



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 **11/17/2022** at **1:00 p.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, were subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items were set for possible action.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Koeppen called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

2) ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS 1:00 pm

Director Braaten did not attend
Director Karash present
Director Garza present
Director Koeppen present
Director Aitken 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 Karash led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

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

No Executive Session was scheduled for this meeting.

5) MINUTES

10/20/22 Regular Minutes 1:03 pm

All members indicated they had reviewed the minutes and had no corrections to submit.

Director Garza moved to accept the minutes as submitted.

Director Aitken seconded the motion.

Directors Garza, Aitken, Koeppen and Karash voted AYE and the minutes were approved at **1:03 pm**

6) CONSENT AGENDA

a. Chief Report: Fire Chief Tim Bonnee reviewed the chief's report. **1:05 pm**

Run Report:

Amr Transports: **0**

Med Calls: **97**

Dolan Transports: **84**

Dolan Refusals: **5**

Dolan Public Assists: **4**

Fire Calls: **22**
Mutual Aid calls: **0**
Hwy 93 Calls: **25**
Meadview calls: **12**
Meadview transports: **9**
Meadview Refusals: **3**
Meadview Public Assists: **2**
Meadview coverage days: **17**

Meetings/Conferences/Trainings:

Run Review: 10/11/2022

District Properties: Nothing new to report

District Vehicles:

- R-415, the Chevy ambulance, was having issues with electrical and shutting down. It ended up having to go to the Chevy dealership for repair as the main electrical fuse and control box were fried and needed to be replaced. The dealer couldn't get parts in a timely manner but Chris at EVR did locate and procure them. When parts were replaced, tech discovered three blown relays, which led to the discovery that some previous owner had wired the rig's auto-eject plug incorrectly into the main wiring harness rather than the starter/ignition system. The tech removed faulty wiring and wired it correctly; the rig is operating fine.
- There is a spare rig sitting in the lower bay in Meadview that LMRFD purchased from Bullhead for \$1000, originally intended for volunteer use. Since the volunteers have transitioned to brush trucks, the Chief has put this spare unit up for auction twice with no offers, but Northern AZ Fire District wants to purchase it and they have offered \$2200.

Projects in the works:

- We have received our turnout extractor and dryer and have hooked it up and it is now in service. We have received the funds from FEMA for the extractor and dryer.
- As most of you know, Prop 310 did not pass. With that said, we are still moving forward with business as usual. We still have our communities to serve and provide excellent service too. Chief has spoken with the President of PFFA who says there are contingency plans in place, but they are not releasing details at this time.
- All equipment for the Granite phone service transition has been delivered and they are now scheduled to come install it all.
- We are planning the annual LMRFD Awards banquet/Christmas party on December 18 to show appreciation for our crews and volunteers for all the hard work they have done this past year with such limited resources.
- Fuel system update: Glenn and I are still trying to get the perfect site plan condensed down small enough to turn into the county for the permit.
- We will be having live fire training and vehicle extrication training towards the end of November or first week of December.

Director Koeppen followed up the Chief's comments concerning Prop 310s failure to pass with a historical quote from Joseph Stalin, who said "It doesn't matter who votes; it matters who counts the votes." She said LMRFD's situation is not new, and the organization will continue the fight for resources.

Chief Bonnee added that the negative Mohave County vote was a big factor in 310 not passing. He said in talking to people at town halls and other events, a large part of the complaints he hears are about the tourists who cause most of our accidents and most of the time do not pay their bills for the service, and Prop 310 would have helped that situation.

b. Financial Report: 1:15 pm Presented by Gabe Buldra of James Vincent Group.

Mr. Buldra prefaced the report with news that JVG has, in the last three weeks, been approached by three other fire districts who have either gone insolvent or are verging on insolvency and were counting heavily on Prop 310 for a badly needed financial boost. We are not alone in our disappointment with Arizona voters.

