

**Sonoita-Elgin Fire District Board Meeting**  
**Organizational Meeting Agenda**  
**Date: December 8<sup>th</sup> 2014**  
**6 p.m.**

**Call to order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call** – Neal, Izzo, Rinaldi, Bianchi and Berry

**Izzo** – It's not on our agenda but I'm sure we'd all like to formally welcome our new Board member, Judy Neal. Welcome. I guess we can welcome Jerry back just cause we have to. (laughter)

**Call to the public-**

**Mike Wright-** Hello Mike Wright from Sonoita. It is a privilege for me to be here to say thank you at a beginning of a new board season. I just really wanted to tell you that I voice really for a lot of people in our community that we are really thankful for what you guys do for our community. And I thought what can I do for you guys? I could bring you some chocolate, I'm glad I didn't. So what I can do for you is give you guys a prayer. So if you don't mind I would like to pray.

Dear Lord God, I ask you to bless these people for giving of their time to serve in this community. May this coming year be one of their best years because of your blessing in their life for serving us in this community. I ask that you give this board wisdom and discernment for the decisions that they must make in governing and guiding this fire district. And Lord may you also bless all those that serve within this fire department, keep them safe and use them to bless those in need in our community. I pray in Jesus name, Amen.

**Old Business- None**

**New Business- Election of officers**

**Izzo-** I will open the floor for nominations for the Board Clerk and I will go ahead and make a nomination. I would like to nominate Jennifer as the board clerk. Bianchi seconds that. Rinaldi accepts. Are there any other nominations? Ok we will close the nominations and we can just take 1 vote at the end. Now I would like to open the nominations for treasurer. Are there nominations for the position of the treasure?

**Rinaldi-** Jerry Bianchi.

**Neal** will second.

**Izzo-** Ok. Are there any other nominations?

**Bianchi-** I accepts.

**Izzo-** Ok we will close the nominations. We will now open the nominations for the chairman position of the board.

**Bianchi-** I would recommend Ron Izzo to continue as our chairman.

**Neal-** I will second.

**Izzo-** Are there any other nominations or discussion? Is there a motion to accept those by acclamation?

**Bianchi-** So moved.

**Berry** seconds the motion. Motion carried.

**SB 1387 Training Plan for J. Neal and J. Bianchi**

**Chief-** through SB 1387 any new board members elected from November forward needs to go to 6 hours of training. That training will be offered in Laughlin, Nevada through the AZ Fire District Associations winter annual conference. Or partially in June in the Tucson area.

**Izzo** – When is the Laughlin one?

**Chief** - Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. In Laughlin there are 6 classes offered two different days. So you could go to other classes as well. In Tucson it will only be offered once.

**Rinaldi-** Is there a fee?

**Chief-**Yes. To go to Laughlin it is \$135 plus travel expenses and your lodging. If you go to Tucson, you don't have the prices on that yet. In Laughlin the rooms are around \$30 and \$60 on a weekend night. In Tucson they are around \$100 a night.

**Neal-** Is the Tucson defiantly going to be held?

**Chief** - It is not 100% confirmed. What they are trying to do is see how many folks will go to Laughlin, then they will go from there whether they host classes in Tucson or not.

**Neal-** Can you commute to Tucson? Where in Tucson is it?

**Chief** – It's held at the Loews Ventana Resort in Tucson.

**Bianchi-** That creates an interesting situation that they don't know about June until they see who attends in January so, if you don't go in January and they don't have one in June what happens then?

**Chief-**You then have to find a way to get the 6 classes through the AZ Fire District Association. There are 4 classes, Finance, Governance, Open Meeting Law, and Ethics & Responsibilities.

**Izzo** - How long are those classes?

**Chief** - It is a total of 6 hours.

**Izzo** - How long do they have to get that training?

**Chief** - One year. By November first of next year it has to done. And then that board member has a fine and can be removed from the board.

**Izzo** - Now you mentioned if they go to Laughlin there are opportunities for other classes. What is an example?

**Chief** - Other classes would be; Who is going to take my place, Legislation update, advance financing, career fire district round table, employment law, mergers of fire districts, JPAs, EMS section,

**Izzo** – JPA – joint personnel agreements?

**Chief** - basically that is what it is – where one chief could be a Chief over two districts. Leadership through Change, Administrative round table, combination/volunteer round table, classes like that. The conference in Loft land is the largest we have 168 fire districts and generally 150 to 140 will attend the one in Laughlin.

