



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 12/19/2024 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Meadview Civic Association, 247 Meadview Blvd, Meadview AZ. 86444.

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 Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

2) ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Director Nelson – Present

Director Reh-Bower – Present

Director Geisler - Present

Director Koeppen – Present via phone

Director Garza – Present via phone

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE *(To honor those who serve our Country and within Public Safety and to those we've lost)* 1:11 pm

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 was scheduled for this meeting.

5) MINUTES

a. 09/19/2024 Regular minutes

Director Nelson called for additions or corrections to the September meeting minutes and Director Koeppen requested one addition indicating that all the board members had been invited to read all the evaluations at their convenience.

Director Nelson called for a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, with the one change requested by Director Koeppen.

Director Reh-Bower moved to accept the 11/21/24 regular minutes, with the change requested by Director Koeppen.

Director Geisler seconded the motion.

Director Nelson called for a vote to accept the minutes at 1:12 pm.

All directors voted AYE, and the minutes were accepted, incorporating the statement Director Koeppen requested.

6) CONSENT AGENDA

a. Chief Report: Presented by Fire 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 reported that the last month's activities included:

AMR Transports: 0

Med Calls: 105

Dolan Transports: 87

Fire Calls: 22

Mutual Aid Calls: 2

Hwy 93 calls: 28

Meadview Calls: 15

Meadview Transports: 11

Chief Bonnee attended run reviews and the 11/12/24 MCFOA meeting.

There was nothing new to report concerning District properties or vehicles.

Projects in the works:

- We submitted another grant application for a water tender under the FEMA AFG grant. Chief submitted another one for three heart monitors just this morning. The three heart monitors awarded under a previous grant have been ordered and will be in-house soon. The older model monitors LMRFD currently has are reaching end-of-life, so these grants are important to the organization.
- The annual LMRFD awards ceremony went well, even though personnel had to come and go due to a fire and other emergency calls. Chief gave a huge shout out to Susan Nelson and Ellen Reh-Bower and both their spouses for their help in setting up the gathering.
- The Chief will be interviewing two potential POCs who have submitted applications. We have added one full-timer, who is in paramedic school right now. Currently hired as an EMT, he will transition to paramedic when he graduates.
- The Chief and Battalion Chief will be starting to review and update the LMRFD Standard Operating Guidelines this month.

The report ended at 1:18 pm

b. Financial Report: presented by Stephen Rodriguez of JVG

Stephen Rodriguez of JVG presented the monthly financial report via phone.

Key points from this month's report include:

- Revenue for the month of November is \$208,602, which is over budget by \$16,092.
 - Tax Revenue for November is \$155,048, which is under budget by \$8,295.
 - Non-tax revenue for November is \$53,554, which is over budget by \$24,388.
 - Ambulance revenue is over budget by \$14,989.
 - Miscellaneous income is over budget by \$8,968. Director Reh-Bower questioned this, and Chief Bonnee explained that this miscellaneous income is from a fire services contract negotiated for a property on Hwy 93

that was not otherwise eligible for annexation into the fire district.

- Expenses for November totaled \$117,794, which is over budget by \$11,119
 - Vehicles and equipment is over budget by \$4,586 due to higher than anticipated vehicle maintenance costs.
 - Personnel cost is over budget by \$6,215 due to higher than anticipated wages and OT.
- YTD Total revenue is \$780,118, which is \$40,586 over budget
- YTD Expense is \$695,254, which is \$69,142 over budget.

Director Reh-Bower inquired about the \$14,000 vehicle maintenance cost for November, and Chief pointed out that the \$14k included a \$9,000 engine rebuild for one of the trucks, making the monthly number jump up. She asked about a charge to wildlands and the Chief explained that was for one of the rigs, needed to pass wildlands inspection. She asked about a small charge for elections, Chief explained that even though we didn't have an election, the county still charges an election fee.

Director Nelson asked whether JVG projects that expenses and revenue will trend toward evening out, Mr. Rodriguez and the Chief both indicated that the vehicle expenses are dropping so that should be the case. The session closed at 1:27pm.

Director Nelson called for a motion to accept the consent agenda.

Director Geisler moved to accept the consent agenda as given.

Director Reh-Bower seconded the motion.

All five board members voted AYE, the motion carried, and the consent agenda was approved at 1:28 pm.

7) REGULAR SESSION

Old Business

a. Discussion and Possible Action: Revisit 2024 Audit (Director Koeppen)

Brian Richards of BDR joined the meeting via phone to present findings from this year's audit as required by Title 48. He said the audit went smoothly, with LMRFD and JVG were most accommodating in providing him with the information and evidence he needed to see. He said he found no deficiencies in internal controls and awarded our fire district the highest opinion he could give. He concluded the report at 1:33 pm.

Having met with Mr. Richards and JVG since the last meeting, Director Reh-Bower presented her report on the answers to questions generated about this audit during the last board meeting. Recognizing that the questions were oriented toward financials rather than processes, she redirected the focus toward JVG, and the Chief set up a phone conference with JVG, which she and Director Geisler attended.

Questions about assets being down were attributed mostly to high vehicle maintenance and the extremely low allowable charges from Medicare. Other questions centered around the definition of certain items in the financials, which JVG explained in more detail. Net position is down due to the increase in operational expenses, plus the new ambulance purchase and the cash balance being down. As the meeting with JVG progressed, it became clear that seeming inconsistencies noted by the board were caused by differences in General Accounting Practices vs. government accounting requirements, which result in different bottom line numbers.

