

Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, May 20, 20019
9 a.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – all Board members present

Call to the public – Gary Soliere – Call to the Public - Last meeting Suzanne Jenkins wanted to say something and she was told it was already over. I believe, with as it (audience) being as small as it is, it should have been allowed. On the fire equipment; I had a heated discussion with one of my close friends. He saw a fire vehicle at a church on Sunday and he said it shouldn't be there. I'm just giving the Fire Board a head's up.

Approval of Minutes – Meeting of 22 April 2019 – Webber asked that the comment “Chief had suggested that the community establish their own non-profit” be added to the fundraising portion of the agenda. And, that “Webber stated she would talk to the former organization to see if it could be used as such an organization,” be added to the agenda as well. This item (fundraising) will also be addressed under the Chief's Report. Motion to approve by Johnson, seconded by Webber, motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief's Report – the Chief's Report included a brief discussion on the following topics:

- Run Report (2019 to date total is 199),
- Wildland Billing is now up-to-dare with payments;
- Fuels Mitigation Grant final reimbursement request has been turned in to the state, once they accept the final request, they'll send us the final report doc that we'll need to close out the grant;
- We are submitting for a grant to update our 2007 CWPP to incorporate the status of our two new FireWise communities,
- Grant being submitted for next Fuels Mitigation Project,
- Palominas IGA is going well, there will be Board meet and tour of the Palominas Fire District on Saturday, May 25, it has been posted.
- Fire Code – Discussion with Patty Wands and Fairgrounds – they don't feel it was overcrowded. It has no occupancy listed & this is done by the county.
- Current events – Fundraising as brought up in minutes – Annette wanted more detail in the earlier discussed minutes, it didn't give the intent of her thoughts – looking at the proposed budget, there are a lot of small items that could look at fundraising for support. Annette will defer to Reba as she said she would speak to the old organization. Webber – it is still alive, not sure what they're planning to do but it does not look like a real viable organization. (They want to shut it down, they have a different purpose)
- Captain Marc Meredith will be awarded SCC Provider of the Year by Banner University Medical Center tomorrow, May 21, 2019.
- Chief gave the Board a brief run-through of the slides for Thursday's Community Forum.

Financials – MS Rutter presented the Financial Statements to the Board, including the Balance Sheet, the Profit & Loss Statement and the Cash Flow Forecast. There were no unexpected transactions to report. We are sitting pretty good for reaching the end of the fiscal year. Motion to

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accept the financials as presented was made by Johnson and seconded by Webber. Motion carried unanimously. Rutter: I'd like to tell you a bit about the ambulance and give you some background – how it came into being as I don't believe some of you know the history. In 2008, the Chief went after and secured the CON (Certificate of Necessity) from Pima County, then the CON from Santa Cruz (held by Tubac). CONs are considered gold in the fire industry. The process to purchase and outfit two ambulances and secure the two CONs took approximately two years and countless hours of the Chief's time. He knew it would be a huge benefit for the district's residents. I couldn't resist so I went back and added up how much the ambulance revenue has been since August of 2010. \$2,104,306.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Budget – Chairman **Bahti** expressed his concerns for the district's future if we were to retain the current tax rate of \$2.65, suggesting instead to increase the tax rate by \$0.05 to be able to set aside funding each year to meet required funding levels or strategic plan items that need to be replaced at specific times. Previous Boards have been kicking the can down the road for too long and he felt this needed to be addressed. We're not putting away monies to address these. He pointed out the total amount raised with the extra 5 cents and how it could be put to use.

Archibald – I like what you put together; I have a particular item – training – I'm concerned about that item. I'd like to increase it by \$5,000. With those in paramedic class, it chews up the training budget and doesn't leave much for regular training needs.

Webber – we're living paycheck-to-paycheck. Kurt, your discussion about how and why we should raise the budget... I support you on this. I'm uncomfortable on how tight we are.

Johnson – planned to address this as part of the strategic plan but... there is no extra in our budget to put the plan into place. It is not a comfortable position to be in. \$2.70 is doable and defendable, I looked at going to \$2.75, but would split the difference.

Audience asked if there could be a Call to the Public? Board decided to allow both members of the public to speak at this point.

Gary Soliere – you're speaking for the public – you have a tough call no matter what you do. Go with your hearts and minds. I think you're doing a swell job.

Suzanne Jenkins – There's almost 7 million dollars change in the assessed values of our homes since 2010. The tax rate has gone up because the assessed value has gone down. That's a county issue.

Motion by Archibald to raise the tax rate to \$2.725, seconded by Johnson, motion carried unanimously. Chief was directed to build a new budget reflecting the tax rate as \$2.725 and placing additional funds into training.

Chief's Review – Archibald – It was a fair evaluation. Chief, you did really well, what you've done for our fire district is exemplary. There is no increase scheduled in the Chief's salary for this fiscal year and he hasn't had a raise since 2014. I believe we (Board) should look at the possibility of a bonus or similar for you this year. Chief – I will accept the review as presented by the Archibald and Johnson. Archibald made a motion to approve the final Chief's Review as presented to the Chief, seconded by Johnson, motion carried unanimously. Webber - Next agenda should include the topic of reviewing goals for this next year. There are two problems; 1. Chief has no way to know who gave him the rating to know how to improve, and 2. Board members have no way to speak to other Board members about the evaluation. At the July meeting I'd like to set up some sort of Process of

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how we actually do the review. Chief will set up a date with HR for Kurt and Reba to discuss this prior to July.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Archibald, seconded by Johnson, motion carried unanimously.

Minutes approved on June 24, 2019, _____, Board Clerk.
Sue Archibald