

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Call to order

Roll Call: Present – Bahti, Archibald, Johnson, Dorney. Absent - Webber

Pledge of Allegiance

Johnson: thank you everybody for coming. And thank you everybody for accommodating this change. I hope everybody finds it a little bit more comfortable and can understand us more than being in the bay that we've been doing. So, thank you for understanding and accommodating.

Call to the public: We now have a call to the public. Just a reminder to everybody, please, limit your comments to three minutes or less. And, as you know, for Open Meeting laws, we are very limited in our responses to questions. If you bring up something, we can't put it on the agenda, 'cause that requires notice. So, but we can consider it for future agendas. Okay? The first one up is Mike Wright, but I don't believe he's here. Oh, he is here. Okay. Cool.

Acting Chief Buonaccorsi: He is here in a roundabout way.

Johnson: He is here, virtually.

Buonaccorsi: Mike, can you hear us?

Wright: Yeah, I can hear ya.

Mike Wright: Alright. Well, I'd like to offer a prayer for your meeting today and for the department. For all those that would like to pray with me, you're welcome to.

0:03:00 Mike Wright: Oh Lord God, we just ask you to bless this time. We ask you to bless in a way that only you can bless, Lord. We ask for wisdom for all the decision makers, and we ask you to bless all of them, all of our board members who are serving in our community. I ask you also to continue to bless our staff and volunteers, that serve our community, and bless them not only in protection while they serve, but I ask you to bless them in addition to that, Lord, for their service. And, Lord, I pray for this meeting in particular. I pray that you would allow for there to be civility throughout this meeting. I pray that you would allow for everything to be communicated with truth in mind, and pray that there would be a restraint from all those that seek to cause disruption. And so, Lord, I just pray for a good smooth meeting, and a meeting that captures the business of our department for the benefit of our community. And I pray these things in Jesus name. Amen.

Audience: Amen.

Johnson: And Mike, thank you very much for allowing us the use of your space here.

Wright: You're very welcome. I hope it's a good meeting.

Johnson: Okay. Alright, thank you. Alright.

Johnson: Thank you, bye bye.

Johnson: Alright, bye. There we go. Okay. Next up is Don Irving.

Don Irving: Thank you. I'm Don Irving. I've been a long-time resident of Sonoita. I can even remember the... The firetruck that came from Fort Huachuca. I'd like to speak to the importance, significance, of community involvement in this fire department and our district. It's been significant. It's been a very important element in the development of this quality organization. From the time of the volunteer department led by a retired general officer, that produced a superb, volunteer fire department, and of course, when it came time to consider a fire district, the community was very involved. Highly controversial time. But there was a vote. We have a fire district. Community involvement did not end there, there were even times when the community identified problems that the board... With the board, and sounded those problems out with the board. Problems that led to issues about funding or many issues. Many board meetings at that period led to controversy and even the retirement... [chuckle] No, the resignation of several board members. It took an outside administrator to come in and act as a board.

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

My point is, it's been a very important part of this community, this public involvement. Again, we're faced with it here, and now. There are concerns, the board have heard them, we've heard the issues, the discussion. Some of it robust. But the important matter is, the community would like to know that the board is going to deal with these issues. The board needs to know that the community has at its best interest the quality of the organization. I'd like to speak to the board for just a moment.

When the board resigned, the community responded by putting together a group of organizations that assembled a group of volunteers that ran for office. They were elected and a new board was assembled, a group of outstanding neighbors and friends that did a great job, I think. Many of those still serve on the board. But the point is the board now is an official organization. It's been elected, it serves on a state-authorized board, and must live with the conditions established by the Attorney General. Those conditions limit the board's ability to respond to public outcry, public demands. We need to understand that.

So, I have a suggestion. As a matter of fact, I urge the board to consider employing an investigator, an inspector, that can look at these issues, establish a report, submit that report, so that the board has the facts from an independent observer, facts that can inform their decisions and actions. And I then ask the community to support that same effort, so that once that report is finished and the board takes action, then the board can inform the community the basis for its actions and have the community support that action. So I ask for community support, as well. Thank you.

Johnson: Thank you, Don. Just for clarification, back in in the beginning of October, we did appoint an independent investigator, okay? Next is Dennis, Dennis Conner.

Dennis Conners: Good morning, excuse me. Dennis Conners. I only have one question. As a cop in Las Vegas, when I did investigations, we didn't just look at one side, we had to look at all sides. I've been here for almost 20 years, no one's approached me. Nobody that's been there with the time I've had has said that they've been approached. If they don't start looking at... Don't look at both sides, then it becomes a witch hunt, and I have great concern about that. Thank you.

