



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 Wednesday 9/21/22 at 1:02 pm. 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 1:00 pm

2) ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS 1:00 pm

Board Clerk Aitken present
Board Chair Koeppen present
Director Garza present via phone
Director Braaten 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*)

Director Braaten led pledge and moment of silence

4) EXECUTIVE BUSINESS 1:02 pm (*Board of Directors may vote to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S §38.431.03 (A) (3))*

Director Aitken moved to enter Executive Session at 1:02 pm
Director Braaten seconded the motion
All directors voted AYE to enter executive session.

Director Aitken moved to close the executive session at 1:18 pm

Director Braaten seconded the motion
All aye, executive session ended

Director Karash joined via phone for the regular session.

Regular session resumed at 1:18 pm

5) MINUTES

07/21/22 Regular Minutes 1:19 pm

Director Aitken noted a mistake in the title of the minutes document and indicated she had found no other issues.
Director Braaten moved to accept the minutes with corrected heading
Director Aitken seconded the motion

All directors voted AYE and the motion was carried at **1:20 pm**

6) CONSENT AGENDA 1:20 pm

a. Chief Report: 1:20 pm

Run Report:

Amr Transports:0

Med Calls: 93

Dolan Transports: 80

Dolan Refusals: 4

Dolan Public Assists: 2

Fire Calls:19

Mutual Aid calls: 0

Hwy 93 Calls: 21

Meadview calls: 14

Meadview transports: 11

Meadview Refusals: 3

Meadview Public Assists:2

Meadview coverage days: 18

Meetings/Conferences/Trainings:

- Run Review 8/09/2022,
- MCFOA Meeting on 8/25/2022

District Properties:

- The Dolan Chamber building is on our property, but no one knows who owns the building. There is an agenda item on this.

District Vehicles: We had 2 blowouts on the Meadview ambulance R-435. Had to replace the tires on that truck and B416 is in the shop for injector cups leaking fuel into the cooling system.

Projects in the works:

- We did receive one of our AFG grants for \$15,239 with our portion to pay is \$3458 for a turnout extractor and drying cabinet.
- We are currently operating with 6 fulltime suppression staff, 6 POC's and 6 volunteers.
- The fuel tank project is moving forward now with all the drawings being done and Ken Devault will be getting our permit from the county.
- I am setting up Swift water rescue training and rope rescue training with NAFD we are looking at doing joint training with them also when it comes to vehicle extrication and search and rescue training and live fire training.
- The old chevy pickup truck that we have from state surplus we are giving to Pinion Pine Fire and we are getting a crew cab automatic Type 3 that we can use on wildland assignments as well as here locally in the district.
- We did finally replace the generator for E-431 that the insurance paid for that was stolen when Steve Winn was here.
- There will be a Town Hall meeting on Prop 310 at the Dolan Springs Community Council on October 11 at 11:00 am. President of PFFOA will be here with a formal presentation.
- Updated the board on the progress of the case against the burglar who broke into Station 43.

- Increased emphasis is being placed on LMRFD personnel safety, which was been somewhat neglected under previous administrations. Air packs have been updated, the addition of the new extractor unit and the cascade system will greatly enhance our ability to provide safe and effective turnout gear for employees. We now have a solid group of volunteers with firefighting backgrounds.

Director Koeppen questioned whether there seemed to be a specific reason for Dolan transfer calls continuing to increase. The chief indicated that is pretty normal for conditions lately, and the recent flooding.

Director Braaten requested that when the chief prepares the monthly schedule to please show days when the Meadview station is manned. Chief Bonnee explained that the schedule already shows that information, indicated by the number 43 behind a name.

b. Admin report 1:42 pm: Presented by Glenn Gardner

- Briana is on board and quickly coming up to speed.
- Jen Gardner is working on more work instructions for critical tasks.
- No real progress has been made with our Frontier issues and we have been in touch with a managed service provider as a possible alternative to Frontier. This alternative, along with information Director Aitken will present later in the meeting, will be investigated more closely in the next two weeks.

Director Braaten expressed concern about phones at Station 43 and whether they can be forwarded to the main station. Glenn explained that they can't at this time but both alternatives have solutions that will enable that. Director Aitken mentioned that the Verizon alternative can do it.

Mr. Gardner said the admin office will attempt to use frontier support and see if we can temporarily get the Meadview phone forwarded to the Dolan Springs office.

Mr. Gardner mentioned that the old familiar POTS lines are being phased out and we will soon need to move to newer technology.

c. Financial Report 11:19am: Presented by Steven Rodriguez of James Vincent Group via phone 1:44 pm

- Starting off fiscal year looking as expected. \$14K in tax revenue, year-to-date \$31K. This is expected and we should see a rise in numbers in the next couple of months.
- We billed out \$76K in Wildlands, \$43k over what was budgeted.
- Ambulance revenue over budget by \$13k.
- YTD Miscellaneous income is over budget due to sale of excess equipment.
- From a year-to date perspective, spending is in line with budget, over by about \$8900.00 due to wildland expenses.

Dir Aitken asked Mr. Rodrigues about the Chase Credit card entry on page two of the financial report. Steven will check on it; that card is not active.

