



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 02/20/2025 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 Koeppen called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

2) ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Director Geisler - Present

Director Nelson – Present

Director Reh-Bower – 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)* 1:02 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 is scheduled for this meeting.

5) MINUTES

a. 12/19/2024 Regular minutes (January 2025 meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.)

Director Koeppen called for additions or corrections to the December 2024 meeting minutes and none of the directors had any changes to make.

Director Koeppen called for a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. 1:03 pm

Director Reh-Bower moved to accept the 12/19/24 regular minutes.

Director Nelson seconded the motion.

All remaining directors voted AYE, and the minutes were accepted as written. 1:05 pm

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.)*

Due to the January meeting having been cancelled, Chief Bonnee presented his reports for both January and February.

December activities included:

AMR Transports: 0

Med Calls: 94

Dolan Transports: 81

Dolan refusals: 5

Dolan Public Assists: 11

Fire Calls: 12

Mutual Aid Calls: 0

Hwy 93 calls: 31

Meadview Calls: 9

Meadview Transports: 7

Meadview Refusals: 2

Meadview Public Assists: 5

Meadview coverage days: 18

We ended the year with a total of 1201 medical calls. Compared to last year's total of 1011, the increase is a big jump.

December activity included:

Chief Bonnee attended monthly run review.

There was nothing new to report concerning District properties.

R-435 is having fuel issues but the repair work will be under warranty because it is a new motor.

Projects in the works:

- The 2025 AFG grant has been submitted. The Grant writer contract was cancelled (\$1800 savings) so Chief Bonnee wrote this one and had it reviewed by the Chief who does all the Mohave Valley Fire grants. That Chief pointed out several mistakes the grant writer had been making that were causing us to be kicked out of the running.
- This year, DHS will require us to have tracking on our ambulances. We will be introducing a new dispatch system due to areas within our service not being able to have radio contact with dispatch. We will be going to a Flex touch system at no extra cost from our dispatch center. Our cost will be purchasing the iPads for the rigs, which will be on the March agenda.
- Due to the DHS tracking requirement, we will have to have internet access from the rigs, so we are looking into Starlink mobile for the rigs.
- We did receive the new monitors, and they have been set up ; they are waiting for a last update from Imagetrends to enable them to transmit before they can go into service.

January activity included:

AMR Transports: 0

Med Calls: 82

Dolan Transports: 65
Dolan refusals: 5
Dolan Public Assists: 8
Fire Calls: 13
Mutual Aid Calls: 0
Hwy 93 calls: 20
Meadview Calls: 17
Meadview Transports: 12
Meadview Refusals: 3
Meadview Public Assists: 2
Meadview coverage days: 18

Chief Bonnee attended the monthly run review.

The Ford ambulance warranty maintenance for the fuel issue was completed today, and Tender 418 has gone in the shop for an EGR issue that keeps it from going over 40 mph when loaded, and we just got that back also.

- The new monitors have been updated and are in service; all personnel have received training.
- This year, DHS will require us to have tracking on our ambulances. Chief reports that the best way turns out to be through our Verizon account and putting an internet modem on each rig with an iPad which will tie in to our new dispatch system. The chief will have costs next month.
- Chief Bonnee and Battalion Chief Pagliero have started a training calendar and will be reporting training hours as of next month.
- The chief plans to rent a roll-off and a bobcat to clean up the burn pile and around the Helipad area. Additionally, a concrete pad will be added to improve wheeling the gurney to the helipad.

The report concluded at 1:11 pm.

b. Financial Report: presented by Steven Rodriguez of JVG

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

Key points:

- Revenue for the month of January is \$250,156, which is under budget by \$1,307.
 - Tax Revenue for January is \$76,599 which is under budget by \$1,413.
 - Non-Tax Revenue for January is \$173,557 which is over budget by \$106.
- Interest Income is over \$1,919.
- Expenses for January totaled \$150,986 which is over budget by \$6,924.
 - Salaries & Wages are over budget \$11,225, due to an extra pay period.
 - Vehicle Maintenance are under budget \$4,407, due to less than anticipated maintenance.
- YTD Total Revenue is \$1,189,973 which is \$53,000 over budget.
- YTD Expense is \$1,118,626 which is \$72,202 over budget

Director Reh-Bower asked for clarification on station and janitorial expenses and Mr. Rodriguez and the Chief explained where that number comes from. Since we are doing our own deep cleaning, this expense actually reflects huge savings over having a contracted cleaning service.

Director Koeppen asked whether Steven is seeing any trends that mean we should be putting emphasis elsewhere and he and the Chief explained how they are monitoring throughout the year to spot that kind of thing and adjust accordingly.

Director Nelson asked if annexations are having a positive impact and Steven and the Chief reported that annexations and contracts have brought in thousands and there are more in the works because most of those annexations in progress were filed after the end of tax year in October.