Johnson: Okay, Suzanne Jenkins.

Suzanne Jenkins: Okay, good to see everybody. I've been out of making meetings for quite some time due to a leg surgery and some other issues, but I would like to address a few things that I went through. In our last meeting, an individual who was in the public decided to just speak up in the middle of the meeting, and that is in fact a violation, and that person should have been told to cease and desist and been terminated from the room had they decided not to comply with that. Hopefully we can do that today, that nobody will have their two cents' worth except for when it is appropriate. The other thing is, it's kind of a new... We now are over 2500 in our population, so we have a new requirement. I don't know if that's been met or not, legal action taken during the meeting or any recording of the meeting on the website within three working days after the meeting; I don't think that's happened, we can maybe try to make that happen.

Yep, okay. I went back all the way to March of 2019, looking through the minutes of every meeting and various comments, and I fully understand the need that some things have to be kept private and kept that way. But it seems that from March 25th, 2019, and then all the way through the rest of 2019, the issues that happened were addressed, action was taken, and even though the board cannot tell us exactly what their findings were from that previous inspection, if you wanna call it inspection, but the bottom line is, apparently you thought as a board that the Chief was still doing his job as it should have been done. You gave him a \$5000 bonus, I think, in November of that year. So that kinda tells me that at least you thought he was doing the right thing. As I followed through, I kept seeing the right thing all the way through till about June, maybe it was July. And it seemed like an awful lot of things have been imposed on, not just the Fire Chief, but members. Some people have been told to... I don't know, it's a tension thing.

It seems that the actions that have happened, the individuals who are under some level of being, or at least feeling, that they're being not taken care of, not being treated correctly, and that can only come back to the board. So I'm gonna ask the board, kind of as Don did, do the right thing. We understand that you can't tell us everything that goes on, but the things that you can tell should be told broadly to the community and to the members of the fire district. You've got a lot of people who worked really hard for a very long time and cannot afford to lose this. So if you wanna think back to when in fact we did lose this to a board that absolutely collapsed, we don't want that to happen, but the board has to stay online. Thank you.

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Johnson: Okay, Angel Perez.

Angel Perez: They don't want masks for the microphone. So, I got a letter that I wrote to the board. I'm just gonna read this really quick, and then I will make sure I get an email out to all of you with a copy of the letter.

To the board of Sonoita-Elgin Fire District, I'm writing to you in response to the email forwarded by Katie Goodwin on October 20th, 2020, from the chairperson of the board, Chris Johnson. Small towns are notorious for their large rumor mills. I've heard slanderous rumors about the character and integrity of Chief DeWolf, and now this email about Chief DeWolf and an ongoing investigation in the fire district. I've been involved with Sonoita-Elgin Fire District for about 14 years, which includes time as a cadet, volunteer, full-time firefighter EMT, paramedic, and then back to volunteer again. I've not been involved much over the last two years due to family health issues last year and now COVID this year.

I have known Chief Joseph DeWolf for the entire time that I've been involved in the district. He is the reason I entered the fire service in the first place. I have been neighbors with Chief DeWolf for the last six and a half years since I left the full-time service to the district. I can personally say I've never once seen anything in Chief DeWolf's action that would merit the language in the email, and have never heard him speak anything but good about the district or its members. Yes, I have seen him stressed, which you can and will see in any fire chief in any fire district or department. But never once has he said anything bad about the district or its members. He has practiced an amazing amount of care and discretion amidst incredibly stressful times.

I have personally witnessed his leadership in 2006, moving this organization from a volunteer-only department to the combination department that it is today. This was a very stressful time for all involved, due to heavy opposition with the residents not wanting higher taxes, and the fire staff under strain of being overworked. Chief DeWolf solved the ever-increasing call load and the need for full-time employees. With the needs of an aging population and lack of younger families in the area, there would be no volunteers to answer the call when an emergency came in.

I've seen Chief DeWolf keep his calm during some very intense and stressful emergencies. These have included major car crashes with multiple fatalities and some major fires that were burning down multiple homes at the same time. The calls I'm speaking of would have strained the skill and response of larger departments. With his great leadership, organization and understanding of how this environment burns, we were able to keep entire neighborhoods from burning to the ground and able to mitigate the loss of life on mass casualty incidents.

