

Minutes to the Regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 22 June 2020
0900

DRAFT

Call to Order

Roll call – Johnson, Archibald, Webber, Dorney were present. Bahti was absent. Also present: Chief De Wolf, Goodwin, Sink, Rutter, Bennett and several members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to the Public & Budget Hearing; four members of the public addressed the Board on the topic of the Budget, Nancy Belt, Anita Kay, Kathe Prentice (employee) and Gary Soliere. The specific topics were regarding a small payroll increase, a decrease in the ambulance income and the fact that the total income needed increased by \$29,000. The Board and the Chief responded to the questions...

Ambulance income decreased – due to the COVID-19 issues people were making all efforts to stay away from hospitals, we're seeing this across all of Arizona. We felt it would be appropriate to decrease the anticipated income for next fiscal year.

Total Tax needed – we have kept the tax levy rate the same as last year – we felt with the current economic environment and COVID-19 related issues it would be prudent to avoid a tax increase. Due to increase in building construction/occupancy increases there is a larger tax pool to draw from, so we will bring in more tax monies with the same tax rate.

Payroll expenses – we have a part-time position that we are making into a full-time position. This expense will increase one salaried position from part time to full time and to bring a couple of our EMT positions off of minimum wage. One member of the public suggested looking at increasing salaries to retain employees instead of being a revolving door. This topic evolved into the topic of **Eliminating personnel**; there is a grant that is expiring on Nov. 30, 2020. This grant covered 1.5 positions. Both of these grant employees were aware that their positions would be ending on 30 Nov 2020. SEFD being a “revolving door” was also discussed... we are a training facility; people come to us to learn and get a foot in the door, then move on to larger, more active departments.

Review and approval of the minutes to the meeting of 26 May 2020: Motion to approve was made by Sue Archibald, seconded by Annette Dorney; Discussion – Dorney, I did find a spelling error, on page 2 changing the word “tone” to “done.” Motion was passed unanimously.

Chief's Report – May –

- 57 runs, year to month is 258, 27 simultaneous calls and 15 helicopter transports.
- We still have 4 open grants out, DFFM for \$220,000 for a Fuels Treatment Grant (should hear sometime in August), AFG grant for \$120,000 for an ambulance, GOHS grant for \$42,739 for extrication equipment and a 555 Fitness grant for new exercise equipment.
- Palominas IGA – going well, we're expecting our new engine in August, but an increase of COVID-19 activity may delay that yet again.
- Brenda Tranchina of HR Specialists spent 5 hours with the Officer staff going over performance evaluations – what they are, how to do them and why they are important.
- We are on schedule for a final budget meeting to be held on June 30, 2020 where the Board will adopt a final budget for FY2021.

Financials – The financial documents for the month of May 2020 were presented by V. Rutter. There were no unusual transactions this month; no questions were asked by the Board. Motion to accept the finances as presented was made by Archibald, seconded by Dorney, motion carried unanimously.

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Discussion and possible action on updating the HR Policy manual – tabled to June 30, 2020.

Discussion and possible action on distribution of Dorney’s questionnaire – tabled to July Board meeting.

Discussion and possible action on Resolution #2020-0622 – Call to Election – Chief De Wolf read the resolution to the Board. This is a requirement by statute; motion to approve was made by Archibald, seconded by Dorney, motion carried.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made by Dorney, seconded by Archibald, motion carried unanimously.

Minutes approved on 27 July 2020, _____, Board Clerk.
Reba Webber

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