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

Director Nelson moved to accept the consent agenda as presented..

Director Reh-Bower seconded the motion.

Director Geisler voted AYE

Director Nelson voted AYE

Director Reh-Bower voted AYE

Director Koeppen voted AYE

All votes being AYE, the consent agenda was approved at 1:21 pm.

7) REGULAR SESSION

Old Business

a. Discussion and Possible Action: Update on annexation progress (Glenn Gardner)

Mr. Gardner introduced a flowchart he prepared showing the annexation process and all the people involved at each step. He said we handled over 20 annexation requests in 2024, compared to the previous several years during which no new properties were annexed. So far this year we have several new requests in progress, and we are actively recruiting more property owners into the LMRFD family.

The Chief reported that according to the Assessor's office, our total new annexations stands at 47. Mr. Gardner added that he is currently mapping new site clearing and new construction in the White Hills area and is preparing to do a mass mailing to property owners identified in that search.

b. Discussion And Possible Action: Establish volunteer and personnel committee (Director Reh-Bower)

Director Reh-Bower asked to move this item down to item d under new business, combining this with the proposed website committee item. Director Koeppen agreed to do so.

c. Discussion And Possible Action: Admin staff training for compliance purposes (Director Nelson)

Director Nelson recommended that Admin staff should receive formal HIPAA training. Director Koeppen asked her to bring additional info to next month's meeting so it can be discussed and possible action taken.

d. Discussion And Possible Action: Update on reputation management (Director Geisler)

- Director Geisler requested moving this item to the March meeting since it was delayed due to illness. Director Koeppen agreed to do so.

New Business

a. Discussion of Run 25LM-0101: (Chief Bonnee)

Chief Bonnee identified this run as the one that was so widely publicized earlier this month. The incident involved a car rollover with a woman inside the vehicle. A good Samaritan with a dash cam was first on scene; he attempted to extricate the woman when a small engine fire began to grow. The Chief commended the good Samaritan for his actions. The Chief said that after receiving a lot of negative feedback from the public, he pulled the record from dispatch.

- 05:43 Ambulance with three paramedics pulling out of bay gets a personal call notifying one of the paramedics that the vehicle was on fire.
- Fire certified paramedic jumps out to man the water tender, a heavier, slower truck necessary to control the fire. Tender dispatched at 05:45, enroute at 05:47
- Ambulance on scene at 05:56, tender on scene at 06:01
- Since the two paramedics were not fire certified, they were restricted from approaching the fire, but good Samaritan soon had the woman out of the car, and they were able to provide medical assistance.
- Tender arrived and soon had fire under control.

The Chief pointed out that the ambulance parked in an unsafe place, but other than that the crew followed the protocols they are required to follow. 1:48 pm

b. Discussion and possible action: Acceptance of Policy Manual (Chief Bonnee) 1:49 pm

Director Koeppen asked about section 10 concerning recruiting and the use of technology. Chief explained how he recently modernized the employee search process using an online nationwide network of candidates with the process mostly automated. Chief feels we are not really strong with our web presence, basically on the low end of the spectrum. He said we are now affiliated with Mohave County Community College as a training site, we are now with Percom, a paramedic school in Texas, both of which help get our name out there with students who will soon be looking for jobs. Director Koeppen asked a few more general questions about fingerprinting and other steps in the hiring process and the Chief explained the details of each step. Lastly, she enquired about how new employees are made aware of the Policies and the Chief explained that they are each given a copy to study.

Director Reh-Bower spoke for several minutes about corrections to the document she had identified and worked with the Chief to rectify.

Director Koeppen called for a vote to approve the updated Policy Manual (with corrections agreed to by the Chief) at 2:01 pm

Director Reh-Bower moved to accept the updated Policy Manual with corrections agreed to by the Chief.

Director Nelson seconded the motion.

All attending board members voted AYE, and the updated Policy Manual was approved at 2:02 pm.

c. Discussion and possible action: Report on mandatory State training for Fire District (Director Reh-Bower)

Director Reh-Bower reported that 4 Board members and two admin staff attended the State-required training on the 16th at the Arizona Fire District Association conference. The presentation on Open Meeting Law was excellent, as well as the governance session and the session on evaluating the fire chief. She voiced her approval of the requirement to retake this training annually since it covers so much ground and so much detail in so many different areas that an annual

reminder at the detail level is necessary.

Director Nelson spoke at length about the value she sees in this training.

