

**Start Time:** 5:00 PM **End time:** 6:03 PM

**Mohave Valley Fire Department**  
**May 22, 2025**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting called to order** by Ms. Watson at 5:00PM, Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll call-** Chair Watson, Mr. Ward, Ms. Summitt, Ms. Dailey and Mr. Evans are present. There is a quorum.

**Agenda approval-**Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Call to the Public-** Dean Veik: Willow Valley Resident  
Re: Fire Hydrant, Blue Dot, Hydrant maps

Mr. Veik spoke to the Fireboard to inquire on Fire Hydrant Locations, Hydrant Maps, functionality, maintenance and response times to fires. He put in a request that MVFD consider the "Blue Dot Program" where blue reflective dots are used to identify fire hydrant locations. He explained the cost is minimal and if the Fire District wouldn't support the program he would reach out to Community to purchase and install. The cost would be under \$100.00. Mr. Veik also recommended we add instructions and a breakdown of costs for Public Records on our website.

Ms. Watson thanked Mr. Veik for coming in and voicing his concerns. She informed Mr. Veik they were unable to make any decisions regarding his concerns/request for support on the Blue Dot Program. She assured him that the Fire Chief would respond.

**Minutes-**Ms. Summitt a motion to approve April 2025 Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Monthly Bills & Financials-**Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the April 2025 Bills and Financials. Mr. Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **BOARD BUSINESS**

- A. Preliminary Budget Discussion:** Ms. Larson presented 2 Draft Budgets with identical expenses. One with a Tax rate of \$3.10 and the other with a Tax Rate of \$3.60. Version 1 with a tax rate of \$3.10 showed \$405.911 in the negative. Version 2 with a tax rate of \$3.60 reflected a balanced budget with equal expenses to revenues. Primary increases included increase of staffing by 3 (1 for each shift) for station 82 (increasing also our payroll liabilities), Overtime, health insurance, utilities, and building maintenance. All other expenses either shifted to another line item, remained equal or less than this

year's current budget. Revenues were budgeted conservatively with increases being considered with the Tax Rate and Tribal Contract. The North and South Tribal contract line items reflect increases to absorb the (3) employees and their associated costs plus normal operating cost increases necessary to keep them operating in the "black." Ms. Larson commended the Fire Board for their efforts to remain fiscally responsible for our taxpayers. She reported that currently, we have the lowest tax rate in Mohave County except for Pine Lake, which is a volunteer fire department. She stressed that it was time to consider a tax increase due to being financially compressed with increasing expenses and limited revenues. The \$3.60 tax rate would bring in an additional \$300k in revenue while costing the average taxpayer around \$6.50 a month. Ms. Larson said that raising the tax rate to \$3.60 and increasing the Tribal Contract were proactive measures that are needed to properly balance the budget, and it ensures sustainable growth until other revenues, like the Power Plant, may be recognized. Ms. Larson and staff spoke in regards to the need to start building a capital fund to properly address Station needs/maintenance, radio infrastructure, and extrication equipment. Chief Martin explained that we would not see revenue from the Powerplant for at least 3 – 5 years and the revenue should be significant, but there was no guarantee. We will have to wait until completion is closer to get a better idea of the revenues it could generate for the Fire District.

Ms. Watson asked if the tax rate was increased to \$3.60, could the Fire Board evaluate the revenues and consider a tax reduction once the Fire District started to receive revenues from Powerplant? Chief Martin explained that it could always be an option, especially once the powerplant revenues were recognized. He stated it would be prudent on our part to look at that option/opportunity.

BC McShea went through the "Proposal to increase firefighter safety" sheet provided to the Fireboard. The proposal stressed the need to increase staffing due to "explosive regional growth", call volume surge, and safety and compliance risks. He explained that the minimum cost increase to the tax rate would provide many benefits to the community including faster EMS Response, Reduced Property Loss, Improved Firefighter Safety and Contract Compliance.

Ms. Summitt and Mr. Evan's both inquired if the \$3.60 rate was enough to sustain us until other revenues may be recognized. Ms. Larson assured them that \$3.60 would be sufficient and with the increase there would be no reason to request an increase from the Board for at least 5 years, which is when the Fire District should start realizing revenue from the Power Plant.

Mr. Ward agreed that staffing was a safety issue, and it is priority that needed to be addressed. Ms. Summitt agreed and reiterated that Chief Martin had been financially responsible by looking at Grant Revenues rather than utilizing Tax dollars, but it was now time to raise the rate for the protection of the community and the protection of the firefighters.

Ms. Summitt, Mr. Ward, Mr. Evan's and Ms. Dailey all stated that they would only consider V.2 at the \$3.60 tax rate. Ms. Watson asked to wait until the next meeting to vote on the budget.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**BC McShea:** McShea reported that in the last 30 days they responded to 2 structure fires, 1 electrical hazard fire, and 4 wildland fires. We received a total of 149 calls (88 were transported, 18 were non-transported), we did 1 IFT and turned down 20.

**Fire Chief Martin:** Chief Martin went into further detail on the (2) structure fires reported by McShea. Martin explained that the Crews did an excellent job at keeping the fires from spreading. Martin also detailed a cardiac response patient call that we responded to.

Martin informed the Board that several of our Crews (9) completed Fire Training.

BLM has reported that they are going to put fire restrictions in place. Currently, the County has not mentioned a Burn Ban.

There is some Wildland activity in the Eastern part of Arizona that is picking up. The new Brush Truck received through a DFFM grant is now available for assignment.

Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 pm. Ms. Summitt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Johanna Larson, Financial Specialist.