

**Minutes to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District**  
**At the fire station**  
**6 p.m.**  
**Monday, 21 June 2010**

**The meeting was recorded as usual, however the recording device malfunctioned and the first third of the meeting did not have any audio on the device.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call** – Board members present; Izzo, Rutter, Ruppel, Parker. Tomlinson arrived a few minutes after the start of the meeting.

**Approval of the minutes** to the meeting of 17 May 2010. Motion to approve by Parker, seconded by Rutter, motion carried.

**Chief's Report** – Chief DeWolf addressed the Board on the following topics; run report, upcoming elections of the two board member positions, 2010 Firewise Campaign, Fire I & II Class update, and community events that we participated in.

**Treasurer's Report** – Ms Rutter presented information on the Financial Report and the Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2010.

**Correspondence** – Mr. Ruppel reminded everyone of the State Statutes regarding the upcoming elections of the two board positions; and the proper posting of the Call to Elections that would be published.

**Action Items**

**Elections** – this was covered under correspondence, no further discussion needed.

**Public Comment on the Published Budget** – (While the recorder did malfunction, I was able to hear the public comment session – below are summaries of the individual's comments.)

**Jerry Bianchi** – the budget allows you to make a \$100,000 decrease on the budget, if you look at the SAFER Grant of \$101,600 it says the money won't be spent if the grant isn't awarded. The only conclusion is that if the grant isn't awarded, then the money will be spent on some thing, I've asked two times to hear some explanation as to why we need this money, but it's never been at the public meetings I've been to. If there's a plan in place that allows you to operate with a \$100,000 less, I would suggest that you take that much out of the budget. If the SAFER grant comes in, why not give the money back to the taxpayers as long as you have that extra revenue. I'd like to see us get a handle on the CON, we all see a rosy future, but it can't be too terribly rosy or people wouldn't be walking away.

**Matt Parrilli** – Sonoita resident – Matt had a question on the current year's finances, then he asked about the debt service and if we could pay off the debt with the money left in savings. Also Charges for Services, is that an anticipated income number? Ms Rutter addressed his concerns.

**Larry Phitzenmeier** – Sonoita resident. Possibly the greatest asset of the Fire District is the community. My personal impression is that the Fire District is respected and appreciated by everyone. It is very important to protect that. It's still fragile. Times are tough, it is extremely important, if possible, to do everything possible not to raise the tax rate. Take out everything in the budget that you can live with.

**Pete Firos** – Sonoita Resident – I have a couple questions. Of that \$55,000, taking the water supply money for Elgin, it worries me – the board should not have done that, it should have been used this year to start that water supply, the only way we're going to get our ISO down is to have water supplies available and water tenders to shuttle water if we need it for a fire. If we don't have that available it is going to hurt us. I have a question for the board, I understand from reading the newspapers, that we're limits on what a budget can increase in a year – is that correct? If that is so, are we strangling ourselves by not taking the \$1.50? I would be in favor of going to the larger amount and using that money for what it was originally designed for, rather than pushing it to this year's budget to cover other things. Ms. Rutter addressed Mr. Firos' questions.

**Gary Soliere** – Sonoita Resident – commented on the formation of the District. If you are going to sit down to talk budget, I wish you'd invite Jerry to your meetings, I think he has a lot to offer just listening to him. Get some input from an outsider if you can.

#### **Board Comments to the Budget –**

**Parker** – In my mind this community is interested in keeping a lid on the budget. My objective is we provide quality medical and fire services at the current budget rate. I think we can do it. I understand the push by Joseph for adding another shift, I am not in favor of it, but I understand it.

**Izzo** - Mr. Izzo spoke on the tax rate and how the county structures our district budget rate and our individual tax assessments. I appreciate your comments today. Our next meeting will be the budget vote, it will not be a public hearing. I want to thank everyone. Okay, we will move on.

#### **Audience Comments on items other than the budget?**

**Gary Soliere** – Rosemont Mine. He thought that the mine should have its own emergency response units, maybe we could be backup, but personally he did not want the mine.

**Board member comments** – none

**Adjournment** – motion to adjourn by Ruppel, seconded by Rutter, motion carried.