**Izzo** – And this is put on by?

**Chief** - AZ Fire District Association. They are the ones that govern and have to report to each county if a board member does not complete their training. This training is for fire chiefs as well. So any fire chief hired after now [Nov. 1]has to go through the training.

**Rinaldi** - Strange that it is not in Arizona.

**Chief-**Well it has been in Laughlin for almost 20 years now. And it has to do a lot with affordability of the conference up in Laughlin and the facility to hold all those people it is the main reason. We had it in Phoenix and we did bring one down to Tucson, the JW Marriott. There are no facilities that can hold us. That is the main reason it is in Laughlin.

**Neal-** So you are responsible for your cost there?

**Chief-** Actually the district is responsible unless you so do choose to take on the cost yourself.

**Izzo-** Well what are your thoughts?

**Bianchi-** My thought would be I would prefer to do it in Tucson because then we would keep expenses down and drive there and drive back.

**Rinaldi—** I would defiantly attend if I could do it in Tucson?

**Neal-** What is the cost compared at the Jan Laughlin training if the district pays for the registration and room?

**Chief** - Its \$135 for the registration and it is \$31 a week night and it is \$61 a weekend night.

**Neal**- So you are looking at \$150 in the ball park for the room for all 3 nights.

**Chief** - Yes.

**Berry**- Chief is there anyone going up to the Laughlin one that you are aware of from here?

**Chief**- Katie and I are going.

**Izzo** – we're looking at \$4-500?

**Chief** – Actually, Between Katie and me it is around a \$600 expense for the conference.

**Izzo** - But you are taking our vehicle? But if we drove up... So \$400-\$500 per person.

**Chief** - We can only take one vehicle. If they choose to pay for their own transportation then it is just the registration and the hotel fees. They have a breakfast the district feeds you. But the district will feed you lunch and the hotel has a breakfast. (lots of miscellaneous background chatter)

**Neal**- So if they do not hold it in Tucson then you say it is up to us individually to figure out how to do it. What options would we have?

**Chief** - Then the association has to come up with something. And that we don't have yet. We have had since June to put all this together. The networking I feel for the board of directors to go to a Laughlin conference, the networking is what I feel would be tremendously beneficial to the board members. That's why Laughlin trips end up a lot less expensive because you are right there and you get to do the networking.

**Izzo**- I appreciate what you guys are saying about saving the district money but also appreciate the need to do this. So for \$1,000 I think we need to comply with the law.

**Neal**- I personally would be willing to pay my own way as far as transportation and not take the risk.

**Rinaldi**- How long is the drive?

**Chief**- 7-8 hours.

**Bianchi**- This is going to require a weekend night at the hotel right? Break up Saturday around 4 or 5

**Neal**- So we will be spending the night Saturday and coming back Sunday.

**Chief** - And any board member is allowed to attend, however if you run for reelection and get elected it doesn't count.

**Berry**- Are you serious?

**Chief**-Yes, dead serious. It does not count.

**Izzo**- Well I would like to make the motion we allocate up to \$1000 for the two of you to go and then however you want to cover it or whatever. Any other thoughts on that?

**Rinaldi**- I'm good with that.

**Bianchi**- Well, is this a decision that we are going in January?

**Izzo**- If you wish to go. I don't know how to make you go Jerry. I mean we as a board support you going.

**Bianchi**- I recognize we have to go and we have to observe the law. I think it would behoove if the association to make an announcement ahead of time. But maybe by doing it this way they were hoping to get out of it in June.

**Chief**- Well part of it is when we start renting the hotels now after January its only 20 people you have to pay \$200 a room to do those 20 people. If the majority of people don't come from Southern AZ it would be cost effective for the association to go to Sierra Vista or to go to Tucson and rent the Hampton room for Saturday and say ok those 25 people have to have it here. So that is the biggest struggle we don't know who is actually going to show.

**Bianchi**- Do you know how many people should show total?

**Chief**-We are still waiting for a couple of counties to get it in because some of the boards were not filled. So they have to appoint. They don't know if they will have the appointments done in time. Our first year is a gamble. Every two years we're going to have to do this.