Discussion ended at 2:05 pm

d. Discussion and possible action: Propose website committee (Director Reh-Bower)

Director Reh-Bower reminded the board of previous discussion about forming a website committee and she is now bringing it to the board for a formal vote of approval. She proposed a permanent committee because the website isn't a one-time thing; it is an ongoing task that will need continuing attention. She is envisioning a website that can be used for multiple purposes such as record retention, public awareness, recruiting and a host of other possibilities. She proposed the committee consist of one board member (she volunteered for the position), one admin person and anyone else with skills relevant to tasks undertaken by the committee. Aside from the one board member and one admin, the committee can be staffed at need by any volunteer(s), including volunteers from the public, with skills relevant to the work the committee is doing on any given day. Other board members may participate on this committee as long as accidentally forming a quorum outside of a formally announced meeting is avoided. This means that no more than two board members may participate at any given time.

Directors Nelson and Koeppen spoke in support of the proposal as outlined by Director Reh-Bower.

Director Koeppen called for a vote to approve establishing a website committee as proposed by Director Reh-Bower.

Director Nelson moved to approve formation of a standing website committee as proposed by Director Reh-Bower.

Director Geisler seconded the motion.

All board members in attendance voted AYE and the formation of a standing website committee was approved at 2:12 pm.

e. Discussion and possible action: Annexation requests

Director Koeppen called on Glenn Gardner who reported six new annexation requests complete with formal board resolutions of acceptance ready for board signatures after the meeting.

Director Reh-Board moved to accept and approve the requests.

Director Nelson seconded the motion.

All attending board members voted AYE, the annexations were approved, and six new property owners were welcomed into the LMRFD family at 1:15 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 at 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).*

Director Koeppen opened the floor to members of the public who wished to speak, noting that due to high turnout for this meeting, there would be a five-minute time limit for each person.

- Michael Kelly, a Meadview resident, asked if voluntary annexations were the way to go, or if whole areas could be annexed instead. He also asked if there is a way to opt out if someone is dissatisfied with the property tax increase. Since he was asking for more clarification info related to earlier agenda items, Mr. Gardner was allowed to respond on the spot that mass annexation was something only the County could make happen, and opting out was also something that is controlled at the county level. The next minute comments drifted too far away from the

listed agenda item, so that was put aside in favor of Az open meeting law. Mr. Kelly's last comment was also in the form of a clarification request concerning Station 43 coverage. Chief and Director Koeppen confirmed that Station 43 is manned 17-18 days a month and some of those days are paid for by Dolan Springs property taxes. 1:18 pm

- Michael Lyman questioned the open meeting law requirements and why he couldn't engage the board in question and answer at that time. Mr. Gardner promised to send Mr. Lyman a link to the full statute. Mr. Lyman voiced his displeasure with the law and the process required to be followed by a fire district at a regularly scheduled open meeting. Director Nelson stepped in and requested a chat with Mr. Lyman after the meeting and this subject closed at 1:22 pm.
- Next speaker asked who was the ambulance driver on the run referenced in the agenda item above, and whether ambulances carry extrication equipment, and the Chief responded that it was the more experienced person of the two, who has been on the job for 2+ years, and ambulances do carry extrication equipment. He also asked for clarification concerning LMRFD policy on FBI background checks and what the organization does with that info. Chief and Director Koeppen, both verified it is in the policy and the Chief added that he and the Battalion Chief both have 180 hours of FBI training semi-annually concerning the handling of that particular information.
- Pat Leaman, a Meadview resident on Mohawk Drive, asked for clarification on how long the annexations take in processing. Mr. Gardner elaborated that, judging by the last several months, if all the paperwork is correct, some annexations are processed in two to three weeks, others take longer, and we don't know why.
- John Goodman of 415 Valley Creek Lane in Meadview, asked if LMRFD is sending new people through the Fire Academy and the Chief responded in the positive, total fire academy training is 16 weeks. This training is paid from the LMRFD budget. New employees come in the door at EMT level. If they wish to train for paramedic, they must sign a contract with LMRFD to remain on the job for a specified length of time.

With no further comments from the public, Director Nelson took the opportunity to give a HUGE SHOUTOUT to Mary McIntire-Frazier, a Meadview resident who brought in 7 annexation requests after actively recruiting neighbors. Mary made her formerly ineligible property eligible for annexation by connecting her neighboring property owners in a line that touched government property, making them all eligible. She worked at it over a two-year period, contacting and working with property owners in Alaska, Nevada and Utah. During this period, it came to light that some of the neighbors were not aware that their property had no fire protection until they were annexed into the district. She is a valuable friend of the fire district, and her efforts are much appreciated by the entire LMRFD governing board, Chief Bonnee, and the admin staff.

9) CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Specified tabled items will move to the 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.) **03/20/2024 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.

Director Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 pm.

Director Reh-Bower seconded the motion.

All votes were AYE, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Glenn Gardner

Date: 10/22/24

Minutes signed/posted by: Jen Gardner

Date: 10/22/24

Version: 1

DC#:

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Updated: 3/17/2025

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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