

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Chair Christy @ 4:57pm; Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call – Chair Christy, Mr. Clavir, Mr. Ward, Ms. Watson and Mr. Evans are present. There is a quorum.

Agenda approval – Chair Christy requested that Item J to be moved up to be included in Item H. Mr. Ward made motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Clavir Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Call to the Public – None

Minutes – Mr. Ward made motion to approve Board Meeting Minutes of March 17th; Mr. Clavir seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Bills & Financials –Mr. Ward made motion to approve the March 2021 Bills and Financials. Mrs. Watson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC MEETING

A. Ford Pickup Bids: (3) Bids were received for the 1989 Ford Pickup.

WH. McClure	\$2,001.00
J. Harms	\$2,500.00
D. Simmons	\$1,957.00

Mr. Ward made motion to accept J. Harms bid in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the For Pickup Truck. Mr. Clavir seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Bermuda Club House Offer: Chief Martin updated the Fire Board on the status of the Club House offer. The most recent offer is for 100k cash, no financing. We are now waiting on the Title Company before we can close the sale. Ms. Watson inquired about the total amount we should make. Chief Martin will let the Board know once he has a confirmed amount keeping in mind the Septic costs.

C. PSPRS Actuarial Valuation Report: The Actuarial Valuation Report dated 6.30.2020 was provided to the Board to review. Currently, the report shows our PSPRS Funding Status at 87.6% for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Members and 101.4% for our Tier 3 Members.

D. Oatman Fire Board EMS Letter: Chief Martin explained that there have been concerns with how Oatman FD has been responding to calls. Oatman is part of our CON and it is our responsibility to provide EMS Service without any hinder/delay. The letter addresses the concerns and reiterates Mohave Valley Fire Departments responsibilities regarding our CON. Mr. Ward made a motion approving the Oatman Fire Board EMS Letter. Mr. Clavir seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

E. McIntosh Communications Quote: Fire Marshal Gibson presented a quote from McIntosh Communications for 3 radios. The radios would be purchased for BC Truck purchased from BHFD, for the new ambulance, and one back up. Chief Martin confirmed it was in the budget. The Cost quoted from McIntosh Communications is \$10,176.06. Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the McIntosh Communication Quote in the amount of \$10,176.06. Mr. Evans seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Motorola Towers Quote: Fire Marshal Gibson presented a quote from Motorola Solutions for 3 Brand New Towers; the cost of the towers is \$145,161.85 which doesn't include permit fees for Mohave County or the potential cost sleeve the Tower. Fire Marshal Gibson explained that these towers were necessary for our Crews safety. Chief Harmon confirmed that this would come out of Capital. Mr. Evans made motion to approve the Motorola Quote for 3 radio towers in the amount of \$145,161.85. Mr. Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

G. COVID American Rescue Plan Update: Chair Christy inquired about how MVFD could obtain consideration for funding through the COVID American Rescue Plan. She was told to contact the Mohave County for aid. Chair Christy made contact with Senator Sinema's office and was informed that MVFD was a Special District and it was the State's responsibility to share their stimulus money with the Special Districts. MVFD made contact with Supervisor Gould and inquired about the Stimulus relief money. Supervisor Gould is waiting for the County Administrator to research the issue on distributing funds. A meeting will be scheduled once the County Administrator has decided how/if the funds will be distributed. Chair Christy reiterated the importance of staying diligent regarding this issue. Chief Martin explained that the City of Bullhead should be providing financial reimbursement for Dispatch Costs. Mr. Christy inquired if the Tribe had funds that could be distributed to the Fire Department to offset COVID Costs. Chief Martin stated that we would investigate further regarding the Tribe. The Board has agreed to send letters to the County Supervisor requesting support.

H. Budget Workshop

Pay Scale Revision: Chief Harmon explained that there was several factors "driving the decision" for the pay scale revision. We need to stay competitive with our wages or we are risk losing our employees to "neighboring" Fire Departments. Our paramedic pay also needs to also be increased to remain competitive. MVFD needs to also be prepared for increasing minimum wage requirements. Mr. Evans made motion approving the Pay Scale Revision. Mr. Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Harmon went through the proposed 2021 - 2022 budget numbers with the Fire Board indicating and explaining any increases/decreases. Chief Harmon also stated that next year we needed to look closely at increasing and negotiating the next Tribe Contract. The two numbers we are still waiting to confirm is our Workers Comp and Dispatch Costs.

Chief Harmon then provided a "second version" of the proposed budget showing a more competitive pay scale to consider. It would have the 3% and increased medic pay as approved above, and it would also include an additional 3% increase for employees. (Essentially a 6% increase for payroll, keeping our pay competitive) Increasing the payroll number will change our budget numbers for Workers Comp, PSPRS, and Payroll Taxes. In order to make this version feasible, the Board will need to consider an increase our tax rate to no less than \$3.10 from \$3.05. The Fire Board discussed the pros and cons to raising the tax rate.

Captain Benjamin spoke to the Board directly about the importance of keeping our wages competitive in order to keep employees that we have invested in.

I. Medical/Dental/Vision Renewal: Chief Harmon presented the Health Insurance Proposal for 2021-2022. Medical is showing an increase of 5.39% from the previous year. The Dental premium is approximately a 4% increase. There was a slight decrease Vision costs. Mr. Ward made motion approving the Medical Renewal. Mr. Evans seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ward made motion approving the Dental Renewal. Mr. Evans seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Evans made motion approving the Vision Renewal. Mr. Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

J. Taphi/ReBound Contract: Chief Harmon explained that it was time to renew the Taphi/Rebound Contract. He explained the cost/savings in Overtime and overall benefits to the employee and their families for the program. Ms. Watson made motion to renew the REBOUND Contract. Mr. Evans seconded. Chair Christy Opposed. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Fire Marshal Gibson: Fire Marshal Gibson reported that the Ordinance issues had not changed. The County Attorney will let us know by mid-summer in regards to how they will support us in enforcing the Ordinance. He is working on multiple radio projects and thanks you for your support. Fire Marshal Gibson received a phone call from Mohave County Sheriff's last week commending Firefighter Ronan for assisting with a fire in Golden Valley while off Duty.

Battalion Chief McShea: BC McShea reported that our call volumes continue to increase and our response times for the past month averaged 2 min 32 seconds; We have participated in Auto aid 24 times the past month, ran 116 ALS transports, 36 BLS transports and had 28 transports refused. The Department has also run 17 inner facility transports. BC McShea also stressed the importance of reevaluating the MVFD Pay scale. He believes we will lose employees if we do not do something to be more competitive with our surrounding neighbors.

Chief Harmon: Chief Harmon explained that most of his time is currently being spent on the 2021 – 2022 Budget. He briefed the Board on the District/Wildland Fires that our Crews have recently been assigned to.

Chief Martin: Chief Martin quickly briefed the Fire Board on the Golf Course Fire by the Avi. Chief Martin reiterated that the Department has had an uptick in calls. He also spoke to the Board about the Legislation regarding the Tax Rate Cap increase as well as other Legislation currently changing. The County has averaged 1 to 5 COVID cases the past month.

Mr. Ward made motion to adjourn and Mr. Clavir seconded at 7:16 pm. Motion carried.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Johanna Sanders, Financial Specialist.