**Izzo**- If you two go you could make a strong objection about the way they are doing this.

**Bianchi**- When is the dead line for making a reservation for the Jan. one? Yesterday?

**Chief**-Actually we have already booked the rooms. So all you have to do is pay the late fee because we can release the rooms at any time. You can go up to the last minute. January 8th.

**Bianchi**- All right we have time to make that decision.

**Izzo**- You want to continue this is that what you are saying?

**Bianchi**- Well no you can make the motion if you wish to make that motion.

**Chief** - So sometime through the year we will possibly expenditure that money to put these through up to that amount of money – for the two board members for their education.

**Izzo**- That's my motion. I think we need to second it to make it official.

**Rinaldi** seconds.

**Izzo** - All in favor? Motion carries.

**Izzo**- So we are done with that. We will now open general audience comments.

### **Audience Comments -Terry Plympton**

**Terry Plympton** - Hello I am Terry Plympton I live in Elgin AZ this is just one of those comments and observation from last meeting. There was a question that was raised as to whom makes the final decision on items for every board meeting and the answer that was given I believe the chief gave the answer which is the chairman of the board makes a final determination for that. So a question I have here and a concern I have here is that I'm just trying to see.....organization format for unfinished items from one meeting making it to the following meeting until it is actually resolved. There just has been some concern here and I can't give specifics here at the moment because I have not gone through every set of minutes and agenda items over the past year but I would just like to just suggest we all be mindful from one meeting to the next of the agenda items that are not resolved at any particular meeting that it does automatically carry over to the next meeting and the next meeting until that issue is completely resolved. Those are my comments and that is all I have to say tonight. Thank You

**Izzo**- Thank you very much and it is a really good point. I think we have been kind of wondering that ourselves. And what happens procedurally is that the chief puts out a call because any board member can put anything on the agenda so the chief puts out a call and we do have a schedule of that and then by email and that board member responds. If he gets no response or if he gets a response he puts together another drafted agenda and sends it to the chair. If I am not available - and there's timelines there so if I'm out or gone or whatever - then that responsibility automatically falls to the Clerk to approve the agenda so the agenda has to be approved by one of us to do that. I don't think we have anything as far as written about old business or that kind of stuff - then that goes out to every board member in a packet. I appreciate you bringing this up. Another board member has brought this up to me as well so, I have not been very consistent looking at my notes from the last meeting saying this item was not resolved and it needs to be carried forward from old business. Ok? And so I think we have lost some things that way. Sometimes we don't always resolve it and then it doesn't come back up again for a resolution and one of those is the separate funds for capital accounts which now we have on the agenda now which we slipped before. So I will try to be more diligent about that.

**Rinaldi**- Ron I will help you as Clerk of the Board to be more diligent.

**Izzo**- And I think we need to make a note and say ok this has to come on you know to the next one so...ok board member comments.

### **Board member comments-**

**Neal**- I just would like to say I look forward to working with all of you, and with the Chief and staff. So thank you for your welcome and I will try my best to do a good job.

**Berry**- So now since we discussed tonight about the class in Laughlin does that have to come up next meeting as new business? Or how does that work?

**Izzo**- See I think we are done with it

**Bianchi**- We have an individual responsibility at this point.

**Chief-** When you go to a class we have to see the paperwork on it. The district is required to retain the paper work. So we have to know when you are going. If you don't want to go in January that is fine. The board needs to be aware of whether they are going to that class or not.

**Rinaldi-** So it needs to be an ongoing agenda

**Izzo-** I guess so

**Rinaldi-** Ok.

**Berry-** So it will be new business right?

**Rinaldi** - Old business.

**Berry-** It can be old business even though it was never new business? I just wanted to make sure. So we can go from new business straight to developing new business during the board meeting even if it is not on the agenda?

**Chief** - No.

**Izzo-** It is on the agenda.

**Berry-** O there it is that's my fault.

**Rinaldi-** Can you audit that class. If the class is in Tucson then I could just go?

**Chief-** You have to pay.

**Rinaldi-** That's what I was asking.

**Izzo-** We don't know what it is going to be.

**Chief-** Right.

**Izzo-** Ok any other comments

**Motion for adjournment** – I will entertain a motion for adjournment.

**Bianchi** – so moved. Seconded by Neal, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Approved 26 January 2015, \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk of the Board  
Jennifer Rinaldi