



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 **03/21/2024** 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, will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items are set for possible action.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Koeppen at 1:00 pm.

2) ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Directors Garza, Nelson, Reh Bower, and Chairperson Koeppen- PRESENT

Director Nelson is participating remotely.

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

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

No executive session occurred during this meeting.

5) MINUTES

a. 02/14/24 Regular minutes

Motion to accept the 02/14/2024 minutes as presented: Director Reh Bower

Seconded: Director Garza

Vote: Directors Garza, Koeppen, Nelson, and Reh Bower- AYE

6) CONSENT AGENDA

a. **Chief Report:** presented by Chief Bonnee

(Notwithstanding subsection H of this section, the chief administrator, presiding officer or a member of a public body may present a brief summary of current events without listing in the agenda the specific matters to be summarized, if:

- 1. The summary is listed on the agenda. 2. The public body does not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action at that meeting on any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action. (A.R.S. 38-431.02.K.)*

Run Report:

AMR Transports: 0

EMS Calls: 71

Dolan Transports: 52

Fire Calls: 7

Mutual Aid Calls: 0

Highway 93 Calls: 15

Meadview Calls: 4

Meadview Coverage Days: 17

Meetings/Conferences/Trainings:

- Run Review
- MCFOA

District Vehicles:

- The new ambulance was received and placed in service
- One of the engines was vandalized
- The Ford ambulance has a blown motor, which is discussed in item B of New Business

Projects in the Works:

- Two FEMA grant applications were submitted, one for a new water tender and another for new heart monitors. Both grants total over \$700,000.
 - Chief Bonnee explained that LMRFD is currently operating with fewer heart monitors than is appropriate by DHS standards. It is likely the District will receive the grant for the new equipment.
- LMRFD also submitted an application for the SAFER (Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant, which will total \$1.5 million for three years. This grant is to staff the Meadview station.
- Due to the costly vandalism, a security system will be discussed in item F of New Business
- Administration uncovered important annexation information, which says that a lot of Mead City may be eligible to be annexed into the District.
- Two firefighters are being sent to a Rope Technician Class for certification. This will bring the total of certified employees up to five, which will help with rescues and Wildland Deployments.
- Wildland season is about to start. The rigs have had some repairs done to make sure they're travel-ready in case of a deployment.

b. **Financial Report: was presented by Gabe Buldra of JVG**

Mr. Bulda will speak with the Chief the day after this meeting to discuss the District's budget. Also, there has been a 5.66% increase in assessed value. That will equate to an additional \$43,000 in tax revenue. Next year, however, the District may collect another \$100,000 in revenue due to a cap increase.

Revenue for the month of February is **\$90,147**, which is over budget by **\$40,713**

- Tax Revenue for February is **\$41,606**, which is over budget by **\$19,647**
- Non-Tax Revenue for February is **\$48,541**, which is over budget by **\$21,066**
 - Non-Tax Revenue was driven by Ambulance Service Revenue which was **\$17,961** for February

Expenses for February totaled **\$140,677**, which is over budget by **\$31,746**

- Vehicles and Equipment Expense is **\$24,103** over budget which was driven by repairs to Ambulance 1193

YTD Total Revenue is **\$1,079,114**, which is **\$108,084** over budget.

- YTD Tax Revenue is over budget by **\$36,207**

YTD Expense is **\$1,050,976**, which is over budget by **\$170,815**

- Around **\$70,000** of this overage is due to Wildland deployments, which is reimbursed
- Another **\$70,000** is because of vehicle maintenance.

Director Koeppen was interested to know how the bank was chosen for the commercial loan used to purchase the new ambulance. Mr. Buldra explained that Zions Bancorporation is the parent company of National Bank of Arizona, which the District has a business relationship with. They had very competitive rates compared to other banks and one of the easiest banks to deal with from an administrative perspective.

The ambulance loan is paid annually at approx. \$26,000. Around \$8,000 is interest, which will drop each year until payoff.

Director Garza wanted to know if the District was in the green by around \$20,000. Mr. Buldra said that the District was originally projected to be about \$90,000 in the positive, but vehicle maintenance has eaten into it. Mr. Buldra expressed that the District has a healthy fund balance and the only area of concern is the vehicles.

Director Nelson mentioned that there has been additional revenue brought in from private contracts from property owners out on Highway 93, but it is not reflected in this year's budget. It will be next year.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda: Director Reh Bower

Seconded: Director Nelson

Vote: Directors Garza, Koeppen, Nelson, and Reh Bower- AYE

7) REGULAR SESSION

Old Business:

- a. **Discussion and possible action:** Update on giving battalion chief authority to approve payment of invoices when chief is not on duty (Director Nelson)

Director Nelson had spoken with Mr. Buldra about whether it will be possible to allow the battalion chief to be added to the approval queue using the District's current setup using Bill.com. That appears to be the case, and it is still her opinion that it is in the District's best interest to allow it. She will draft a policy to present to the Board at a later time.

