



Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District



Phone: (928) 767-3300

16126 Pierce Ferry Road or P.O. Box 611
Dolan Springs AZ, 86441

Fax: (928) 767-3301

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 11/21/2024 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

Director Koeppen called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2) ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Director Geisler – present

Director Reh-Bower – present

Director Nelson – present

Director Koeppen – present

Director Garza – absent due to military deployment

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

At 1:01 pm, Director Koeppen led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of fallen first responders and military personnel.

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 is scheduled for this meeting.

5) MINUTES

a. 10/17/24 regular minutes

None of the directors had any changes or additions to point out. That being the case, Director Reh-Bower moved to accept the October meeting minutes as written. 1:03 pm

Director Geisler seconded the motion

All directors present voted AYE, the motion carried, and the October meeting minutes were accepted as written at 1:03 pm.

6) CONSENT AGENDA

a. Chief Report: to be 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.)*

Chief Bonnee noted that he has changed the format of his report to better show the bigger picture and include year-to-date numbers.

October numbers:

Total monthly calls: 113	Year-to-date: 1021
Dolan Springs calls: 79	Year-to-date: 918
October Medical calls: 89	Year-to-date: 733
October Fire calls: 22	Year-to-date: 152
Meadview calls: 7	Year-to-date: 87

Meetings, training, conferences: MCFOA meeting, run reviews

District Properties:

- The Chamber of Commerce building has been cleaned up and the old Chamber signs will be coming down. Plans to paint the building inside and out are in the works.
- There has recently been a problem with people parking vehicles in front of the bay doors at Station 42, leaving the crews unable to get apparatus out when needed. NO PARKING signs will be going up at that location soon. The Mohave County Sheriff's Office will also be issuing citations to vehicles found parked there.
- The Chief is renting a bobcat and a trash roll-off and the crews will be cleaning up the burn pile area at Station 41 and clearing the area around the helicopter pad to make it accessible for the ambulance gurney.

Projects in the works:

- The 2024 AFG grant season has opened, and we are working on a grant for a water tender and another for power gurneys for the back of all the ambulances. Chief and Battalion Chief have found a USDA grant for up to \$5.5M for a new station and they are getting the info needed to apply for that one as well.
- The Policy Manual update has been finished and copies e-mailed to all board members for review. Approval and adoption of the changes will be an agenda item at the next board meeting. This was a tremendous undertaking because there were literally hundreds of necessary changes and/or updates.
- Updates and changes to the Standard Operating Guidelines Manual will begin soon.
- We lost two people to another fire department; Chief and Battalion Chief will be interviewing one potential replacement next Tuesday.
- Recent allegations posted on social media by an LMRFD hater claiming that an LMRFD ambulance was not on a call, driving erratically and at 95 miles per hour proved to be false in all respects. The ambulance was indeed on a call (the hater can't hear all communications with dispatch). Our four ambulances are governed at 86 mph, 83 mph, 82 mph and 80 mph. The individual who posted the false information has done the same many times over the past five years and there was some discussion about possible legal avenues to make them stop. Director Koeppen said she will touch base with the attorney and see if anything can be done.

Chief's report concluded at 1:25 pm.

b. Financial Report: Presented by Gabe Buldra of JVG T 1:26 pm.

Key Points:

- Revenue for the month of October is \$321,115, which is over budget by \$32,060.
 - Tax revenue for October is \$285,054, which is over budget by \$25,165.
 - Non-tax revenue for October is \$36,061, which is over budget by \$6,895.
 - Ambulance revenue is over budget by \$7,062.

- Expenses for October totaled \$143,803, which is over budget by \$17,761.
 - Buildings and is over budget by \$9,433 due to higher than anticipated station purchases.
 - Vehicles and Equipment is over budget by \$6,590 due to higher than anticipated vehicle maintenance costs.

- YTD Total Revenue is \$571,516, which is \$24,476 over budget
- YTD Expense is \$580,954, which is \$61,517 over budget.

Director Koeppen asked for more information on personnel expenses and Mr. Buldra gave her a quick breakdown of all the different costs attributed to personnel expenses.

