENT EVENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Save the Date: AFDA Summer Conference, July 15-19, 2024

7. <u>REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</u> REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 19, 2024.

Director Goss motioned to adopt the *Minutes* from the regular Board meeting held March 19, 2024. Director Neilson seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.*

8. CHIEF'S REPORT

The Fire Chief may update the Board on items of interest relating to but not limited to the following: Response times, vehicles, facilities, labor relations, personnel, finance, grants, communications and/or training. Alternatively, the Fire Chief may provide written comments in the Board Member's packets or by email. The Board Members may ask clarifying questions and they may direct the Chief to place items on future agendas for further discussion or action.



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The Chief highlighted the following items from his report:

The District has successfully applied for and already received the State allowed ambulance transport rate increase of 1.7%.

We received a congratulatory letter along with a strong credit rating from Standard & Poor.

The bond sale did go through successfully.

We will be receiving \$1,200,000 in bond funds which we are planning to utilize for the purchase of a Type 1 Engine, a Type 6 Engine, as well as an ambulance. Our Fleet Manager is beginning to price the new engines.

We have already deployed to 2 wildland incidents this Spring, and just received the call for another incident this afternoon.

Per the Counties, there will be a burn ban implemented May 1 through September 30.

9. <u>REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</u> TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2024 FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN AND CLERK TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATE OF REVIEW.

Director Goss motioned to approve the March 2024 financial reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the *Certificate of Review*. Director Neilson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.

10. <u>REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</u> TO CONSIDER THE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION PLAN

Chief Delfs provided written documentation for the Board members to review and discuss. He commented that the District has recently suffered from retaining personnel. This plan makes some bold adjustments to our current payscale in order to get the District in a position to compensate employees commensurate with other districts in Southern Arizona. We are also recommending this same payscale for Three Points Fire District. This plan reflects a 2.5% adjustment for all Chiefs, and approximately a 20% adjustment for the suppression staff as of July 1, 2024. The budget plan will reflect an annual 2.5% increase thereafter. We have run the numbers within the 5-year budget shell, and the new payscale fits safely within desired parameters for the bottom line. Brief discussion ensued. Chairman Castaneda called for a roll call vote:

Chairman Castaneda: Aye Vice-Chairman Armendarez: Aye Director Goss: Aye Director Neilson: Aye

Director Bren: Absent/excused

Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.

Captain Gillmore addressed the Board to express thanks on behalf of the suppression personnel, commenting that this is a monumental day for Avra Valley Fire and our employees

12. REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Board members had nothing to report. Captain Gillmore expressed thanks to the Board for their immense support of the firefighters.

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13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Adopt Proposed FY25 budget May 23:

June 25: Public Hearing and Adopt Final FY25 Budget

14. DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Date of the next meeting will be May 23, 2024

15. ADJOURNMENT

Director Goss motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Neilson seconded. Motion carried unanimously, 4:0. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM. RECORDING OFF

Luís Castaneda	5-23-24
SIGNED	DATE

BOARD MEMBERS

LUIS CASTANEDA, JR. THOMAS ARMENDAREZ CODY BREN ERIC NEILSON MICHELLE STARK-GOSS In accordance with the Federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, Avra Valley Fire District is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD).