

Minutes to the regular meeting of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District Board of Directors
Monday, 20 December 2010
At the Station
6 pm

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Present – Izzo, Bianchi & Pfitzenmaier; absent – Tomlinson & Ruppel. Also present were, Vicki Rutter, Cory Motzkin, Kathe Prentice, Terian Murphy & Lloyd O’Dell, Gary Soliere, BC Venos, K. Goodwin and Chief DeWolf.

Approval of Minutes –

15 Nov 2010 – Motion by Bianchi, seconded by Izzo, motion carried.

3 Dec 2010 – motion by Bianchi, seconded by Pfitzenmaier, motion carried.

Fire Chief’s Report – Chief DeWolf addressed the Board on the following topics:

- Jan. & Feb. Board meeting date changed due to the holidays; Jan 24, 2011 & Feb. 28, 2011.
- We have 6 new Wildland Firefighters.
- We have 2 new Structure Firefighters – Ruppel & Davis.
- Posted a Volunteer Recruitment flyer around town at 21 Businesses, one new applicant.
- Our Nov. Breakfast was successful, we made \$371 after expenses.
- Appreciation Evening is scheduled for January 29, 2011. Would like Board Members to attend.
- Feb. 7, 2011, the District will host day of training; Open Meeting Law in the morning and Public Records Law in the afternoon. A lunch will be provided for \$10. Chief DeWolf asked Board Members to attend.
- Training – there are two conferences coming up in Laughlin, Arizona Ambulance Association and Arizona Fire District Association.
- November Run Report.
- **Auction** – Where are you at as Board Members? Chief DeWolf lead a discussion on the merits of continuing our SEFD Auction ; discussing the pros and cons of our past experiences, both as SEESI and the District, Rotary’s proposed involvement, how SEFD handled its last auction.

Izzo – They couldn’t make a decision as it wasn’t on the agenda as an action item if that’s what you’re looking for?

DeWolf – No, actually I’m not. I’m looking to get some guidance from you. Is it something we want to challenge on or not?

Izzo – I’m against us doing the auction.

Bianchi – Well, if we could get \$48,000 I’d be for it, but that’s a big question mark.

Pfitzenmaier – I’m wanting to sort out in all of our minds regarding the pros and cons of the community perception. And there are pros and cons on both sides. I think that’s the swinger for me. It’s not board participation, if we decide to do this and it’s customary for the Board to participate, I’ll participate. That’s not a factor. Are we willing to own the front page and the letters to the editor if we do this?

DeWolf – Are you ready to own the front page if you don’t do it?

Pfitzenmaier – Same question. I can't answer that tonight, I want to give that a little thought. I think the rest of the board should too.

DeWolf – As I said, I just wanted to get your feedback and see where you are at as a Board.

- **Plumbing** – As some of you noticed on the way in, we have a plumbing problem. Our leach field is pretty much gone. To do the engineering for a leach field we're looking at \$2,200; for a perc test, about \$1800 and to install the new leach field about \$15,000 - \$20,000. This is not a budgeted item; we do not have the money to support this. We have had the tank pumped; we'll have to get it pumped every 3-4 months for \$300.

Pfitzenmaier – Here's why we have the auction. Obviously it's a non-budgeted item, you cannot pull money out of the air unless you have a fundraiser. I'm working on my speech here...

DeWolf – You've got a good one going there. Yes, it's something we're going to have to look at; in the next 60-90 days we'll be in the heart of planning our budget for the next fiscal year. We'll have to figure out a way to pull in the money to do this.

Bianchi – Are these numbers just a guesstimate or have you received estimates?

DeWolf – We have not received any written quotes yet, but we've talked to three different entities. These are pretty solid prices. Again, you don't want to start the engineering then pull a permit if we don't have the 20,000 to spend on it. The three organizations are right on there.

Pfitzenmaier – Are they local?

DeWolf – Two local and one out.

Bianchi – Are we sure it will perc?

DeWolf – No, we're not sure.

Pfitzenmaier – 20 years.