Director Reh-Bower asked whether LMRFD should see fuel expenses come down. Mr. Buldra and the Chief both asserted that prices have already dropped by over a dollar a gallon since the election, and they are continuing to drop.

Further discussion ensued during which Mr. Buldra provided guidance for the directors on several finer points in the report and the financial session was concluded at 1:40 pm.

Director Nelson moved to accept the consent agenda in its entirety as presented.

Director Reh-Bower seconded the motion.

All four directors voted AYE, the motion carried, and the consent agenda was accepted as presented.

7) REGULAR SESSION

Old Business:

a. Discussion and possible action: Deep cleaning Station 41 (Director Koeppen)

Director Koeppen reported that her research has led only to companies that charge many times what LMRFD can pay due to the requirements for licensed, insured and bonded providers. She contacted county health offices in an effort to get more positive information and got no return calls.

Chief Bonnee added that an additional requirement for HIPAA trained cleaners onsite makes it almost impossible to find an appropriate company. He and Battalion Chief Pagliero have discussed this and the crews have deep-cleaned the stations and are keeping up a cleaning regimen that will give us the best possible protection against the spread of infectious diseases within the firehouses.

After more discussion, it was decided that the fire crews will continue with regular deep cleaning, going to length beyond what a cleaning company would do, and the district will be better off doing it ourselves.

This item closed at 1:49 pm.

New Business:

a. **Discussion and possible action:** Borrowing request (Chief Bonnee}

Chief Bonnee introduced the annual borrowing request, which comes up each year. He explained for the new board members that it is an open borrowing request for \$250,000 which is there for emergencies but has never been used to date. Since it must be signed by the board chairperson, it comes up for vote each year.

Director Reh-Bower moved to approve the \$250,00 borrowing request.

Director Nelson seconded the motion.

All four directors voted AYE, the motion carried and the borrowing request for this year was approved.

b. **Discussion and possible action:** Evaluation Report (Director Koeppen)

Director Koeppen reported that she has reviewed the chief evaluations she received, and all indicated very good to excellent ratings. The reviews indicate that the board fully approves of the Chief's performance and fully supports him in his efforts to rebuild and improve the Fire District. This informational item concluded at 1:54 pm.

c. **Discussion and possible action:** 2024 Audit selection (Director Koeppen)

Director Koeppen led a discussion on auditor selection and LMRFD expectations concerning audit reporting. It was decided that next month, the board will call Brian Richards (this year's auditor) with questions they have prepared by then.

Director Nelson moved to prepare their questions and ask them in a call to BD Richards at the December meeting, then approve the budget the following month.

Director Geisler seconded the motion.

All four directors voted AYE, the motion carried and the subject was closed until next month's meeting.

This item concluded at 2:13 pm

d. **Discussion and possible action:** Audit report questions (Directors Koeppen and Reh-Bower)

This item was tabled for next month's meeting if questions still remain by that time.

e. **Discussion and action:** Tribute to former board member Douglas Braaten:

Director Koeppen and director Reh-Bower both read statements they prepared about Douglass's long, diligent and courageous service to the Meadview community, as well as his service as an LMRFD board member. As one of the few who stepped up in the midst of a very contentious situation to successfully save the failing Fire District, as well as his calm manner and ability to get things done, Douglas Braaten will be long remembered by the LMRFD community.

This item concluded at 2:17 pm

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).*

Glenn Gardner, a Dolan Springs resident, spoke for a moment to remind the board that they will need to keep in mind

that the audit under discussion was a process audit rather than a fiscal audit, so the auditor may not be able, within the scope of the contract he signed with LMRFD, to answer questions about numbers provided by our organization.

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.) **12/19/2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Meadview Civic Center (247 Meadview Blvd, Meadview, AZ 86444).**

Director Koeppen closed the meeting at 2:20 pm.

MINUTES prepared by: Glenn Gardner
POSTED BY signed/posted by: Jen Gardner

Date: 11/25/2024
Date: 11/26/2024 3:40pm

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)