

**Minutes to the Regular Meeting of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District  
February 23, 2009**

Meeting Called to Order by Doug Ruppel – meeting is being recorded

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Members – Parker, Rutter, Ruppel and Tomlinson. Izzo absent but joined the meeting in progress. Also present: DeWolf, Goodwin, Bianchi, Daniels, and Soliere.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors for January 19, 2009.

Motion by Parker to approve minutes with the one correction, seconded by Rutter. Motion carried.

New Business –

**Chief's Report** – Chief DeWolf asked the board to take a field trip to tour the Virtual Reality Training Trailer that was stationed outside. The board was given a tour of the truck by Keith Wilson of Resolve Marine.

We had our Valentine's Breakfast on February 14; we served 92 breakfasts, our total intake was \$736.00, costs were \$214.96, we made \$524.04.

Brush 825 damaged on the Honnas Ranch Fire. Repair bill was \$3200, our deductible was \$500. Truck has been fixed and is back in service, it isn't signed. We have to wait for the paint to cure before adding the signage.

Talked to DHS this morning about our CON, they say our CON is moving along, we may have it next week.

Honnas Ranch Fire was 164 acres. We walked the fire around three homes; all were following Firewise practices which helped. Channels 11, 6 and 4 did stories on the fire. I talked to the Governor's Office about the fire behavior. State Land also used this fire for fire behavior class last weekend.

FF I & II class is advancing well.

We had 29 Calls in January: 5 Motor Vehicle Collisions, 20 Medical Calls, One Structure Fire, 2 Wildland Fires and one Public Assist. There were 14 transports: 1 helicopter, 13 ambulance.

We've applied for \$180,000 appropriations funds from Congresswoman Gifford: \$130,000 for water storage, \$50,000 for communications.

We've been awarded \$32,853.00 (to be spent in 90 days) for extrication equipment from Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Ron needs to sign the document.

We're also in the final stages of a SAFER grant for Recruitment/Retention that pays us \$218,400 over a four year period.

We have begun work on our Annual Auction scheduled for April 18, 2009.

We have signed a mutual aid agreement with Fort Huachuca Fire Department for EMS/Fire.

There was a listing in the delinquent tax pages of the Bulletin & International papers. I contacted the County Assessor about this. I went to Nogales to resolve the issue.

The J6 area has successfully formed as a Fire District. Arivaca should turn their petitions shortly, becoming a district in 45 days.

President Obama has cancelled all matches for the SAFER Grants for 2009/2010 calendar years. So, if we got a grant for next year, there would be no match required.

Treasurer's Report – There is no full-blown report. I do have the reports from Pima and Santa Cruz counties. To date we have received from Santa Cruz County - \$336,593.56 or 66% of all the tax revenue we should receive. From Pima County, we have received \$46,692.00 or 61% of all the tax revenue we should receive this year.

Ruppel – Any questions for Vicki?

Parker – I'm concerned that devaluation of property values will start to occur next year and have an adverse effect on the amount of taxes that will be collecting for the Fire District -- actually taxes are down 14% this year – DeWolf. How do we take that into account for our budget? My concern is that I don't want to see a knee-jerk where we decrement every category 14% across the board.

Correspondence – The only correspondence we have is in regards to SEESI. We did have a summary judgment in the lawsuit against SEESI, so Pete, do you have a summary that you can give us later?

Yes (Daniels)

I spoke to the Arizona Corporation Commission, they will administratively dissolve SEESI.

Discussion and Possible Action Calendar –

2009/10 Budget Schedule – We have before us the budget schedule for the upcoming year. We'll be accepting public comment throughout this schedule. John Bodey and Mickey Parker will get you some information on an IT budget on or around the first of March.

Audience comments –

Pete Daniels – Elgin – 1. Budget Item – want to voice my displeasure that the board did not form a budget committee, but it sounds like the economic conditions and the legislature are addressing my concerns anyway, but in light of that the budget hearing might get quite interesting, just to let you know.

2. The Lawsuit – technically the plaintiffs could appeal the decision.

3. Related topic – a party for the district creators and their supporters at Babacomari Ranch, open party, will keep you posted on the final date and time. Tentatively March 21, 2009.

Board Members Comments – none

Next regular meeting will be March 16, 2009 at 6 pm.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Parker, seconded by Rutter. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.