

Minutes to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
At the fire station
6 p.m.
Monday
18 October 2010

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Board members present – The full board was present. Also present were Chief DeWolf, BC Venos, Katie Goodwin, Bob Barnhill, Jerry Bianchi and Larry Pfitzenmaier.

Approval of the minutes – Motion to table the approval of the minutes to the next meeting by Rutter, seconded by Ruppel; motion carried.

Chief's Report – Chief DeWolf presented a plaque to Mickey Parker as a thanks for his years of service to SEFD, then went on to inform the board and members of the public on the following topics:

- Graduation held for the Fire Fighter's Class,
- Thank you plaque presented to the Busy Bees
- MOA – Memorandum of Agreement with USBP Sonoita Station for ride-a-long program
- Election candidates
- September Run Report
- 2010-2011 SAFER Grant Denied
- 2010-2011 Grants awarded
 - Fuels Treatment Grant
 - In-Vehicle Computer Grant
 - RFA Wildland Grant
 - Governor's Grant

Treasurer's Report – (copies of the Financials and Balance Sheet presented to board and public) Notice that the ambulance income is the biggest income on this [report], more than taxes or any other source of income. We're getting down to the wire, so far we've not had to draw on the line of credit.

Correspondence –No correspondence.

Action Items –

Rutter- These items were placed on the agenda in March of 2009. They are part of the Board Policies that were never finalized.

The Organizational Chart. Motion to adopt the organizational chart as presented. [Chart had been presented to the Board at the last meeting; also shown on overhead screen for audience] Motion seconded by Ruppel, motion carried.

Rutter – There is another loose end in policies, the Succession Chart. Motion to adopt by Rutter. Chief, Can you tell us about Laura.

DeWolf – Laura has been with the department for 22 years, from EMT/Firefighter to second paid position from SEESI through SEFD. She does all the EMS ordering, QA for base hospital,

helicopter and medical calls, and does the ambulance billing with AeroMed Claims. She is now a registered nurse and works full-time with AirEvac.

Parker – there's no conflict of interest? I'm concerned with a situation like Whetstone.

DeWolf – No, no conflict of interest.

Parker – Nothing against Laura, I'm just concerned about the liability of the Fire District.

Rutter – I move that we adopt the succession plan.

Tomlinson – Seconded.

Motion carried.

Board Member Disclosure –

DeWolf – Basically it's something we need to adopt, so if any board member has a conflict with anything we're discussing, they need to make it known up front. This came into play a lot when Doug worked for the Babacomari Ranch and he had to excuse himself from those discussions.

Ruppel – Ian, can you elaborate on when we should use this?

Tomlinson – This should be annually, and every board member should sign it and list any conflict that they have. There should be something at the end of it that says board members have an ongoing duty to disclose any potential conflict that comes up during the course of the year between the date of signing and the date of renewal. It's also incumbent on the board member that if they do have a conflict, they have to disclose that orally, at the meeting as well, and then the board decides to recues them from the conversation or allow them to participate. Motion should be to put it on the agenda to revise the policies and to potentially adopt Exhibit C – Board Member Disclosure Statement. I move that we have our attorney review the disclosure statement.

Ruppel – Seconded.

Motion carried.

Audience Comments -

Gary Soliere – Sonoita resident – Joseph, are they also snakes and centipedes? [referencing the call-out data.]

DeWolf – Yes

Soliere – Inmates; I hope they aren't hardened criminals. Son is a fireman, Katie has his picture on her wall... [a calendar, Mr. October.]

Tomlinson – the inmates are minor, low-level offenders.

Ruppel – the inmates police themselves, they don't put up with any guff among themselves.

Larry Pfitzenmaier – Sonoita resident – Is there any language that is associated with the disapproval of the grant; with the thinking behind the disapproval?

DeWolf – Yes. The grant was denied due to not showing sufficient financial need. When you go into grants, they look into not only forward [plans], but what's behind you. What the comment to us on rewriting and re-surfing the grant is that when you take your levy rate, your tax rate and lower it, and ask the federal government for a couple hundred thousand, you're not standing up and taking part of the financial responsibility. DeWolf went on to describe to the Board, the grant process by which SAFER grants are reviewed.

Bianchi – Sonoita resident. What's the impact of the \$101,000 grant loss on the budget? When will we start to see it reflected on the budget?

DeWolf – The \$101,000 will have to stay there, that's a voted in budget and cannot be changed. That's why, throughout the budget process, the money is described as a pass-through.

Bianchi – What's the impact of not getting the grant?

DeWolf – It means we will not be doing our hiring in December, which means we need to find a way to keep volunteers.

Bianchi – Okay, the overview; at the last meeting we talked about the changes t the overview. I'd like to obtain a copy of the changes, if that's possible?

DeWolf – you'd have to come to the front office and fill out a records request form.

Board member comments –

Rutter – Back in July, the Chief was nominated for a National Award. He was nominated by two board members, the crew and the office staff. He finished in the top 7 nationally. This is a huge award, and I wanted to make sure the Board knew that and the audience knew that. Quite an honor – to be in the top 7 nationally.

Ruppel – I think that the others that he was chosen alongside were people from much larger, more complex departments. So the fact that he was recognized in that company shows great appreciation for him.

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