



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 04/17/2025 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 Reh-Bower – Present

Director Nelson - Present

Director Koeppen – Present

Director Garza – Present via phone from Kuwait

Director Geisler was not in attendance

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

Director Koeppen called for additions or corrections to the March 2025 meeting minutes at 1:03 pm.

Hearing no objections or corrections from the board, Director Koeppen called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented at 1:04 pm

Director Reh-Bower moved to accept the March 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

Director Nelson seconded the motion.

All attending directors voted AYE, and the minutes were accepted as written. 1:04 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.)

March activities included:

AMR Transports: 0

Med Calls: 82

Dolan Transports: 71

Fire Calls: 14

Mutual Aid Calls: 0

Hwy 93 calls: 20

Meadview Calls: 9

Meadview Transports: 6

Meadview station covered 21 days in March.

Meetings/Conferences/Training:

- monthly run review on 3/11/25.
- Monthly MCFOA meeting

District Properties:

- The old Chamber of Commerce signs have been taken down from the building and new signs have been ordered. Director Nelson reported that DSCC is handling the big Chamber of Commerce sign across the street and they are going to change the sign to read "Welcome to Dolan Springs".

District Vehicles: No new issues, the tender is still in the shop with blown motor problems.

Projects in the works:

- We will be getting both brush trucks on Wednesday of next week. The governor will be attending a handing-over ceremony for the truck donated by BLM at the BLM office, then Chief will be picking up the other truck donated by the Park Service that same afternoon in Boulder City.
- Chief went to Scottsdale and met with Stephen and Gabe of JVG to kick off the budget preparation process. He added that one of the expenses that hit us so hard this year is vehicle maintenance and one of our volunteers is a certified diesel mechanic and plans to do the minor scheduled maintenance, which will greatly reduce our cost in that area.
- He added that JVG is requesting a May 6 date for the required budget workshop. Gabe and Stephen from JVG will travel to Dolan Springs for the workshop.

The report concluded at 1:13 pm.

b. Financial Report: presented by Steven Rodriguez of JVG

Steven Rodriguez of JVG presented the monthly financial report via phone beginning at 1:14 pm.

Key points:

- Revenue for the month of March is \$72,874, which is over budget by \$5,723.
 - o Tax Revenue for March is \$25,145 which is under budget by \$12,840.
 - o Non-Tax Revenue for March is \$47,730 which is over budget by \$18,564.
 - Ambulance Revenue is over budget \$18,527.
 - Misc Income is under budget \$2,083.
- Expenses for March totaled \$126,800 which is over budget by \$31,969.
 - o Vehicle Maintenance is over budget \$9,854, due to more than anticipated maintenance.
 - o Fire Equipment is over budget \$7,548, due to higher than anticipated equipment purchases.
 - o Salaries & Wages are over budget \$6,530, due to more than anticipated hourly wages.
- YTD Total Revenue is \$1,339,936 which is \$70,667 over budget.
- YTD Expense is \$1,395,613 which is \$161,842 over budget

Personnel costs are a little over budget due to overtime used to cover the current personnel shortage. Vehicle and equipment maintenance is higher than anticipated due to recent vehicle failures and equipment replacement purchases.

Director Koeppen asked why ambulance revenue is up. Chief Bonnee and Mr. Rodriguez both attributed the better numbers to improved reporting from LMRFD staff since Battalion Chief Pagliero has been reviewing all run reports for accuracy and completeness. This additional review has resulted in a drastic reduction in reporting errors that resulted in our claims being kicked back. Additionally, JVG has worked with our billing company to ensure that our claims are billed out immediately upon submission.

Director Koeppen asked about compensated absences showing on the budget statement and Mr. Rodriguez stated that was an error that will be removed from the budget statement since compensated absences are no longer an issue.

Director Reh-Bower asked about PPE charges and the Chief explained that our vendor charged for a partial order and the PPE charge she is asking about is the second invoice for the remaining portion of the order.

Director Nelson who is handling payment delinquencies. Chief Bonnee said we are still with RFGI and we have seen an increase in collections since he chided them for poor performance. They have now put one specific person in place to represent LMRFD and she seems to be doing a much better job of collecting since she has been assigned to the account.

Mr. Rodriguez took a moment to give advance info on next year's budget. Our assessed value has increased by \$1M (a 4.38% increase). The JVG team is currently working on the first draft. A special board meeting for budget training will be set up; right now the proposed date for that is May 6.

With no further questions from the board, Mr. Rodriguez concluded his report at 1:25 pm.

Director Koeppen called for a motion to accept the consent agenda at 1:26 pm

Director Nelson moved to accept the consent agenda as presented.

Director Reh-Bower seconded the motion.

Director Nelson voted AYE

Director Reh-Bower voted AYE

Director Koeppen voted AYE

Director Garza voted AYE

All votes being AYE, the consent agenda was approved at 1:26 pm.