I've also watched him keep his cool and stay professional under an oppressive fire board who had little or no fire experience or experience in fire and EMS. This board was micromanaging him as the chief and trying to micromanage the firefighters and their daily operations. In my understanding, it is not the job of a fire district board to be in charge of the daily operations of the fire chief and crew.

Once again, Chief DeWolf exercised leadership and did his best to be a buffer between the board and his firefighters. Once that board walked away from the district, an administrator from the county came down to evaluate the situation. The administrator had nothing but high praise for how Chief DeWolf has managed the district with the amount of money he has to work with. Rural departments are always at a disadvantage when it comes to money and Chief DeWolf has squeezed every cent to work double time.

Over approximately 14 years, Chief DeWolf has been my mentor and boss. I consider him a friend and a good neighbor. Knowing him personally as I do, I have never and could never see him intentionally breaking the law or causing a hostile work environment, as another previous email has said.

There are certain realities that come with being a chief and some of those are very unpleasant. Having to discipline or let someone go because either they are not performing to the standards that they should or they themselves are bullying or causing disruptions in the operations of the fire service, would be just some of the unpleasant duties of the chief.

Chief DeWolf takes those decisions very seriously and avoids them whenever possible. He endeavors to promote growth and understanding in his crews. He cares for every individual who comes to work here. He cares for their physical and mental health and strives to help and encourage them whenever he can.

Many other fire districts have commented that they are happy to receive personnel that have started their career at SEFD. I've personally heard comments about high standards of training and work ethic of the firefighters who come out of SEFD, which is nothing short of a direct compliment to Chief DeWolf.

I would have more respect of this investigation if it had been conducted while Chief DeWolf was in full health. This investigation was started up while he has been in a vulnerable state of health. And he was not even able to physically be present at the station when these complaints were made. Such personal attacks should be made directly to the individual. Anything less is weak and cowardly. I would like to close by saying my wife's and

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

my support of Chief DeWolf. I am available to offer any witness statements that may be needed in this investigation, or to the fire board. Thank you.

Johnson: Okay. We had some late people arrive, is there any more for the call to the public? Okay. Then we'll move on to the item number one, which is a review, discussion, possible action for check signing and transfers between accounts. We have a situation where we have or the current situation, as I understand it, and unfortunately, Reid is not here. But she's the only board member who is a signer on the account. And Chief DeWolf is also the signer. Sorry. Excuse me, Chief DeWolf is also the signer on the account. We recently had an issue where we had to do transfers in between and we ran into problems because of that. John, would you kind of help elaborate because it was a situation that happened under you. So I would like to hear what your recommendations are. What happened and what are your recommendations?

Buonaccorsi: Okay, can you guys hear me? So currently, Chief DeWolf and Reba are the only ones who can transfer money from the Hughes account to the Chase account. Currently, after having a talk with Kurt and Reba recently, Reba still doesn't know how to do that process, even though she is on those accounts. So Chief DeWolf still has to make the transfer for her, even though he's currently supposed to be on paid administrative leave. So somehow, we need to have the board work on getting this resolved better to maybe have more than one person on the account that can do it. Because if you put him on leave, that leaves us kind of stuck. It's gonna happen again, this next, this payroll also.

Archibald: Reba's already a signature, right?

Buonaccorsi: She is a signature, but she says she does not have any knowledge of how to make the transfer.

Archibald: So from what two banks is it?

Buonaccorsi: It's from Hughes to Chase.

Archibald: I'm sorry. So what two banks is it?

Buonaccorsi: It's from Hughes to the Chase account.

Rutter: No.

Buonaccorsi: No?

Rutter: It's Hughes checking to Hughes..

Buonaccorsi: Sorry, it's from Hughes to Hughes.

Rutter: Hughes to Hughes.

Speaker: To cover the payroll?

Buonaccorsi: To feed the payroll account.

Speaker: So what do you suggest?

Buonaccorsi: Well, one Reba needs to call and find out what her pin number is. Because I guess she doesn't know what it is for Hughes. Because if she had that, she could actually do that for us.

Archibald: Well, I was clerk for three years and never knew I had a pin. So, I understand not knowing. So obviously, something we need to add to the clerk's job for the future, but I didn't know that either. So.

Rutter: So she went to the bank, she went to Hughes with Chief.

Archibald: Yeah, right.

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Rutter: And got on the account.

Archibald: Right.

Rutter: And at that time apparently there would be a pin or some kind of number that she would use to transfer the money. So there's a sheet that we have for her and it shows the phone number to call, the from account and the to account and just do it over the phone.