She said Chief Bonnee reported that collections on our total amount billed is at 24%. This compares well with Mohave Fire at 18%, Bullhead city at 23% and AMR at 28% so we are actually doing well at 24% collection rate. The report concluded at 1:38 pm.

Director Nelson moved to accept the 2024 BDR audit with minor corrections as noted in discussion.

Director Reh-Bower seconded the motion. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held. All five directors voted AYE, the motion carried, and the report was accepted at 1:40 pm.

New Business

a. Discussion and Possible Action: Reputation management (Director Geisler)

Director Geisler brings marketing expertise to the board and spoke in relation to the constant fight to maintain LMRFD's reputation in light of the dedicated few naysayers who continually use social media to attack and spread misinformation about the district. She is thinking LMRFD needs to involve the community more in what the fire district is doing so they can see the efforts, see the progress, and understand the obstacles LMRFD still faces every day. Discussion ensued as the directors together brought up opportunities such as open houses, attending more community events with more promotional, educational and other helpful materials in hand.

Chief Bonnee said he thinks more outreach is a great idea and he fully supports any efforts in that direction. He pointed out that he does attend or send someone to all the events that staffing allows, but being shorthanded sometimes makes that impossible since emergency calls take precedence. He also mentioned that a lot of events are happening that the fire department doesn't find out about until after they happen. He said if he is notified in advance, he can make arrangements to have LMRFD represented at most gatherings.

He said the firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics all love to interact with the public in a positive way when they are able. He also gave a huge shout out to the THREE BUSLOADS of kids who showed up at Station 41 caroling for the crew on duty. It gave the staff an unexpected lift and they loved it.

More discussion centered around ways and means of building a better relationship with the community, during which the Chief mentioned that we did participate in the Kingman Parade of Lights this year and we took second place. He said when he first started with the district, they used to do parades here in Dolan, and Director Nelson said that was because the insurance company balked at the idea. The Chief is thinking more in terms of having our own parade of lights, much like Kingman's where the floats or stalls are stationary, and the people walk by to look. He added that they used to have events like pancake breakfasts that brought people to the station, and that's another possibility. Several seemingly good ideas floated to the top, with Director Geisler urging that an event calendar be created and kept up to date so the public can see what's coming up. The calendar should be easily visible on Facebook and our LMRFD website.

Director Geisler moved to press ahead with working on a Reputation Management Committee, further development to occur at the January board meeting.

Director Reh-Bower seconded the motion.

Director Nelson called for a voice vote and all five directors voted AYE. The motion carried and further development will take place in January. 1:54 pm

b. Discussion And Possible Action: Annexation Requests

Admin Glenn Gardner reported that word is apparently spreading around the Meadview area that people need to check and see if their property is covered under the fire district. This month LMRFD had 12 applications for enrollment in the district, which is triple the usual monthly number. The LMRFD website has been updated with more accurate information about annexations. Earlene Mahar and her supervisor Mel at the County Assessor's office continue to give tremendous support. The Meadview VFW is anxious to help, and their current leadership is among those who have applied for annexation. We are in contact with the county to get poster-sized maps of areas covered by the fire district. Meadview VFW and Community Association have both expressed a desire to have maps on the wall for public viewing. Some discussion ensued about eligibility requirements and areas where we might mine for more inhabited properties, especially up and down the Hwy 93 corridor. Admin Gardner mentioned that, since only mailing addresses and owners

of record are available, mass mailing seems to be the best way to reach out to property owners, but he has not yet looked into the cost for that. Director Nelson said she knows someone who might be of great help in a mass mailing effort, and she will contact them in our behalf.

In conclusion, Mr. Gardner urged any board member that accepts an annexation request please make sure all the blanks are filled out or, worst case, that there is a working phone number on the form so he can contact the applicant. The repost and discussion concluded at 2:05 pm.

Director Nelson called for a motion to approve the 12 annexations submitted this month en masse.

Director Geisler moved to approve all twelve applications.

Director Reh-Bower seconded the motion.

Director Nelson called for a voice vote and all five directors voted AYE.

The motion carried, all twelve applications were approved, and formal resolutions have been prepared for filing with the County. Since formal resolutions require board chairperson signature, final processing will take place after the Christmas travel season. 2:07 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).*

Craig Vandenburg, a Meadview resident, enquired as to whether there was anything a person could do to find out when the State accepts an annexation request, and he was informed that after the meeting he and Mr. Gardner could call the county together and get the assessor's office to call the state office and get an update directly.

Mr. Vandenburg stated that he has water stored on his property and asked if it would help to make that available to fire trucks and the Chief expressed interest, saying they could talk after the meeting.

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 Reh-Bower – establish a website committee

Director Reh- Bower – establish volunteer/personnel promotions committee with the goal being to nurture some local people, mentoring and supporting younger people to help them become capable of working with LMRFD in the future.

Director Nelson – look at admin staff training to ensure it is adequate to meet requirements.

10) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATE & LOCATION. (Subject to change, notice/announcement will be posted via District Website, if any changes occur.) **11/21/2024 at 1:00 p.m. at Dolan Spring Chamber Of Commerce (16154 Pierce Ferry Rd. Dolan Springs, AZ 86441)**

Director Koeppen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:22 pm.

Director Garza moved to adjourn.

Director Nelson seconded the motion.

All votes were AYE, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Director Nelson – AFDA training

All business being concluded, director Reh- Bower moved to adjourn the meeting.
Director Geisler seconded the motion.
All five directors voted AYE, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Glenn Gardner
Minutes signed/posted by: Jen Gardner

Date: 12/23/24
Date: 12/24/24

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)