7) REGULAR SESSION

Old Business

a. A. Discussion and Possible Action: Update on mass mailing (Glenn Gardner)

Mr. Gardner reported that, thanks to assistance from the County Assessor's office, we have now discovered that, no matter what the map shows, there are whole tracts in the Meadview area that are eligible for annexation. He will pass tract information to Director Nelson, whose contact at the county can run reports that will quickly give us mailing addresses for the owners of every property within each tract. Even one tract will provide us with enough targets for a mass mailing effort.

b. Discussion And Possible Action: Update on White Hills Annexations and Mapping (Glen Gardener)

Mr. Gardner reported that although there are new annexation requests, they will not be presented to the board for approval at this meeting. The recent batch of requests that were kicked back from the county revealed a couple of new requirements that mean we have to go back and adjust most of those requests we have prepared for submission, so 20+ requests will be presented at next month's board meeting. Also, a step has been added to our annexation process that allows the Assessor's office to electronically review each request before it is formally submitted to the county. After general discussion about the annexation effort and a plea from Mr. Gardner for everybody to be diligent about not accepting any annexation requests that are not complete or not legible. Discussion ended at 1:38 pm.

c. B: Discussion And Possible Action: Update on Website Committee (Director Reh-Bower)

Director Reh-Bower reported that the website committee met in Chief Bonnee's office on April 2nd.

Chief Bonnee has investigated many FD websites and thinks the

Tonto Basin site layout is very close to LMRFD's needs in terms of appearance, useability and functionality. After looking at this website, the rest of the committee agreed.

Director Reh-Bower and Glenn had some specific requests such as keeping the data on the website as well as posting to social media and keeping website administration easy enough that you don't have to be a web professional to update it or pass control to a new admin in the event of personnel changes. Director Geisler is donating her time and expertise to put the new website together and she agreed that these requests can be fulfilled. Additionally, they requested a methodology to apply for and pay for burn permits through the website.

Director Nelson kicked off a discussion about how concerned she is about website control because of past bad actors who trashed info on their way out the door. Director Reh-Bower responded that we are doing everything we can to prevent that, but when all is said and done, there can be only one administrator. Discussion moved to who that might be, no action taken at this time.

Chief Bonnee showed the shell of the website that Director Geisler has created so far and everybody liked what they saw.

Director Nelson asked about the employee application on the website and was reassured that this is part of the redesign and will work properly when done.

C: Discussion and Possible Action: Update on Call to Public (Theodora Koeppen)

Director Koeppen reported that Director Geisler has requested that we simplify and clarify instructions for Call to the Public to make them easier to understand because too many people are showing up to speak with unrealistic expectations because they are not aware of statute-imposed restrictions on this activity. Since Director Geisler was unable to attend this meeting, the item will be tabled until the May board meeting. 1:50 pm

D: Discussion and Possible Action: Update on fundraiser

Director Koeppen met with the volunteer who is driving fundraising, and they have decided to go with a 50/50 raffle where the winner gets half of the ticket sales and LMRFD gets the other half. Funds raised will go toward the purchase of a \$15k powered gurney for the Meadview station ambulance. With only one person manning the Meadview station, it is paramount to add this equipment in order for that one person to handle calls where a patient must be transported.

The drawing date will be in October. One suggestion is the Dolan Springs Community celebration, other suggestions were a Meadview celebratory occasion for the drawing. Director Koeppen said she will be starting up ticket sales at the Spring celebration. General discussion followed about how to get ticket sales rolling and get local businesses involved, as well as VFW and American Legion.

Discussion on this item wrapped up at 2:00 pm.

New Business

There was no new business scheduled for this meeting.

- 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 at 2:00 pm

First to speak was Suzanne Newel, a Meadview resident. She voiced her concern that although the Meadview station might have been manned 21 days last month, “Nobody around here knows it.” She said she was at two community meetings recently where comments were made by Meadview residents that demonstrated that Meadview locals are generally underinformed about Station 43 operations. She would like to see notifications posted by every available means when the station is manned.

She also cited her past relationship with LMRFD and said they used to consistently bring in \$7K with each walk-a-thon. She also mentioned holding barbeque events, and said the facilities for this are still at the Meadview Civic Center.

Lastly, she voiced her support for a power gurney acquisition, which she agreed will please the Meadview population.

Second to speak was Gary Handyside, a Meadview resident. He is in charge of the parade coming up in Meadview on the 26th of April. He requested confirmation that LMRFD will have a fire engine available and Chief Bonnee responded in the positive.

He also mentioned that there was an injury at last year’s event and asked if Chief Bonnee can arrange to have an EMT available and the Chief said he will try to arrange scheduling to make that happen.

Additionally, he suggested having the raffle drawing October 11th at the car show in Meadview. Director Koeppen told him to get with the Chief on that after the meeting.

Lastly he enquired about a rash of calls Meadview residents have been getting from their home/property insurance carriers about Meadview being elevated to a high-risk fire area. The Chief responded that he has also received calls from insurance companies on this subject. He confirmed that Mead City and Meadview have indeed been elevated to high-risk because of the desert surroundings and no fire hydrants.

Last to speak was Helen Newell, a Meadview resident. She recreates Native American pottery and fires it in a pit. Her concern was whether she could legally do that here in Meadview. After confirming the small size of her enclosed pit, the Chief responded on the spot that the small size lets her pit fall under the “warming fire” category and doesn’t require a burn permit.

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.

With no further business to conduct, Director Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Director Reh-Bower seconded the motion.

All attending members voted AYE and the meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

10) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATE & LOCATION. (Subject to change, notice/announcement will be posted via District Website, if any changes occur.) **5/15/2025 At Dolan Springs Chamber of Commerce (16154 Pierce Ferry Rd. Dolan Springs Az. 86441)**

Minutes prepared by: Glenn Gardner

Date: 04/21/25

Minutes signed/posted by: Jen Gardner

Date: 04/22/25 1:30 pm

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)