Archibald: Okay.

Rutter: There's gonna be some pin number or something, that she's gonna have to give and only she knows it.

[laughter]

Archibald: Okay. Okay.

Rutter: It needs to be done today.

Archibald: All right. We'll catch up with her. We will catch up with her today.

Rutter: Okay.

Archibald: Sorry. She's... Had to go to the doctor. So I don't know what's going... She has some health issues that might have popped up. Like I said, I did that job for two years and didn't know that. Or three years. So now we know.

Johnson: As a backup, so considering we only have one person, should we have a another board member, or should we authorize John to do that in the meantime?

Archibald: I think authorizing John would be good.

Archibald: Let's see. I mean, we could have Chris or I or one of us be another person on that account. Or we could have John, we could assign John to that account. I mean, just so we have one more body that can do that.

Rutter: Reba or Chief would have to go with you to the bank to authorize.

Archibald: To authorize the second person. And where's that office at? Tucson? However, you want to proceed. John, do you have a recommendation for how... What would you rather have?

Unidentified Board member: I think Katie has something.

Goodwin (Admin): Okay, right now, I believe that you assigned him (Buonaccorsi) the authority to have a conversation with Chief DeWolf should we need to move the district forward. Then I suggest that Chief Buonaccorsi contact Chief DeWolf and request that he transfer the funds. He's the primary, she is the secondary, she should have had an access. That's something you do when you get a bank account. Right now, we really don't have a choice because you need his cooperation.

Archibald: I understand.

Goodwin: So, until he's well, until he's back, the only thing we can do is request that he have that conversation every two weeks.

Archibald: Good idea.

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Goodwin That's the only thing you can do.

Speaker: I think that's a good idea.

Johnson: Is everyone...

Archibald: John are you okay doing that?

Buonaccorsi: Yeah that's fine.

Johnson: Okay. Since there's no real change?

Archibald: Yeah, there's no changes.

Johnson: We don't need a motion?

Archibald: No, I don't think so.

Johnson: Okay. Annette any comments? Kurt any comments?

Dorney: No.

Archibald: Okay, John?

Johnson: Yeah. Really need to get her stuff settled on that.

Archibald: We'll talk to her. Well, no, we've decided that John was gonna call... Your suggestion was a good one, Katie. John's gonna call Chief and get that... Make that happen. So, I don't think there's a motion that we need to have.

Johnson: Okay. Okay, item number two: Review, discussion and possible action, posting of draft minutes from meetings on the website. This is something that we've talked about before. And unfortunately, Reba is not here again, 'cause as clerk, she's the one on the board that's responsible for doing the minutes. But it is something that needs to be addressed. So, I'd like to open that up for discussion. And Katie, I would hope to have you at least comment on this, because right now, at the very least, at least according to the law, we have to have the minutes, at least in either audio or transcribed form available to the public. Not necessarily posted, but available to the public within three days. Is that correct, Katie?

Goodwin: By law, we are required to have them "available to the public." That means they are either digital format, audio, or paper. This [agenda item] stems from the last meeting, and that meeting happened on a Friday. Katie had Monday off because it was a Federal holiday. Then she had PTO scheduled for three days, which was known by both Acting Chief Buonaccorsi and Chief DeWolf, at least a month ago. Therefore, the minutes didn't go anywhere beyond her computer. That's why I believe this is on the agenda. The latest minutes are generally posted to the website when they are in digital format, but can be in print, as a PDF file or as a Word document. That's what we're required to have it... available.

We have chosen to post it to the website, just to make it available to the public easier. But, if it's not posted on the website, all you have to do is make a public records request and I will provide you either with the audio file, a digital file, or a print copy. And if all else fails, you can actually come into the station, I'll put you at a desk and you can listen to the minutes on the audio. We've never had anybody do that. It is possible, it does kinda create a congestion, but that's doable. But by law the only two things that must be required on the website are the financials... Sorry the only thing that has to go on is the financials that are monthly. If you aren't familiar with our website, the latest minutes go on a single document on our archive page. The minutes that have been adopted are actually within the board packet, that's posted once the minutes have been approved. So that's the current status of what's done and why it wasn't done the last time.

Johnson: Okay. Katie, typically, if you were going to post something to the website, you don't do it, you send it

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

off to the webmaster?

Goodwin: Yes, I send it off to the webmaster.

Johnson: Okay. And that typically takes a day or...

