

**Minutes to the Regular Meeting of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District Board
August 18, 2008**

Called to order – 6:00 pm
Pledge of Allegiance

Members present – Rutter, Daniels, Izzo, Ruppel will be arriving late. Others present included – Chief DeWolf, Katie Goodwin, Kevin Venos, Kyle Lange, Matt Parilli, Tom Pescod, Gene Earl, Jerry Bianchi and Ian Tomlinson.

Approval of Minutes –

Regular meeting of July 21, 2008 – motion to approve by Daniels, seconded by Rutter, motion carried.

Minutes to special meeting of June 30, 2008 – motion to approve with minor changes (correct date and grammatical errors fixed) by Daniels, seconded by Rutter, motion carried.

Scheduled Public Appearances – none

Unscheduled Public Appearances –

Gene Earl – I am running for the Board of County Supervisor's office for District 3; I wanted to introduce myself, I heard about you and I'm glad we have you in the district. I'm here tonight to stand behind you, I'm here to support emergency care and would not like to see it go away.

Tom Pescod, Yucca Ash Farm Road – Wanted to know if we'd set an election date for the petition to dissolve the district.

Daniels – Yes, we have. It will be November 4, 2008, coordinated in both Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

Reports and Correspondence –

Chief's Report – the following items were discussed by Chief DeWolf

Run Report

MCI Trailer news – articles appeared in both the UMC Trauma Newsletter and the AFDA News
Certificate of Safety – We received a Certificate of Safety from SCF of Arizona for 12 months without injury at the station.

Became a program director for National Registry for our 1st Responder and EMT Refresher Class
Have 3 applications in for the Captain position.

We painted the outside of the building.

Next two weeks our training will cover landing zones with AirEvac and Lifeline Ambulances.

EMT-B Refresher training will be here in October.

First Responder Class will start on September 2nd.

Nine personnel will become IV Certified on September 16th

ASRS and PSPRS are now in effect as of August 1st.

DPS & SCCSO would like to put in a substation here, they'll bring in a T-1 line which will bring our Rip-n-Run quicker.

October 25/26 we'll hold a rummage sale here at the station.

October 18th we'll have a breakfast and an open house at the station.

Firewise Clinic - scheduled for Sept 20, speakers will be present to present information to the public.

Newsletter is due at the end of the month.

We've installed a new fire information board at the front of the station.

We are on track with a Recruitment and Retention Program for Volunteers.

Izzo – What does the substation involve?

Chief – we have mapped the proposed office area, needs for a desk, chair, filing cabinet, breathalyzer

Equipment, etc; we're looking into costs and rents.

Daniels – Moving into a contract with someone outside the Fire District is something that the board needs to take a look at.

Rutter – how so?

Daniels – it's the board's responsibility to contract for anything for the Fire District.

Ruppel – would this be a way to deal with some of the problems we've had with dispatch?

Chief – yes, it would.

Daniels – I'm not saying I'm against the idea, it's something the board should review, need to put together a plan to review at the next meeting or whenever it is available.

Izzo – I think, I support it, if they're bringing people into the building; we need to have some sort of formal agreement.

Ruppel – is bringing people into the building who would be inebriated - is this something that really goes along with our mission.

Rutter – we need to check our liability insurance on this too.

Chairman's Report – Izzo – I have no Chairman's report tonight, but I will make a statement. Up to tonight, I have not participated in the board (voting, motioning, debating), but at this time, I will now take an active roll in voting, debating and making motions.

Treasurer's Report – Rutter - None available.

Correspondence – Daniels –

Update on Lawsuit – no action/movement

Update on elections – List of candidates for the Election of the next Board of Directors of the Fire District are – Doug Ruppel, Vicki Rutter, Ron Izzo, Mickey Parker, Doug Snow, Matt Parilli, Karla Cafarelli, Carl Hammel and Ian Tomlinson.

Email from Ms Rutter about FDIC coverage for all of the District's money.

