

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District Board of Directors
Monday, 21 November 2011
6 p.m.**

Call the meeting to order, meeting was recorded.

Roll Call – Bianchi, Pfitzenmaier and Izzo present; Ruppel and Tomlinson absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes of 17 October 2011 – motion by Pfitzenmaier, second by Bianchi, motion carried.

New Business –

Fire Chief's Monthly Report – Chief DeWolf briefed the Board on the following topics;
Out & About (Arizona Fire District Association update, Santa Cruz County Fire Chief's meeting, Cochise County EMS & Fire Chief's meeting, SE Arizona EMS Council, SEFD Breakfast, Start-up meeting for our Fire Academy, Haunted House, Bike Helmet Give-away, and began Audit);
New hire - FF Jeff Polcari resigned, FF Steve Brock hired to fill Polcari's position, a comparison slide showed the pay & benefits increase Polcari will receive by transferring to Bisbee Fire;

Appreciations - Support Public Health image chosen to be used as a press release; Meguiar's photo; Grass Ridge Trials handbook with SEFD image inside the front cover; thank you for volunteering at a school in Tucson; Appreciation certificate for participating at the Whetstone Prevention Day; thank you for great care from local citizen.

Septic System update - Chief DeWolf asked BC Venos to bring the Board up to date with the status of the Septic System upgrade. All perc testing has failed to date and we'll have to use an alternative system. The state is in the loop on this process. We have chosen a system known as the "Norweko System," we don't know if we'll be able to keep within the budget; Chief has asked me to do some other things that will help this system work better. The approval of this system is the state's responsibility. Board member Pfitzenmaier stated that he saw three major concerns that we have to deal with, it had when you flush the toilet, it has to work, we had to pay for it and it has to pass all future inspections, and I haven't heard anything that might be a problem.

Other topics discussed – Website visits, Run Reports.

Financial Report – Chief DeWolf reviewed the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement; there were no items of importance to discuss, we are on track with our finances, we did receive tax revenue from both Santa Cruz and Pima Counties.

Internal/external memo – DeWolf will be posting a memo on the website asking for input prior to the budget process.

Fuels Treatment updates – DeWolf talked about the current status of all the fuels treatment programs we have in process including some images.

Treasurer's Comments – Bianchi – I did the bank reconciliations, everything is okay there. We did meet with Auditor one day. As far as the financial statements, except for a few little things – ups and downs budget-wise - we're in pretty good shape right now.

Correspondence or other information – none

Old Business –

Approval of changes in the HR Policy – DeWolf – All we need to do tonight is approve the changes.

Pfitzenmaier – my only comment is boy if you want to take a nap quick, just read through, 162 pages – it's something else. I have to tell you, I did start it, I read some of it, I didn't get all the way through Chief, I let you down. But I'm ready to go with it. I move we adopt this.

Bianchi – Second.

Izzo – Discussion –

Bianchi – Chief how will this be reviewed with the staff?

DeWolf – DeWolf reviewed with the Board the process of updating the crews with these changes – the whole process will take about two months.

Izzo – Any more discussion? (no response) I will call for the vote. All those in favor – Aye by Bianchi, Izzo and Pfitzenmaier, motion carried.

Affirmation of selection of Terry Plympton to the Audit Committee – Pfitzenmaier, in previous meetings I've talked about the appointment of a lay-member to our Audit Committee, I'm pleased to say that Terry Plympton has offered to provide that service to us for a period of a year. Terry has also joined Jerry and I when we had a luncheon with the Auditor; so therefore I move that the Board affirm the appointment of Terry Plympton as a member of the SEFD Audit Committee for a term of one year.

Bianchi – Seconded

Izzo – All those in favor? Aye by Bianchi, Pfitzenmaier, and Izzo, motion carried.

Audience comments – none

Board member comments – **Bianchi** – I just pleased to see the detail of your reports now, better clarity of the statements, I appreciate it with my accounting background, I'm sure the audience will appreciate it as well. I thank you for that. Something I'd like to consider, the work that the Chief and the Department's doing around like Star View, to mow that grass, since we can have a fire code, to require people inside the District to mow the grass on their property to reduce the fire hazard. I think that's something we ought to consider here in the next couple of months.

DeWolf responded to this comment by describing the current status of this topic and the fact that the District would have to adopt all fire codes and cannot simply adopt certain codes. It would be something to work on and it will take more than a couple of months to put together. I would like to suggest if you're interested in going down this is that maybe one or two of the Board members get with myself and Kevin and we can come up with an idea over the next couple of months to present to the Board, because it is not something that will be done easily. And it will have to go to a ballot to the community.

Izzo – is there money involved in this?

DeWolf – it all depends on how you set it up. Kevin is a state certified building inspector.

Venos – the other thing that will have to be clearly defined is the enforcement of the code. This is not just throw together in just a couple of months.

DeWolf – the other thing you'll have to look at is the demographics, the culture and the history. There's a lot that we have to look at in our community before we just jump in and do this.

Bianchi – I've got a lot of questions and this is not an agenda item, so I would be willing to sit down with you and another Board member to discuss this.

DeWolf – Yes, that' be great.

Pfitzenmaier – I'd like to thank the people I'm looking at right now for coming to join us at the Board meeting tonight, thank the crew who's here, and I'm going to put in a plug for my friend Annette who's not on duty tonight for joining us.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Bianchi, seconded by Pfitzenmaier, motion carried, meeting adjourned.