Goodwin: Sometimes it's the same day, it just depends on how busy he is.

Johnson: Okay. Alright.

Kurt: what's the possibility about getting the draft to the board to our emails or something, and going through making our comments if there needs to be any changes and approving them on the website?

Goodwin: Currently, the way things work because of previous board comments, is that the minutes, I type up the minutes and then I forward them to the clerk, Reba, and sometime between the time I forward them to them and the meeting, Reba will make her comments and or corrections or suggestions for corrections. I received an email this morning, which was kinda too late to do anything about, that she has a couple of questions, corrections she would like to see. And then you guys would then discuss if you want to accept the corrections or not, and motion whether you want to accept them or not, or leave them as they're written. But they do go to one board member. If they go to all board members, you can't discuss it amongst yourself. You must individually return comments to me. Otherwise you create a quorum.

Goodwin: Okay.

Archibald: So, we could do that and we return the comments to her. We could do that, if people were interested in doing that and returning the comments to Katie. That's up to the group. If you want to review them. We get them before the meeting, so we get to review them before we come together the next month.

Speaker: Yeah, we can't really get them right before the meeting, though as part of the board packet.

Goodwin: You get them as part of support packet. Yes, because you technically can't take action on them until you're seated as a quorum. So, your comments, are just your comments. You would really need to be able to talk about it here at the meeting and say, "This is what we agreed to," but that's the way it's done in the past. So, basically, you need to conduct the business here, and...to tell me that you don't or do like it is irrelevant to the meeting.

Johnson: I mean comments on minutes, clarifications and things like that aren't necessarily board business, it's just clarifications from individual...

Goodwin: You can't change it to what you intended to say. You must document what was said.

Johnson: Right, right. But the action is really done on the approval of the minutes.

Goodwin: So you're accepting them...,

Johnson: We're accepting them as submitted, Right.

Goodwin: Sorry folks. You can correct them here now, but you can't send me, "Oh, I don't like this. I want you to say this instead", you can't do that.

Archibald: Since Reba had comments about today's minutes that we were supposed to approve today, and she's not here, do we need to table them now?

Goodwin: No, you are a five-member board, you have to have three to two to pass something.

Archibald: No, I understand.

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Goodwin: So just because she doesn't agree with or like them or want some change doesn't mean you have to agree to it.

Johnson: No.

Goodwin: So you have to open it, make a motion, make a second and then discuss whether you agree with her discussion or not, do you accept them or not? And we go from there.

Johnson & Archibald: But we don't know what her discussion is.

Archibald: But we don't know what her comment... We don't know what it was. So.

Goodwin: Well, I can walk across the street and get it.

Speaker: No, it's okay.

Speaker: No.

Goodwin: Or you can table it, or you can do it anyways.

Johnson: Right.

Goodwin: Your choice.

Archibald: I understand that.

Archibald: Alright. Thanks Katie.

Johnson: Alright. Okay, does anyone want to take any action or table this until for review with Reba at the next meeting?

Bahti: Table it. We need to get all the information together and have Reba.... (not understandable.)

Johnson: Okay, alright So everyone in agreement to table it?

Archibald: So I move that we table the minutes to the next meeting. For approval.

Johnson: Do we have a second?

Dorney: I'll second.

Johnson: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously

Johnson: Okay. Okay, review, discussion and possible action of the survey. Annette?

Dorney: Yes, after the last meeting, I got an email from Katie stating that she figured out how to very easily put the survey either in written form or available on the website for people to fill out. It's a questionnaire, an SEFD board survey. And what I would like to do, if it's okay with the rest of the board today, is pass out the latest version of our survey, we've been working on this for several months, and get an update from everyone. It's pretty much the same, but if we could have time now to look at it or table it till the next meeting when Reba will be available hopefully to give any input any then we would need to decide when we would do the survey, but it's a lot better option, Katie was able to help with some help to figure out how to do that.

Johnson: Okay, so you want to have this tabled till the next meeting?

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Dorney: Yeah, I think that would give everybody a chance to look over the survey again, 'cause it had some minor adjustments and then Reba would also have a chance to look at it. I'll email it to her as well...

Johnson: Okay. Operationally... Katie, sorry, [laughter] sorry, Katie, you're getting all your steps in this morning. [laughter] So operationally, Katie, this will be distributed via the website, and we will not be using the mail to do that.