Discussion and Possible Action Calendar –

Severance Pay following dissolution – Rutter – In the event that the dissolution of the Fire District is successful, it's important that we provide for the employees now, so that they don't start looking for work elsewhere, they're very qualified, so I would like to make a motion for option #4, 2 months pay for all employees; this package would terminate on December 1, 2008.

Daniels – would that be appropriate for a resolution?

Izzo – Chief isn't here.

Rutter – he has a contract.

Izzo – 6 months salary and 6 months health insurance.

Motion by Rutter, seconded by Ruppel, motion carried.

Motion to have the Fire District Attorney and/or Human Resources Consultant attend the next available board meeting.

Seconded by Daniels

Rutter – I felt we were heading down the wrong path and felt we should have them present.

Daniels - I will contact them and arrange for them – one or both – to be here, if approved by the board.

Rutter – we have such a large investment, I feel we should have them there to explain their format.

Izzo – all in favor – Motion carried unanimously.

Fundraising Policy Suggestions – Daniels – Mr. Barnhill feels strongly that the board should address the fundraising policy of the district. He stated – If the board doesn't take a leadership role, we may not have a lot of willing volunteers to continue fundraising in the future.

Izzo – Doug, is this related to that meeting you had with the Ladies.

Ruppel – There is obviously, going to be a lot more scrutiny of the District for fundraising; we need to provide some structure for fundraising policies. To the extent that we raise funds, we can use that money to offset the tax levy.

Chief – I'd give this to Ms. Tranchina to vet.

Ruppel – I'll volunteer to meet with the fundraisers and the Chief – to get something in writing before the next meeting.

Daniels – One of the things that Mr. Barnhill suggests, that the Board have a stronger presence at the fundraising events.

Audience Comments –

Tom Pescod – Who do I see to get a copy of the expenditures for the last 90 days beginning May 1st to July 31st?

Daniels – come by the office Monday through Friday; that would be the treasurer's report; actually, when would that be ready.

Rutter – Well, our fiscal year begins July 1st, so you're not going to have something that runs those three months together.

Pescod – April, May & June

Izzo – It would be a financial report, it's by category, not a general ledger entry.

Pescod – So, stop by the office?

Izzo – it's in the office.

Matt Parilli – Milky Way – under the discussion about severance, I would strongly caution the board not to be premature and obligate the Fire District to what are some fairly significant amounts of money for severance packages without giving incumbent employees the opportunity to roll to a new organization if the Fire District ceases to exist. There's going to be a follow up organization, whether it is a resurrection of SEESI or a brand new organization, because there will be fire protection in this town.

Ruppel – two things, initially, the idea that SEESI would be resurrected is simply not a possibility. Number two; I don't think that the idea that we would consider this resolution to provide severance packages to our staff should in any way communicate to our opposition any belief that we're going to fail in our efforts. One of the things we're hearing, quite clearly, from our staff is that they have no interest in being involved in anything other than the Fire District. In the unlikely event that we fail, we want them to be treated fairly.

Parilli – I did not say that you were going to fail or likely to fail, all I said was, if you prematurely obligate to large severance packages, then it is a large waste of money and I would hope that for all I heard of the professional level of the staff that they would certainly be willing to roll to a new organization and continue to serve the community. If they're not willing to do that they there's a lot of smoke blowing going on.

Daniels – Mr. Parilli, you apparently didn't listen to the motion; this would terminate December 1st of this year, we're not obligating anything if we win the election, so there's no obligation to worry about. After the election, there would be 5 days to canvas the vote, then the County Board of Supervisors would put that on their agenda, vote on it and then the effective date is 5 days after that point.

Ruppel – Your objection is duly noted, but this board has just taken that action. The Resolution stands on its own.

Izzo – Right now we want to keep our employees, I want them to stay now.

Rutter – We're just trying to take care of our employees.

Board Comments – none

Motion to adjourn - by Daniels, seconded by Ruppel, motion carried.