Treasurer's Report - Bianchi – I am very disappointed to tell you we don't have a treasurer's report tonight. We recently upgraded the QuickBooks to a later version and it kind of messed up the whole system. The laptop we do the treasurer's report from got wiped out, so the whole thing had to be redone. I have it down to where we're off just a small amount; there's a formula in there that's off somewhere. I will have that finished this week and I will email that to the Board Members once we get the bugs out of it. We didn't get a lot of money in November from the county, but they caught us up somewhat in December, so we're okay cash-wise.

Correspondence - Chief DeWolf for Ruppel - The disclosure is in with our Attorney still, she'll get us an answer for the January meeting. The other item Ron has.

Action Item –

Izzo – Acceptance of Election results for Pima County – Mr. Izzo read the information on the canvassed results for Pima County.

Bianchi – Motion to accept canvassed results.

Pfitzenmaier – Seconded.

Izzo – Motion carried.

Audience Comments –

Vicki Rutter – I would like to remind the Board that a Fee Schedule for residents outside the district boundary still needs to be approved by the Board. If we respond to a call outside the district boundary, the party should be billed for our services at established rates. This is referenced in the Board Policies and has been on the Board's "to do" list since October 2008 and has been put off several times. It's not fair for the taxpayers who fund the fire district to pay for services received by residents outside the district boundary. At some point, the District residents will find out they are paying for services the non-residents are receiving and the Board will have to admit there isn't a Fee Schedule in place to bill for those services.

Bianchi – You're not referring to the ambulance going outside of our district.

Rutter – Other services; wildland fire, structure fire. If you're outside the District and we responded, you should be billed for that.

Pfitzenmaier – Is there a former fee schedule that is in place now?

Rutter – There might be a draft.

DeWolf – The Board has a draft.

Rutter – It was in the Board policy. It was part of the policy structure that we worked on back in 2008.

Pfitzenmaier – Was it contentious, Vicki? Why wasn't it approved? What happened?

Rutter – The Board never acted on it. They put it off 'till the next meeting.

DeWolf – The Board just chose never to act on it, all the Board members weren't there, so they'd put it off.

Izzo – Do we get many of these calls?

DeWolf – It varies, just like all our calls. DeWolf gave a brief explanation of mutual aid vs. fee for service as required by state statutes, and who would do the billing for said services.

Pfitzenmaier – How mature was the discussion on this before it got stuck? Was there general consensus that numbers that were suggested were valid?

DeWolf – There was no board involvement at all.

Izzo – Is there a way or mechanism that people could subscribe if they so choose?

DeWolf – In the state of Arizona there is, but in order to subscribe, we have to have a rate system in place for that.

Pfitzenmaier – Chief, you make a proposal to the board regarding this and the Board dropped it. Have you make a recommendation to the Board for adoption?

DeWolf – Yes, they had all my figures.

Pfitzenmaier – Could you do that again? I haven't heard it. It's an open issue. It's a new board. Run it past us one more time.

DeWolf – Sure, You'll have it for January's agenda.

Bianchi – Is there a mail spot for Board Members?

DeWolf – No.

Pfitzenmaier – Katie, can you email a couple of the Chief's slides that talked of upcoming events to the Board members. I would like to have that information, get them on my calendars.

DeWolf – We have a calendar that we hand out at the first of the year that has all dates – we'll hand it out at the next Board meeting.

Gary Soliere – Joseph, this will be for you. On your auction, the renting of the tent, tables, chairs... is this a one day event or two day event?

DeWolf – A one day event.

Soliere – Versus the rental of tents, etc., have you thought of Pioneer Hall? Or doing it with Wine, Dine & Unwind event?

DeWolf – We have done it at Pioneer Hall; part of the reason we pulled out of there was the expense of it.

Soliere – Why not give them twenty cents on the dollar?

DeWolf – We used to have it here, then moved it to Pioneer Hall. But we found that most of the people gave better when they were here at the firehouse. For some reason, psychologically, they felt like they were giving it to the firehouse.

Soliere – Well, maybe doing it with the Wine & Dine. I think that the people that will complain about this auction are the people who complain about having a District.

Board Comments –

Bianchi – Wine & Dine is in June.

DeWolf – The heart of my fire season.

Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn by Pfitzenmaier, seconded by Bianchi. Motion carried.