Goodwin: We will not be using mail, that's going to be a little too expensive, and right now, we're watching our pennies. So I found out we could do Google Forms and just assign it to the website directly by a link, and they'll just click on a link, fill out the survey, and we will also have paper copies printed at the station and anybody can stop by and pick 'em up if they'd rather do paper instead of email or internet.

Archibald: When we actually roll this out, we will put it in Claire's newsletter too? Can we actually do that?

Goodwin: Yeah, we can just put... I'm assuming she can put in links but we can send her a link and then people can just click on the link and go. So, it'll be a lot easier, and we won't... If we do it through Survey Monkey, we don't have... When you go in free, you can't put a link on a website, you have to buy into it, and quite frankly, that's not something we want to do right now, so, but we can do google forms for free, so...

Archibald: This is it, just for people's information, this is something we've been working on for about six months or better, it's a community, it's just a status of the whole service that's provided out of the department, this isn't about our personnel, this isn't about that, it's more about... what the expectations of the community are for the fire office, fire station, so it's not related to anything else that's going on in the fire department right now. Started a long time ago.

Johnson: Okay, and it's not meant to be a...

Archibald: No.

Johnson: Comprehensive survey, it's just basically levels of satisfaction. Okay, we will table that until Reba is back. Before we move on to...

Archibald: Finance and...

Johnson: Yeah, I know...

Archibald: We just... Skipped that?

Johnson: Somehow... Under action items we got changed around a little bit, and I skipped some of that. So, before we go in to... move on to item number four and five and six, let's have a review by the Chief and finances. This is what happens when I don't wear my glasses.[chuckle]

Buonaccorsi: So, we had 42 calls last month. Zone One had 10, Zone Two had three, Zone Three had 14, Zone Four had four, and Zone Five had 11. A Shift had 11, B Shift had 14, C Shift had 15, and there was two that were like while the other shift was coming off for B and C. See some other information here. So, we have... A grant came in for some fitness equipment. It's like sandbags and some vests and stuff like that for Wildland. We started using it already, and the only thing they really required us do, is take some pictures, put it on the media, and that's the only requirement they really had. Emma Lair got that for us.

Johnson: Okay, who was the grant from?

Buonaccorsi: Marc?

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Emma Laird: 555 Fitness.

Buonaccorsi: 555 Fitness.

Buonaccorsi Yes. So recently, I appointed temporary positions for two people. I moved Mark Meredith from Captain to Operations Chief temporarily, and Emma Lair from firefighter paramedic to temporary Acting Captain on A Shift. We'll be filling one of the firefighter's positions with another temporary person. I'm not sure if that's going to be... One sec.

Meredith Its in place. You just have to sign the letter.

Buonaccorsi: Okay. So, we have somebody for the firefighter position already too, so we're all set on A Shift now. Okay.

Johnson: I'm sorry. Who's moving to Captain, Temporary Captain?

Buonaccorsi: Emma Lair?

Johnson: Okay, thank you.

Buonaccorsi: We did three new business inspections. Community events, we have the Halloween party coming up here on the 30th. We'll have a firetruck there, and spraying the ducks.

[chuckle]

Buonaccorsi: Rosemont Mine, there's really no updates. The only updates for the other mine is, you're going to have more activity once they finally get out of their testing phase, so all they're really doing now, is pulling some core samples, but when they get up and running big time, yes, we're going to have a lot more traffic here. Nothing you can do about it per se.

Archibald: I went to the thing they had down in Patagonia.

Buonaccorsi: The open house thing?

Archibald: The open house thing, and encouraged them strongly to come up and do one here because of the proposed traffic coming up and around, up to I-10, and I was told that they're still... They haven't made a final decision on anything yet. They're still looking at other options. But they've bought a lot of property to make this how they're going to do it, and if that's true, the... Well, how'd she say it? There's going to be an ore truck every seven minutes coming up this road. So just for people's information, hopefully, they will follow through. There were quite a few of us there that encouraged them to come up and talk to the people that live along these roads and have a conversation about the impact, also the impact on our safety, people coming up and down. These aren't roads built for these big trucks. So hopefully, in the near future, we'll see if they follow through on what they... I have a little lack of trust with that. I don't know why, but we'll see. But it's a lot of trucks.

Johnson: This would all be in ADOT's decision, but any possibility of at least getting a stop sign at the cross-road so people... So the trucks would have the... Would have to stop before turning? Because...

Buonaccorsi: It's possible, but more traffic...

Johnson: Or are they going through? Are they...

