

Minutes to the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
6 pm
At the Fire Station
23 March 2012

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Board Members

New Business – Budget Study Session – (the meeting was recorded, however the recorder power shut down during the recording, so over half of the meeting was not recorded. Below is a summary of the discussion.) The Board, Chief and his staff met around a table to conduct an open discussion of where each Board member was at individually and what the Chief was looking to accomplish both for the next fiscal year and the strategic plan.

Izzo – I'm concerned about the turnover in personnel, many reasons for it, many we cannot control. This causes concern. We can, as a Board, address this with a pay increase. Chief is asking for 3%, I'd like to see 5 or 6%, a cost of living increase. I don't want to increase taxes, but I would support an increase in taxes to support this.

Pfitzenmaier – I'm pleased with this form of discussion. I don't want to defend the budget to public for months. I agree with Ron, an close look at Personnel and compensation is top priority; our folks don't have benefit of a medical plan as part of compensation. I would also look at plans or alternative for Capital investments and vehicles and a capital equipment plan.

Ruppel – I am quite pleased with this format too. Let's try not to repeat what happened in the last budget process, We have tough decisions to make, that have been kicked down the road too many times in the last few years. We need to face this as a Board, get united. Propose to the community the things we've failed to deal with.

Bianchi – Start with the mission – are we meeting that mission – what does it take to meet the mission. I don't see how lowering the assessed value relates to lowering the budget – Tough economics are in the area. I think we need to have a priority of what needs to be met. Keeping ourselves in a reasonable budget – nothing to keep them from going to other districts. Let's look at alternatives to health care, health care savings plans.

Chief DeWolf – Chief introduced the Capital Improvements Acquisition Plan and the Payroll Wage/Benefit Summary.

The Board and Chief spent about another hour discussing the topics above and eventually asked the Chief to refine his current budget proposal to include 2 additional holiday pays and a 3% pay increase across the board.

Audience Comments – none

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was by Ruppel, seconded by Bianchi. Motion carried.