



Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District



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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAKE MOHAVE RANCHOS FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board of the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District met in Regular Session on **01/27/2022** at **10:00 a.m.** The Meeting was held at the **Dolan Springs Chamber of Commerce, 16154 Pierce Ferry Rd Dolan Springs, AZ.** The Board may vote to go into Executive Session on any Agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice and A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(4) for legal direction with the District's Attorney on matters as set forth in the Agenda item. The following topics and any variables thereto, will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items are set for possible action.

1) CALL TO ORDER 10:05 am

2) ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Directors Aitken, Braaten, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- PRESENT

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE (*To honor those who serve our Country and within Public Safety and to those we've lost*)

Pledge and moment of silence was led by Director Karash.

4) EXECUTIVE BUSINESS (*Board of Directors may vote to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S §38.431.03 (A) (3))*

Motion to enter executive session: Director Karash

Seconded: Director Aitken

Vote: Directors Aitken, Braaten, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- AYE

Old Business:

- a. **Discussion regarding:** Follow up with AG complaints and required training. (carried over) (Director Aitken)

Discussed in Executive Session.

New Business:

- a. **Discussion regarding:** New notice of complaint and letter from Mr. Matura (Director Aitken)

Discussed in Executive Session.

Regular session resumed at 10:59 am.

5) MINUTES

12/16/2021 Regular and Executive Minutes

Motion to accept 12/16/2021 Regular Minutes as presented: Director Aitken

Seconded: Director Karash

Vote: Directors Aitken, Braaten, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- AYE

Motion to accept 12/16/2021 Executive Minutes as presented: Director Aitken

Seconded: Director Braaten

Vote: Directors Aitken, Braaten, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- AYE

6) CONSENT AGENDA

a. Financial Report

Financials were presented by Gabe Buldra of James Vincent Group.

Mr. Buldra started by updating the Board on the status of the annual audit. The auditors will be ready to present their findings to the Board in February.

The following figures are rounded to the nearest \$500.

Revenue for the month of December is \$120.5K, which is over budget by \$51.5K. This is mostly driven by tax revenue, which totals \$79.5K and is over budget by \$37K.

Non-tax revenue is \$41K, which is over budget by \$14.5K. Ambulance revenue is over budget by \$5.5K.

Expenses for December totaled \$78K, which is over budget by \$6K. This was driven by an uptick in overtime and legal fees.

Year to date, total revenue is \$949.5K, which is over budget by 320K due to prior grant income of \$201.5K.

Year to date, total expenses are \$764K, which are over budget by \$381K. This is due to grant expenses of \$195K and personnel expenses of \$43K.

Mr. Buldra told the Board that the District is down about 38K from this time last year, however there has been a 100K investment in much needed assets and repairs that are integral to operations. If those investments were not made, the District would be up by 60K. As it stands, James Vincent Group believes it was money well spent and the District is on staying on tract.

Mr. Buldra told the Board that an amended budget is in the works for the second half of the fiscal year. This is to account for increases in wages and wildland operations.

**Motion to accept December 2021 financials presented by James Vincent Group: Director Karash
Seconded: Director Aitken
Vote: Directors Aitken, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- AYE. Director Braaten- ABSTAINED**

b. Chief Report

Run Report:

AMR Transports: 0
Med Calls: 106
Dolan Transports: 89
Dolan Refusals: 3
Dolan Public Assists: 0
Fire Calls: 21
Mutual Aid Calls: 0
Highway 93 Calls: 27
Meadview Calls: 6
Meadview Transports: 5
Meadview Refusals: 1
Meadview Public Assists: 0
Meadview Coverage Days: 16

Meetings/Conferences/Training:

A Run Review was held on 12/14/2021.

District Properties:

One of the new bay doors at Station 41 was damaged by a vehicle. Insurance covered the replacement. Station 41 received a new stove and new dishwasher to replace old, faulty appliances. Station 43 received a new stove. All three appliances were around \$1500 to purchase in total.

Projects in the Works:

The District is applying for a Firehouse Subs grant for 10 new sets of turnout gear as the District does not own an extractor to clean turnouts in a timely manner after personnel respond to a fire. This will allow each firefighter to have a second set of turnouts.

The District lost two full-time employees to other agencies, including one paramedic and one EMT. However, the Fire Chief has managed to fill those positions.

c. Admin Report

Office admin Jen Gardner updated the Board on projects being worked on. The laptops and SharePoint have been rolled out for the Board and training has been commenced. Also, office admin Glenn Gardner has contacted the county to obtain records of all properties within LMRFD and is working on finding eligible properties for annexation.

7) REGULAR SESSION

Old business:

- a. **Discussion and possible action:** Follow up with AG complaints and required training. (carried over) (Director Aitken)

See item a. below.

New Business:

- a. **Discussion and possible action:** New notice of complaint and letter from Mr. Matura (Director Aitken)

Motion to follow the advice of legal counsel and proceed as instructed for items a. under Old Business and a. under New Business: Director Aitken

Seconded: Director Karash

Vote: Directors Aitken, Braaten, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- AYE

- b. **Discussion:** Update on board positions that will open December 2022. (Director Aitken)

Director Aitken reminded the appointed Board members that there would be an election for their positions at the end of the year. If they wished to run, they would have to initiate steps with the county and begin canvassing within the public for signatures of support.

- c. **Discussion and possible action:** 26056 N Driftwood Annexation Request (Chief Bonnee)

Fire Chief Bonnee presented the annexation request and informed the Board that the county was contacted to verify eligibility.

