

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, August 17, 2009
6 p.m.**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Izzo, Parker, Rutter, Ruppel; Tomlinson arrived 20 minutes late; also present were: DeWolf, Goodwin, Venos, and Bianchi.

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2009 by Rutter, seconded by Ruppel. Motion Carried.

Chief's Report –

1. **Run Report** - DeWolf gave the board the statistical report for July 2009. This was followed by a long discussion on the verbiage used in describing the calls when presenting the information to the Board or the public.
2. **CON** – Our attorneys have until September 4, 2009, to send their findings to the Judge. The Judge did make a statement that no one else could contest the CON or object to it – it is closed. DHS did testify that we were fit to hold the CON.
3. **We** are working with Cochise County Fire Chief's Association and Congresswoman Gifford's Office on Section 1011 under Medicare 2003 which allows for billing undocumented aliens for ambulance transport – want to allow for first responders as well – they must be in custody.
4. **Posters** – We've created two new posters to be placed around the community: a fundraising calendar showing the dates of all our fundraising events and a community calendar showing the dates of special events which will happen over the course of the year in the Sonoita-Canelo-Elgin area.
5. **Strategic Plan/Draft 5 year Budget** – DeWolf presented the board with a copy of our Strategic Plan and a copy of a draft budget based on the new tax law (maximum allowable increase of 8%) that will be used to support the Strategic Plan. DeWolf spent a few moments describing a few of the items listed on the Strategic Plan. DeWolf stated he was conservative on this, and on the ambulance income as well – it is based solely on BLS (Basic Life Support) Transports. DeWolf went over the budget, explaining the new tax law and its affect on our future budgets, using the draft budget and our strategic plan to illustrate the discussion.
 - Ruppel asked that we put a dollar amount into the Strategic Plan.**DeWolf** – this is just something to get you thinking; I need to know from you folks – where do you want to go and how do you want to get there?
 - Rutter – The estimates for the payroll taxes should go up, and not remain stagnant.
 - Parker – Would like to tie Capital Outlay to lowering the ISO.
 - Tomlinson – Would like to see a prioritized list of the capital outlay items.

- Izzo – Statistically, no fire bond has ever been disapproved; it gets a lot of people involved and energized, and I question our ability to reserve sufficient funds to cover some of these purchases over a short term, whereas a bond gives us the opportunity for the community to get involved. I am a little concerned on the 24/7, I rely on your opinion as to when we're going to do that. I'm a firm supporter, as you all know, of getting ambulance service as soon as we can. We need to continue on the path that were going to get ambulance service that's satisfactory, at least to this board.
- Parker – Need estimates on Capital Outlay as they relate directly to lowering ISO Ratings, then we have an excellent chance on a PR Campaign of selling a bond proposal.

Treasurer's Report –

Rutter presented the Financials to the Board and asked for questions. Parker asked about the vehicle maintenance expenses. This was explained by DeWolf as unplanned expenses for major repairs to three vehicles. Parker asked for an annualized column to be added to the next report.

Rutter advised that we did receive a little tax revenue from Santa Cruz and Pima Counties, and that we would not receive very much from now on until November. We also moved money from the National Bank Savings account to the Wells Fargo Savings account.

Parker – if we don't use the money from the SAFER Recruitment & Retention Grant, do we return it?

DeWolf – We will use it.

Correspondence –

Ruppel – The CON Hearing was held August 6, 2009, and I would like to commend the Chief on his testimony, it was more than adequate to the task.

Audience comments – none

Board comments – none

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Ruppel, seconded by Tomlinson, motion carried.