The report includes:

- Revenue for October was \$191,373, which is under budget by \$48,435, primarily due to timing of property tax collection.
- Tax revenue for October is \$150,445, under budget by \$61,488. Our budget is based on historical data, and the tax revenue does not flow into our account at the same rate every year, so this is normal, and he expects to see that difference even out when the November numbers are in.
- Non-tax revenue for October is \$40,929 which is over budget by \$13,054, which includes the \$15000 extractor grant.
- November expenses totaled \$121,832, which is over budget by \$29,063. Some are due to personnel costs, in large part due to our workers' comp payment. Looking at YTD personnel expenses, we are still \$8,000 under budget.
- Vehicle maintenance was over \$8500 due to the vagaries of chance and the extreme environment in which our vehicles operate. The expensive brush truck repair ran this expense up considerably this month.
- The professional fees were for grant writing assistance and brought in over \$15,000.
- YTD total revenue is \$462,813 which is \$19,108 under budget
 - Tax revenue is \$55,075 under Budget YTD
 - Misc. Revenue is over budget by \$38,606, mainly due to the sale of the excess Tender.
- YTD expense is \$484,016 which is \$49,029 over budget
 - Vehicle maintenance is \$28,403 over budget
 - Vehicle fuel cost is \$12,905 over budget

Director Koeppen asked if JVG sees any improvement in fuel prices in our future and Gabe responded that according to all evidence he has seen, what we are seeing today may be the new normal.

Director Koeppen asked about the methodology for vehicle maintenance budgeting. Mr. Buldra explained that it is based on historical cost data and can only be used as a guide since historical data can't predict unexpected additional expenses. Chief Bonnee added that the historical data is also somewhat skewed because previous Chiefs did not keep the vehicles maintained, which Mr. Buldra agreed with.

Director Koeppen asked for an explanation of the three LMRFD bank accounts. Mr. Buldra explained that there is a Control account that is required by statute, a second account for the Chief's card and a third account for admin. Director Koeppen expressed concern because the admin account has Karen Jackson's name on it. Mr. Buldra responded that the name was associated with the account as a contact when it was first set up, and although Karen Jackson has been totally separated from this account, getting the bank to cooperate with a name change has proven difficult if not impossible.

Mr. Buldra wrapped up the report by saying he is proud of the progress LMRFD has made after being in such bad financial shape such a relatively short time ago. He said with LMRFD's strict financial controls in place, we are in better shape than at least one of the large districts he is familiar with down in the Tucson area. He said he is not worried about LMRFD because of the serious emphasis the Board puts on maintaining LMRFD's financial position.

Director Aitken asked about the balance on the leased ambulance and heart monitor, Gabe says the remaining ambulance balance is \$40,958, and the heart monitor balance is at \$26,000. The original cost was \$135,000 back in November of 2018. He and the Chief are analyzing the best path and whether we would be better off in replacing the leased unit. With maintenance on the unit being so high, the best path is probably to pay it off, sell it and procure a newer, more reliable unit.

Director Karash asked where the increased revenue money (over \$367,000) is, and Mr. Buldra explained that about \$180,000 is cash money in the bank. About \$170,000 is investment in capital assets. Other smaller amounts are scattered in accounts receivable, property tax, ambulance revenue and other areas.

Director Koeppen called for motion to accept the consent agenda at 1:28 pm.

Director Aitken moved to accept

Director Karash seconded the motion

Directors Aitken, Karash, Garza and Koeppen all voted AYE and the consent agenda was approved at 1:28 pm

7) REGULAR SESSION

New Business:

- a) **Discussion and possible action:** Response from JVG concerning ambulance lease vs. purchase comparison (Director Aitken) **1:29 pm**

Mr. Buldra explained several options, the first one being to pay off this unit, sell it and buy a newer, more reliable one. This leased unit is our most expensive to maintain and operate and ultimately this will be the next unit we need to replace. He and the Chief are analyzing the best path from a cost perspective. They will be looking into whether LMRFD can get a full-fledged lease agreement, but because our vehicles get such high mileage, it isn't clear right now whether that is a viable option.

Director Aitken recommended the agenda item be carried over to next month and discussion continue as more information comes in.

Mr. Buldra pointed out the current long lead times for both new and used equipment.

Director Karash pointed out the need for a second ambulance to keep our CON (Certificate of necessity).

The Chief said the ambulance we bought for cash two years ago has been a good performer and reasonable to maintain. Lead time for new ambulances is close to four years out.

Director Koeppen confirmed that this item will be carried over to next month for further discussion at **1:39 pm**.

- b) **Discussion and possible action:** Review, critique, discussion, and possible acceptance of annual financial audit presented at October board meeting by Brian Richards of BDR CPA's. (Director Karash) **1:40 pm**

In reference to Page 16 item D of the report, Director Karash asked if LMRFD invests money in the AZ State Treasurer's local government pool or any of the other investment avenues mentioned in this section. Mr. Buldra said we have our two cash accounts, but no investments.

Director Karash asked for confirmation that the recently approved LMRFD budget has been submitted to the County Board of Supervisors and Mr. Buldra confirmed that it has.

