

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District Board of Directors  
Monday, 27 February 2012  
6 p.m.**

**Call the meeting to order**, meeting was recorded.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of minutes of January 23, 2011** – motion by Bianchi, second Ruppel, and motion carried.

**New Business** –

**Chief's Report** – Chief DeWolf addressed the Board on the meetings and events at which the District was represented; January was a quiet month; Santa Cruz county Chief's working on a grant called Bright Star... a large communications grant and on a county HazMat Team; Narrow banding completed, we are the first department in the county to Narrowband, the west side of the county will be next; was at Pima College, I sit on the board for Fire/EMS, we're working on classes that are more geared to rural departments; the 11-15, Katie and I were at the AFDA Conference in Laughlin; our state land contract is up for renewal, we should be done with that sometime mid-march through mid-April; our Breakfast was averagely attended – about 45/50 were there; on the 17<sup>th</sup> I was in Tucson for SAEMS, we worked on some protocol updates on stroke and on some drug shortages that were going on.

**Septic Update by BC Venos**; the drawings are in the mail as of Saturday, we have everything to take to the county once the Vera Earl signs the deed of gift document. No surprises came up during the drawings as he designed them.

**DeWolf** – Website update, part of the count for web visits was due to the updating done by our webmaster; Run Report for the month were presented.

**Bianchi** – Chief would it be possible to keep track of the simultaneous calls?

**DeWolf** – Sure, last year we ran 77 simultaneous calls so we'll just add them up and track them through.

**Financial Statement and Balance Sheet** – DeWolf - We did get \$29,972 from Santa Cruz County and just a tad over \$5,000 from Pima County.

**Continuation of Chief Report...** This was a nice thank you sent from Mrs. Hadden, she wrote us a really nice thank you. She took the time to make the card, those are actually Charlie's spurs and belt buckle. Fuels Crew – we've been doing a lot of work down in Lyly Canyon/Westgate area, this is our first full month, so next month we'll have a report on that – how many homes we've touched and how many homes we actually cleared. They are booked out now until May. We're also working with the Forest Service, they've been doing mastication, cleaning around there, and they should be doing a burn down there. The homes that we're going to do are near where the burn is going to be. With the weather system coming in they may have to call it off. This is the letter we've handed out to the community; we had a Ready Set Go meeting here and we had two people show up. They heard about it in the newsletter. I went and spoke to the Crossroads Forum on Saturday, they had about 15 people there, anytime we have a meeting we get good reception off of it. And if you happened to watch the 5 o'clock news tonight (5, 6 & 10) we got a good segment on there on Sonoita Fire and Ready, Set, Go! and interviewed Kevin. We're hoping to get a copy and get it onto our website. Doing a lot of good PR, though our attendance level is low, its picking up momentum as it's going, and that's really what our interest is. We get to talk about the preparation of the budget; in 2010 we saw a 3% decrease in assessed values and in 2011 we saw a 4% decrease in assessed values; the maximum we can raise the 2012/2013 budget is \$59,000. Remember three years ago they rolled us back to 2008 taxes and only allow us to raise 8% on the previous year's budget. Any Comments? This is the budget proposal schedule for this year...19<sup>th</sup> March, April 9 Chief and Board meet to discuss budget, April 16 Board and Chief confer

on budget to be published, April 23, 30, May 7 & 17 publish budget, May 21 Public Hearing on Budget, June 18 Board adopts Budget, and June 20 Budget to Counties.

**Bianchi** - Well there's not an awful lot to report on, I did the bank reconciliations, ran into a few minor problems mainly on the bank's side, where they're putting funds into the wrong account than they were directed to, hopefully they'll get it straightened out next month. There was one little problem with the bank saying they didn't get a check, so they ended up getting a phone authorization and then the check got there and they charged it twice. I think that was a problem with the post office and not the bank. Other than that things are going pretty well. Today, right at the eleventh hour we did receive from our auditor our preliminary draft of his audit report, we were supposed to have had that the first week of February. The report had to go today to the two counties, so Chief sent off a letter with the preliminary thing and said as soon as we get the letter we'll send the final thing we'll send that to you. Apparently there are some internal problems at the auditor's office. I have sent an email to the auditor who did the work and hopefully next month he will be here to make a presentation to the Board on his findings and the audit. At that time the Board can of course ask him questions, the audience may not ask him questions; and that's because he deals with the district and not the public. I think that's about everything there, we're moving along on the audit thing. We had hoped by today's meeting we would have had him here.

**Izzo** – the public can ask us questions though.

**Bianchi** – I don't think so, because it will be a regular meeting, the public cannot ask questions of us, they can make a comment but they cannot ask questions. That's the way the public meetings are. The report would be available to the public afterward.

**Izzo** – Have you had feedback on the newsletter?

**DeWolf** – No, we had one lady come in and take advertising for the next newsletter, so I would say that was positive, and the two people who came in to the Ready, Set, Go! Other than that we've had nothing on the newsletter.

Ruppel – I've not heard a work.

**Izzo** – Okay, we've no action items; audience comments (none)

**Correspondence** – none

**Audience comments** – none

**Board member comments** – **Bianchi** – I was at the Crossroads meeting and I was disappointed that we didn't have more people there, the Chief made an excellent presentation. There were a lot of things that people were not aware of, of things the District was willing to do for them; inspecting their property, things they should do themselves. Firewise, the interest from the people who were there was really strong, we just need to get more people to attend those meetings. You did a good job, Chief

**DeWolf** – we're making dates to talk to the Chamber as well as the Rotary.

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