Buonaccorsi: No, they're gonna go up to 83 on the I-10 up to Tucson to put it in railcars to go to the processing place.

Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900

Archibald: At that Kolb, the new Kolb.

Archibald: Oh, that Cole.

Buonaccorsi: Yeah, that big thing on Cole, that big building through there.

Bahti: Oh, yeah, that's what all that's for. Darn, I thought that was for Amazon. Okay.

[laughter]

Buonaccorsi: Maybe partially for them, who knows.

[laughter]

Archibald: Well, hopefully, they'll come up, and hopefully, they'll come up here and talk to us, but they were not... I don't know where it's going to go. They've spent a ton of money to develop it so it comes this way. The people in the outskirts of Patagonia aren't happy either.

Johnson: But what does ADOT... I assume ADOT is aware of this.

Buonaccorsi: You can assume, but...

[laughter]

Archibald: Chris, what I learned, is ADOT... These roads are public roads.

Buonaccorsi: Yeah, anybody can go on the roads.

Archibald: So even though this road is scenic highway going up, this is what I was told. True or false, I don't know. But it's a scenic highway going up that way and it really doesn't matter. That was the blank statement. It really doesn't matter. We can do what we want to do, kind of thing. Not in those words, but what was implied.

Johnson: I know, 'cause during the Rosemont Mine, ADOT was heavily consulted, but they basically said, I think they said we'd average an accident like every 17 days, or something like that. That was their... Because of the excess traffic on there, and now it's like every four or five months, or something like that, and they were saying we were gonna... We would be...

Archibald: Well, everyone likes to pass. Going up there, people pass and these trucks are big trucks.

Johnson: Yeah.

Archibald: So, if you all hear about it and see that it's coming to Sonoita, please, please go and have your voice heard about using these roads. They have two other options. What I was told, one option is going somewhere back through the airport was one other option, and another option I heard people talking about was just going right to the border, Mexican border, having the trains come up that way, and then I was told, "Well, that's really not possible because not all the ore is going to guymas Some of it may go... May, go up here to the United States, some place. So that's why you want here... So I'm not real happy about it. I know most of us aren't. But we need to get the word out.

Dorney: I wonder at what point the stop light might be considered at the cross-roads.

Buonaccorsi: A Lot of times they don't do that until there's more accidents. That's kind of how it's... Kinda how it plays-out. They don't like to make changes unless there's a couple of fatalities... Not saying that's a good thing, I'm just saying that's how ADOT kinda works.

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Dorney: Chief, do you have an update on the "CON" discussion about Patagonia at the last meeting?

Buonaccorsi: Did I tell you last. No, I didn't. Okay, so the only update we have is I called Rio Rico's chief. When I finally got in contact with him, he said that there is currently no conversation going on between him and Ike. He hasn't had a talk with them, so that's not really going on. Rio Rico will be going closer soon once they take over Suburban Nogales. So, they will be closer for a response, but they're not taking over the "CON". Ike's more concerned right now with refusals, as we charge a certain amount for refusals when we go down there, that's really mostly his concern, in that times when we could possibly go down there with another vehicle, we don't because we want to stay in our district to protect our district here, so that's kind of his concerns right now.

Johnson: Okay, so just for clarification, when you're talking about refusals, people who refuse...

Buonaccorsi: Transport.

Johnson: Transport, okay, not refusals of the district to respond to...

Buonaccorsi: No. More when we go down there and do an ALS assessment or if they don't have providers to do a refusal, then we'll do it for them, but there's a charge for that.

Johnson: Okay.

Buonaccorsi: Yeah, it's kinda high. So, just what it is.

Archibald: So we charge the people that, right? That refuse.

Buonaccorsi: Yeah, we charge patient, customer, whatever you want to call it. Yes.

Johnson: Okay.

Buonaccorsi: So that's a little bit of a concern when you... You're probably on a low budget, it happens, but there's... They can pay into it slowly 10 dollars a month and pay it... And it'll take them 10 years, but there's ways to do it.

Johnson: But currently, if you're a member or a resident of the district, and we roll an ambulance and they refuse, there is no charge for that?

Buonaccorsi: There's no charge for that 'cause they are taxpayers.

Johnson: Okay.

Buonaccorsi: Some other personnel news is we have one new member since last month, we have 11 currently in the process, and 3 are expected to come out of the process here shortly this month. So we're getting more volunteers now.

Archibald: 11 new volunteers?

Buonaccorsi: Well, there's 11 volunteers in the process. We have one new one that just came in last month...