No action taken

- b. **Discussion and possible action:** Update - Posting all AG communications on the LMRFD website (Director Nelson)

Administrator Gardner updated the Board about a new page on the website where AG communications will be posted.

No action taken.

New Business:

- a. **Discussion and possible action:** Establishment of three-minute time limit for speakers during Call to the Public. (Director Koeppen)

Director Koeppen stated that this rule has been established across many fire districts.

Motion to implement a rule that states speakers during the call to the public shall be limited to approximately three minutes:

Director Koeppen

Seconded: Director Reh Bower

Vote: Directors Garza, Koeppen, Nelson, and Reh Bower- AYE

- b. **Discussion and possible action:** Ford Ambulance with blown motor. (Chief Bonnee)

The quote for the new motor for the ambulance totals \$28,801.80, which includes labor. The District is still making payments on this ambulance. The fire chief expressed that he believes the District does not have much of a choice but to fix the ambulance at this time. The motor will be available for install after April 1st and it will take less than a week for the repairs. The new motor will also have a two-year warranty.

After discussion, the Board decided that the District and the citizens may suffer if the ambulance is not brought back into commission and the cost, although high, is unavoidable.

Motion to accept the repair of the Ford Ambulance for the cost of \$28,801.80: Director Garza

Seconded: Director Reh Bower

Vote: Directors Garza, Koeppen, Nelson, and Reh Bower- AYE

c. Discussion and possible action: Loan Agreement for new ambulance (Chief Bonnee)

This is the same loan agreement for the brand new ambulance that was presented before. However, due to inaction by the District's attorney, the District missed the deadline to submit the paperwork to the bank. The bank is allowing the District to resign the paperwork, but this is the last time they will permit it.

Motion to resign the ambulance loan agreement for a seven year contract: Director Garza

Seconded: Director Nelson

Vote: Directors Garza, Koeppen, Nelson, and Reh Bower- AYE

d. Discussion and possible action: Appointment of Ambulance Billing Contract Review Committee. (Director Koeppen)

Director Koeppen would like to establish a committee that would review the three ambulance billing contracts and potential future contracts. The committee will make no decisions. They will present their findings to the Board.

The committee members will be Director Koeppen, Director Reh Bower, citizen Gordon Johnson, and citizen Douglas Braaten.

Motion to establish a committee to review the ambulance billing contracts: Director Reh Bower

Seconded: Director Nelson

Vote: Directors Garza, Koeppen, Nelson, and Reh Bower- AYE

e. Discussion and possible action: Feasibility of holding open forum sessions for the Chief to interact with the public after regular board meetings (Director Reh-Bower)

Director Reh Bower spoke with the District attorney about this topic. He advised that it would be legal as long as the discussions were limited to service-related issues and not policies. It would occur at the fire chief's discretion. Two board members may be in attendance, but no more.

Some limitations were discussed, such as time limits. In general, the Board believed that holding a public forum is a good idea and they support it.

No action taken.

f. Discussion and possible action: Safety/security system for Station 41. (Chief Bonnee)

About three weeks prior, some firefighters' personal vehicles were vandalized. Some damage totaled over \$5,000. The damage included sugar in gas tanks, punctured tires, and busted windows. Sugar was also poured into the fuel tank of one of the fire engines. The District's insurance did not cover the damage to the employees' vehicles. The fire chief is requesting permission to obtain bids for installing fences with electric gates to secure employee vehicles, along with cameras.

Motion to allow the fire chief to obtain bids for the installation of security systems due to vandalism: Director Reh Bower

Seconded: Director Garza

Vote: Directors Garza, Koeppen, Nelson, and Reh Bower- AYE

g. Discussion and possible action: Annexation requests (Chief Bonnee)

There are four new annexation requests, one of which opens up several more properties for annexation once it is accepted into the District.

Motion to approve the four annexation requests: Director Nelson

Seconded: Director Garza

Vote: Directors Garza, Koeppen, Nelson, and Reh Bower- 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).*

Gilbert of Kingman, Arizona- He commented that it was appropriate for the time limit for the Call to the Public was appropriate. There are currently some state House and Senate bills that are considering changes to the Open Meeting Laws, so that is something that the District should be aware of. He also attended a Western Arizona Fire Marshals Association meeting on Monday, and is letting the District know that they will be offering more training opportunities in the future. One training of note included arson investigation for vehicles and properties

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.) **04/18/2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Meadview Civic Center (247 Meadview Blvd, Meadview, AZ 86444).**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:14 PM: Director Garza

Seconded: Director Reh Bower

Vote: Directors Garza, Koeppen, Nelson, and Reh Bower- AYE

MINUTES prepared by: Jen Gardner

Date: 03/25/2024

MINUTES signed/posted by: Jen Gardner

Date: 03/25/2024 9:30 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 Post Office (250 Pueblo Dr. Meadview, AZ 86444)
LMRFD Website (www.lmrfd.org)