Dir. Aitken also said she usually gets direct deposit breakdowns from the chief because she is the clerk but thinks it would be valuable insight for all the directors.

Director Aitken asked Steven what our ford ambulance vehicle lease balance is. \$55k for ambulance, and another \$23k for heart monitor. She asked where this is budgeted, Steven directed her to the info on page 5 of the report. She asked for fully up-to-the-minute numbers on that so the board can consider using funds from the excess equipment sale to

pay off the ambulance lease. Mr. Rodrigues said he will provide.

Director Aitken stated she would e-mail these questions to Mr. Rodrigues so an e-mail record will be available.

Director Koeppen questioned financial report page 2 lack of a payment showing for pension liability. Mr. Rodriguez said that will show in the October report due to the audit currently in progress.

She also asked for clarification on report page 1; how can we be overbudget for YTD expenses when our revenue was more than expected. Mr. Rodriguez pointed out that is mainly due to wildland personnel expenses.

She asked for confirmation of page 11 cash balance and Mr. Rodriguez confirmed.

Director Aitken asked that when the pension fund details are available after the audit is complete, will funds resulting from recent marijuana tax legislation be broken out specifically so the board can see that number? She and Chief Bonnee stated that is where the board had previously decided to apply those funds. Mr. Rodriguez said if the board wants those funds allocated for the purpose, he will do that, and make sure the auditor presents it in the financials.

Director Braaten moved to accept consent agenda at 1:58 pm

Director Aitken seconded the motion

All Directors voted AYE and the motion was carried at 1:58 pm

7) REGULAR SESSION

New Business:

- a. **Discussion and possible action:** Chamber of Commerce Building (Chief Bonnee) 1:59 pm

Chief Bonnee reported that we have found out that the property the building sits on belongs to LMRFD but nobody, including Mohave County has any information about how the building came to exist. We have been told by a couple of old-time residents that the LMRFD does own the building, but no proof of that has been found, so Director Aitken and the Chief are looking into getting the building legally permitted. Right now, we can add to our insurance but without proper ownership documentation in place, they won't cover it. He and Director Aitken said we are continuing work on this. Director Aitken said both County and State permits will be involved. Director Koeppen asked about Mohave County permit cost; the Chief replied we don't know yet. She reiterated that we need to continue the push to get the building legally permitted. Chief Bonnee mentioned that outside vendors using the property is inappropriate at this time until the insurance issues are resolved

Director Aitken moved to have the Chief and admin put a top priority on getting this building issue resolved and the building legally permitted. 2:07 pm

Director Garza seconded the motion

All directors voted AYE and the motion carried at 2:08

- b. **Discussion and possible action:** Station phone service problems (Director Aitken)

Director Aitken discussed a commercial service setup with Verizon service. She noted that this service would get us away from landline dependency. She has a tentative quote from Frontier but it is only for two lines; we'll go back and get a full-blown quote. She stated that the issues we have had are unacceptable and she will work together with admin to determine best steps going forward.

Director Koeppen asked if we will have a plan in time for next meeting. Director Aitken and admin said they will get it on the agenda for next month and mentioned the possibility of a special meeting to move on this if we can get something in place faster.

Director Braaten questioned whether we have Starlink, and could we run wi-fi through Starlink. Mr. Gardner professed ignorance on that and mentioned that the possible Granite Technologies solution does include fallback to cellular internet in the event internet connectivity should be lost.

Director Aitken moved to put this on the October meeting agenda in case we can not get the meeting resolved prior to that.

Director Braaten seconded the motion

All directors voted AYE and the motion carried at 2:17 pm

Discussion and possible action: Proposed by-laws correction (Director Koeppen) 2:18 pm

Page 2 article 1 #6 of the by-laws require updating to current information regarding the Fire Chief designation of the person in charge in the event the Chief is unavailable. The update also includes EMS personnel, who were not mentioned in the previous version. The proposed wording changes showing that the Chief, not admin, will designate person in charge were read to the board.

Director Braaten moved to accept the Bylaws change as read 2:19 pm

Director Karash seconded the motion

All Directors voted AYE and the motion was carried at 2:20 pm

c. Discussion and possible action: Compliance with AG instructions regarding Open Meeting Law violations 2:20 pm

Director Koeppen provided some background on the 16 or 17 complaints filed with the AZ attorney General, mostly concerning AZ open meeting law violations. She read one of the latest letters from the AG indicating that they found no violation and closing out a some of the complaints as groundless. She pointed out the time and expense involved in responding to groundless complaints is a continuing taxpayer burden.

8) CALL to the PUBLIC. 2:25 pm (*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.*)

No attendees from the public wished to speak.

9) CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. 2:25 pm

- Chamber of Commerce building
- Phone issues

10) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATE & LOCATION. (Subject to change, notice/announcement will be posted via District Website, if any changes occur.) **10/20/2022 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Meadview Civic Center (247 Meadview Blvd, Meadview, AZ 86444)**

Director Aitken moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 pm
Director Braaten seconded the motion
All directors voted AYE and the motion was carried at 2:25 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Glenn Gardner
Minutes signed/posted by: Tim Bonnee

Date: 09/26/22

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)