Motion to accept 26056 N Driftwood into the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District: Director Aitken

Seconded: Director Garza

Vote: Directors Aitken, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- AYE. Director Braaten- ABSTAINED

- d. **Discussion:** C.O.N. info for the Board members (Chief Bonnee)

Fire Chief Bonnee explained what the C.O.N. meant for the District, at the request of Chairperson Koeppen.

C.O.N stands for Certificate of Necessity, which is the agreement that grants LMRFD the right to run ambulance services within the District and beyond. The C.O.N. is granted by the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System run by the Arizona Department of Health Services. This C.O.N. covers over 2,200 square miles and extends to areas such as the Hoover Dam, White Hills, Meadview, Dolan Springs, Cottonwood Cove, and more. LMRFD holds the third largest C.O.N. In Arizona. For instance, in the last two months alone, LMRFD ran over 4,800 miles on a single ambulance.

The C.O.N. regulates the ambulance service area, ambulance service hours of operation, expiration, hospital in which the District is able to take patients, and more. Also, the ambulance rates that the District charges is also set by the state. Currently, a transport costs \$1845.11 plus \$15.01 per mile. This is not a price that is controlled by the District. It is all regulated by the State of Arizona per the C.O.N. and is non-negotiable.

e. Discussion and possible action: Brian D. Stewart Memorial Training Fund (Chief Bonnee)

A local resident wishes to start a fund for firefighters within LMRFD so they may obtain their certifications more easily. Her husband passed away while on duty as an emergency responder, and she named the fund in his honor. For this upcoming year, she would pay for a single individual to attend the academy. Currently, there is an LMRFD employee that needs to obtain their last remaining fire certification. This fund would help that individual better serve LMRFD and the citizens it protects.

In return, the District would require beneficiaries of the fund to sign a three year employment contract. The resident is willing to run the fund annually for as long as she can.

Motion to accept the Brian D. Stewart Memorial Training Fund with gratitude- Director Aitken

Seconded- Director Garza

Vote- Directors Aitken, Braaten, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- AYE

f. Discussion and possible action: Semmens medic class sponsorship for LMRFD (Chief Bonnee)

Fire Chief Bonnee approached the Board with the news that departments nationwide are in dire need of paramedics. Surrounding departments and districts in Arizona have begun sponsoring EMTs so they may receive paramedic certifications to help ease this gap in specialized and much-needed medical care. Currently there is one full-time paramedic position open in the District. Bonnee showed support in sponsoring one EMT employee so he may attend the classes necessary to become a paramedic. Bonnee expressed his trust in this individual, as Semmens chose LMRFD to start his career as an emergency responder and has been diligent in his duties. Bonnee would like to continue sponsorships annually as the budget allows.

Those receiving sponsorships would sign a three-year employment contract with LMRFD so the District may recoup the cost of schooling. To be eligible, emergency responders of the District must have their EMT certifications.

Motion to accept the sponsorship of Mr. Semmens to attend paramedic classes with a three-year employment commitment to LMRFD in return: Director Karash

Seconded: Director Garza

Vote: Directors Aitken, Braaten, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- AYE

- 8) CALL to the PUBLIC.** *(The Fire District Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on any item(s) that are not on the Agenda that are raised in the call to the public. However, individual Board Members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct that staff review the matter or that the matter be placed on a future agenda. The Fire District Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public due to restriction of the Opening Meeting Law).*

Charlotte Kiffer of W 9th Steet in Dolan Springs thanked everyone for being on the Board. She said that the last year had been delightful and commended the Chief for what he has done for the District. She was pleased that LMRFD was meeting the needs of the public and having the office staffed.

She asked the Chief about the number of people moving into Dolan Springs and what attributed to the number of calls. The Fire Chief responded by saying that although Highway 93 accidents dropped in the past month, it picked up again with COVID related calls and other medical calls for the elderly population.

Lastly, Kiffer told the Board that it was difficult for her to attend Thursday meetings as it presented a scheduling conflict with the local food banks run by St. Vincent's and St. Mary's. She noted that she would not be the only one with this problem, and that some individuals that may want to attend the meetings would not be able to do so for the same reason.

Ellen Reh Bower of N. Needle in Dolan Springs was happy with the hard work and hoped that everyone up for reelection would run again. She also thanked the Chief for keeping the admin office open and serving the public.

9) CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Specified tabled items will move to following month's Regular Meeting, unless noted otherwise and/or pending additional information.

Director Braaten suggested a future item to address changing the Dolan Springs meeting dates so more people would be able to attend.

10) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATE & LOCATION. (Subject to change, notice/announcement will be posted via District Website, if any changes occur.) **02/17/2022 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Meadview Civic Association, 247 Meadview Blvd, Meadview, AZ**

Motion to adjourn the January 2022 meeting at 12:10 pm: Director Aitken
Seconded: Director Braaten
Vote: Directors Aitken, Braaten, Garza, Karash, and Chairperson Koeppen- AYE

MINUTES prepared by: Jen Gardner

Date: 01/30/22

MINUTES signed/posted by: Jen Gardner

Date: 01/31/22

Time: 6:30 am

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District endeavors to ensure accessibility of all its programs, facilities, and services to all persons with disabilities. If any disabled person needs an accommodation, please notify the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District at: (928) 767-3300, prior to the scheduled meeting time.

LMRFD Official Posting Locations:

Administration / St. 41 (16126 Pierce Ferry Rd Dolan Springs, AZ)
Dolan Springs Chamber of Commerce (16154 Pierce Ferry Rd Dolan Springs, AZ)

St. 43 (30250 Stillwater Meadview, AZ)
Meadview Civic Association (247 Meadview Blvd, Meadview, AZ 86444)

LMRFD Website (www.lmrfd.org)