

Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, December 14, 2009
6 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Ron Izzo, Mickey Parker, Vicki Rutter, Doug Ruppel; also present: Chief DeWolf, Kathy Goodwin, Kevin Venos, Angel Perez, Aaron Harper, Annette Kelley, Kyle Lange, John Bodey, Keith Hooper, Pete Daniels and Jerry Bianchi.

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of November 16, 2009, by Rutter, seconded by Ruppel. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report –

As of November 30, 2009, we had a net loss of \$125,769.78 for five months (July – Nov.); we've not drawn on the line of credit; we've received in December for November taxes a total of \$141,766.33 and \$17,586.50 for FDAT from Santa Cruz County. From Pima County we've received \$44,316.83, which included FDAT. All accounts were reconciled and all accounts were reviewed and adjusted, I didn't get the schedules done due to illness.

Correspondence – Ruppel – We are in receipt of a letter from Pete Daniels, one of our Volunteers, addressing an issue that is not even before the board and more importantly should have been addressed to the Chief rather than the Board. I would suggest it go into the file and if and when it goes before the Board, we'll address the comments then.

Ruppel - Question for the Chief – where do we stand on the Babacomari Ranch letter?

DeWolf – I'll address it in the Chief's Report.

Chairman Izzo – let's move to Item 1 of Discussion and Possible Action: Electric Power Connection at the Elgin Site – Chief could you give a report on getting power to the Elgin Site through SSVEC?

Chief - We've applied for our permit; they do have a moratorium on new hookups; we walked the property with the engineer last week. So, we're moving forward with our plan, mapping land to accommodate the water tank/pump station, driveway and a facility to hold 4 vehicles, an office and a restroom.

Izzo – Our letter to the Babacomari's Attorney says that the process has been delayed due to SSVEC. We need to correct that.

Ruppel – I'd like one more paragraph that addresses the issue of re-opening negotiations on returning the land to the Babacomari.

Chief– After the first of the year I'll talk with our attorney, let her view the letter and get her response.

Ruppel – I would suggest you send this with a caveat that we're reviewing our legal options with our attorney – referencing re-opening the deed.

Chairman Izzo – Lets move to EmpireGlobal and Mr. Keith Hooper. Mr. Hooper please state your name and residence.

Keith Hooper, a resident of Sonoita and Chairman of EmpowerGlobal. Mr. Hooper addressed

the board on the subject of locating a pilot project for sourcing green energy here in Sonoita he would like the board to grant...

Ruppel – Do we have a time limit on this presentation?

Izzo – We need to know what this has to do with the Fire District – in other words why are you here?

Hooper – I need an assignment from someone that allows me to deliver power to your selected place. (Hooper was referencing the earlier discussion on the Elgin site.) I have a bank that will finance it, I have a bank that will outright buy it for you, I must need a place to put one. It is totally green, I need an assignment.

Izzo – we're not looking to buy power are we?

Ruppel – My concern is this – I'm not seeing an issue here. I have to assume that we don't need this product at this time. Thanks for your time this evening.

Chief Report –

- We participated in the Sonoita By Starlight event; we had 80 people visit the station.
- We held our 1st Annual December Breakfast, the Chief & Crew Breakfast; we had 86 people and made \$400 after expenses.
- DeWolf handed out copies of the new 5-year Budget projection with new 8% tax figures. DeWolf lead the discussion on the ramifications of this new law and how it would affect our budget and the direction of the District.
- SAFER Grant #3 – Chief DeWolf advised the Board that we would be submitting a proposal for the 2009 SAFER Grant for Funding for Firefighters.
- Runs – 17 calls, 15 day, 2 night calls, no helicopter or Pima County transports this month. It was a really slow month.

Izzo – Do we have an agreement for Santa Cruz County? (referencing a CON)

Chief – we have opened discussions with Chief Keeley on taking over the CON, he wants us to take the Patagonia transports as well. His goal is to have his ambulances out of the area by April of this year.

Izzo – Presentation for the Board on this issue by the next meeting?

Chief – Yes. This was followed by a lively discussion of the merits of taking or not taking the CON for Santa Cruz County.

Chief - January 23 – you'll be getting an invitation in the mail to our Annual Department Appreciation Evening. The event will be posted.

Audience Comments – Pete Daniels, Elgin, Arizona. In deference to Mr. Ruppel's comments, I have discussed this with the Chief. I'm currently in a little bit of confusion over how much this Board has delegated to the Chief. Under statute the Board is still responsible for approving any contracts or agreements that Fire District makes with other entities. The Chief brought this up at a general meeting a couple weeks ago. He was not sure what the timeline was, but it has ramifications that I thought the board should be aware of. If we enter into an agreement with Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department I would assume that it would at least require an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) that this Board should be aware of. I won't restate the points of my letter, you all can read them, but it's got some potential consequences for the Fire District and just wanted to bring that to the Board's attention. So, if you have delegated that responsibility to the Chief, that's your decision. If it does come up on the agenda, I will put my name on the list at that time.

Izzo – Chief, is that an item that needs to be on the agenda. **DeWolf** – No.

Board Comments – none

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Ruppel, seconded by Rutter, Motion carried.