

**Minutes to the Regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District  
17 October 2011  
6 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call** – Members present – Izzo, Ruppel, Pfitzenmaier & Bianchi. Absent, Tomlinson.

**Approval of Minutes....**

19 Sept 2011 – Motion to approve minutes by Ruppel, seconded by Pfitzenmaier, motion carried.

**New Business –**

**Chief's Report** – Chief DeWolf reviewed the following with the Board; fundraising calendar, Out & About (updating the Board on the amount public contact he and the Crews have made over the past month), Website visits, Run Report and notification to the Board that Chief will be attending the VCOS Conference in Florida in November. The Chief's Admin read several thank you cards the District had received from local residents. Volunteer update – Over the past 45 days we've put in a lot of effort into recruiting volunteers, especially dispatchers. From all of this effort we have come up with zero, not one interest at all. This was followed by an update on the septic system status by BC Venos.

After we emailed the Balance Sheet & Financials, we did receive a notice of income from Pima County so there are a few changes. Chief DeWolf then presented the corrected Balance Sheet and Financial Statement to the Board using the new format.

**Izzo** – Chief, I really like this format, I want to complement you, it's really helpful to me to look at, see where we are, I like that. It's very good.

**Bianchi** – I think it's a whole lot easier, more useful than the old one was. The only suggestion I would have is on the year to date column. It's really not a year to date budget, it's the annual budget.

**DeWolf** – we will change that. We're continuing to move along with the fuels treatment program. We did complete the barrier around the Starr View Estates this weekend. We had a crew of 12 Saturday, and a crew of 9 Sunday. We were the first Fire Department in Southern Arizona to work on federal land.

**Treasurer's Comments** – Chief, with this new format you've gone through and identified areas, there's not a lot I can comment on above and beyond what you've already commented on.

**Correspondence or other items of importance** – Pfitzenmaier – Last month I said I was going to solicit the participation of a community member as a member of the audit committee. I contacted that person and they got back to me this morning so I do not have a separate line item on the agenda for this. Question I guess on procedure – I'd like to make a motion, second, then have a discussion and I would like a consensus of the Board.

**Izzo** – We can't vote on it, we can – under information – you can make a report –

**Ruppel** – I think any formal action by the Board would have to wait for next month.

**Izzo** – Do we need to vote on this?

**Bianchi** – Yes, the committee policy says that the Board has to approve members.

**Pfitzenmaier** – I have contacted Terri Plimpton. She is willing to participate on our committee. She's not a professional accountant, but she has run her own business and worked for others, she has spent a good deal of time managing money. In my experience here on the Board Terri has been most forthcoming with constructive criticism. I think she would be a good pick.

**Bianchi** – During the budget cycle she was the only person who went to Tucson to find out how the District budgets are set – the maximum amounts allowed. I think to have someone from the community on the committee is an important thing. It would help - I think she's involved in the Tea Party and it would be some positive influence getting out into the community. I do believe she would be a good candidate.

**Izzo** – This will be an item on next month's agenda.

**Pfitzenmaier** – Is anyone on the Board opposed to this and want to share that with me now? (no response)

**Old Business –**

**Policy Change** – Bianchi – This has been carried forward from the past two meetings; last month we discussed it and this month I'll make a motion that we delete that section from the policy manual.

**Ruppel** – I think we discussed this fairly thoroughly last month, but I think it's important to note that not only our attorney but the only member of our Board with legal experience and background have advised us not to remove this. It strikes me as a solution in search of a problem.

**Izzo** – I think for the record that we'll have to have a second – sorry I missed that. You made the motion Jerry?

**Pfitzenmaier** – I'll second it.

**Izzo** – Call for the question – Aye = Pfitzenmaier, Bianchi & Izzo. Nay= Ruppel. Motion carried.

Chief – I presume, now we have those two little changes, you'll reissue a couple of pages?

**DeWolf** – Actually I emailed you the day after our last Board meeting with the one we did last month and never heard back from you.

**Izzo** – Oh, okay.

**DeWolf** – So, are you getting them?

**Izzo** – ....or not reading them or something... something along that line.

DeWolf – I will email them to you for your approval and then forward them to the rest of the Board.

If you don't mind I'll give you an update on the HR Policies, there are over 82 revisions. Part of the issues are due to changes in state laws – such as the changes in gun laws or the new marijuana laws. It is a long process to make sure these are legal – something they are going to defend.

**Chief's Review** – you have to call to go into executive session. Motion to go into executive session by Ruppel –seconded by Pfitzenmaier. Motion carried. The Board went into executive session at 7:17 pm or 1917 hours. The general session was resumed at 1940 hours.

**Audience Comments** – None.

**Board Member Comments** – None.

**Adjournment** – Motion by Ruppel, seconded by Bianchi, motion carried.