Director Koeppen pointed out the comment in the report that says no new policies, etc have been put in place

that affects the outcome of the audit. She reminded the board that consistency is going to be important going forward and what that means is how it was done last year is exactly how it was done this year, and she is very pleased.

Director Koeppen asked about how we handle depreciation of capital assets and Mr. Buldra explained that depreciation estimates are against an anticipated lifespan. Example: an ambulance purchased for \$100,000 would show 20% depreciation per year for five years.

Director Koeppen asked about retirement government pension plans, disclosures used to determine long-term liability and Mr. Buldra explained that is required by the state.

Director Koeppen mentioned the positive comment in the report about effective employee cooperation and said this has been a problem in the past with LMRFD reluctance to disclose and she is pleased with the change.

Director Aitken moved for a motion to approve the acceptance of the financial audit

Director Garza seconded the motion

Directors Aitken, Karash, Garza and Koeppen all voted AYE and the motion was approved. 1:46pm

c) Discussion and possible action: Annual awards banquet by Chief Bonnee 1:47 pm

Chief began with noting that LMR has not done a banquet for its employees and volunteers since he's been here, but that he's seen departments like Kingman fire and Northern Arizona fire dist. do one. He continued by saying he thinks it's a great opportunity to show appreciation because he feels that we have good employees and volunteers who don't receive the recognition they deserve. He continued with it will cost roughly \$750.00-\$800.00 minus the awards which he will pay for out of pocket. Chief Bonnee explained he would like to make this a yearly thing. Director Aitken agreed that it is a good idea that the staff do not always get to hear the appreciation that's given. Director Garza also agreed it's a good idea that can boost morale but expressed some concern over the limit on awards. Chief explained that he has checked with JVG and we have a \$2,000 allowance for things as such. Director Aitken explained that the Chief does so much that since we have the allowance the Department will pay for the awards as well as the banquet.

Director Aitken moved for a motion to approve the department paying for the banquet as well as awards

Director Garza seconded the motion

Directors Aitken, Karash, Garza and Koeppen all voted AYE and the motion was approved. 1:53pm

d) Discussion and possible action: Fire academy funding for employees by Chief Bonnee 1:53pm

The chief started by in the past he had spoken to Director Aitken about using \$5,000.00 to send one of our EMTs to paramedic school but he has since moved on to another department and did not use the funds. The Chief continued by asking for the board to approve the \$5,000.00 again to send two of our employees through the fire academy. He stated that we will only pay the \$2,500 course fee for them both, but they will be responsible for their other expenses. Director Koeppen asked if all our Firefighters are EMTs or if that was state mandated as well as when this will happen, to which was explained they would start the book work in December most likely and attend the skills in Texas in April or May and that all our paid firefighters are EMTs or Paramedics, but not all volunteers.

Director Aitken moved to approve paying for two staff to attend the fir academy

Director Karash seconded the motion

All directors voted AYE and the motion was approved at **1:56pm**

c) Action: Swearing in of new Board Members: Of the two members Susan Nelson was present and sworn in at 2:00pm. David Johnson was absent and will be sworn in as soon as the board contacts him.

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).* **2:03pm**

Charlotte P. from Dolan Springs wanted to know if the chamber building will be listed as an asset in the next audit. She also said that she thinks it could be a good idea to sell tickets to the banquet to allow the people of our area to express their appreciation, as well as offering to volunteer at the banquet if needed. Mr. Buldra explained that the building was already insured and viewed as an asset. Betty M. from Dolan Springs also extended her gratitude. Betty M From Meadview wanted to express her gratitude to the department as she has called them on multiple occasions, and she was impressed with the response time and care that was given. Bill T. from Dolan Springs also wanted to add his appreciation to the department and explained that while he does show his appreciation as often as he can he figured he'd come to a board meeting to let the board know. He also stated that while he knows the Department is there for him, he is here for us in turn.

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.

10) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATE & LOCATION: (Subject to change, notice/announcement will be posted via District Website, if any changes occur.) **12/15/2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Meadview Civic Association 247 Meadview BLVD, Meadview AZ 86444**

Director Aitken moved to close the meeting at **2:13 pm**

Director Garza seconded the motion

Motion carried and meeting was closed at **2:13pm**

Prepared by: Briana Thompson

Date: 11/23/2022

Posted by: Jen Gardner

Date: 11/23/2022

6:00pm

Approved by LMRFD Board on:

Date:

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 Post Office (250 Pueblo Dr. Meadview, AZ 86444)
LMRFD Website (www.lmrfd.org)

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