Archibald: Okay, good.

Buonaccorsi: This month, so. Let's see here. Apparatus updates, we're seeing our trucks up for PM so we're trying to get them ready for the year basically. We do it once a year unless there's mileage. Usually go up more

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

than that, but... Let's see. Department of corrections, they say that they want to start bringing the inmates back, but not yet until... They wanted to know if we wanted to have that program again, and we told them, yes, but we're still on a hold because of the COVID. So not letting them out yet, but...

Johnson: And we'll see what happens.

Buonaccorsi: There is the plan to bring 'em back and let 'em do the stuff for us. So any other questions?

Johnson: Well, when we have a... Let me just state this, when we have new members join, I think it would be a good idea to introduce them to the board and to the community here, and when we have major... I'm going to say changes going up to Ops, filling into captain, it would be good to introduce them to the board and community, so we can congratulate them.

Buonaccorsi: Mark Meredith is operations chief, he's right here. Emma Laird is right here.

Buonaccorsi: Also, there was a letter or an email put out to all members about their promotions, so that's been done, and we did start a newsletter basically, since we're not doing Tuesday night meetings currently, but we hope to start them up again. We put out a little newsletter of what's kinda going on in our department right now to all the members, and then if anybody does want to contact an investigator, get with me and I'll give you her contact information and you can contact her.

Johnson: Okay, just as an update, I did talk, have a real brief talk with Josh about the... Getting better internet service so we can host, better host virtual meetings there. And... 'Cause he said that he hadn't looked at Trans World for quite a while, years actually, and... So, he said he was going to take a look at that and see if there's anything they can do there or evaluate them versus another provider to see if... So, we'll see... It's moving, and I'll continue to talk with him to see what we can come up with.

Johnson: Vicky...

Vicki Rutter: MS Rutter presented the financial reports to the Board, including the Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Statement and the Cash Flow Forecast, with a reminder that the Balance Sheet was still preliminary because the audit's not finished, and this is as of September 30, 2020.

Archibald: Vicky can you... For our next meeting, can you provide us with a breakdown of what goes in that line, what's charged to that line?

Rutter: Which line?

Archibald: The 83, it's what goes to the Chief. Not all of that goes to the Chief. My understanding is that the whole amount doesn't go to the Chief...

Rutter: I think you're thinking of the income portion... The income portion dos not?

Archibald: No. No. This is an expense. So.

Rutter: That's the chief's portion of what Palominas pays Sonoita.

Archibald: I don't think that...

Rutter: Yeah. I do payroll. It's twice a month.

Archibald: I guess, I don't remember.

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Rutter: It's in the Palominas agreement. It outlines it with the IGA.

Archibald: Yeah. I've seen some other stuff that were charged, but...

Archibald: Yeah. I thought there were other stuff charged to that line... Not that line. There was one time we had to pay \$10 for the Intuit charge.

Archibald: So this also includes mileage, vehicles and everything that...

Rutter: This is just the salary the chief gets for The Palominas IGA. When we bill...

Archibald: Yeah. I know...

Archibald: But that's not what we agreed to. I guess I don't... I need some back-up to that 'cause I don't remember that much...

Rutter: When we bill Palominas, it's a per week.

Speaker: Right.

Speaker: So they get billed per week, and...

Speaker: Mileage he hasn't done...

Rutter: Well, they provide him a vehicle, so there hasn't been mileage for a long time. Then he gets paid a portion of what Palominas pays as a salary. And that's what is in this amount, is that portion of what Palominas pays Sonoita.

Archibald: Okay I'm gonna have further questions about that, but that's just you can finish finance...

Rutter: 'Cause I do both sides of it so I have an idea...

Archibald: I know you do. That's why I'm asking you. I was under the impression other things got billed to that line item, that got credited to that line item.

Archibald: Does this include all the incidentals? Retirement, etcetera.

Rutter: No. No. No.

Archibald: Just a salary?

Rutter: Just a salary, Mm-hmm.

Speaker: Okay.

Speaker: Okay. But check with... Talk to me...

Rutter: Yeah. I will. I'm going to leave at 10-30, but I will catch up with you because I need to understand that better 'cause I don't remember us approving that much. I just don't remember that.

Archibald: No. No, when I look back. I look back...

Rutter: It was in... When the IGA was signed, it went for what? Two years at the beginning and then it was renewed, there was an increase at that point when it was renewed for what his portion was.

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the
Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Archibald: Okay. I'm just going to have to go look. I want to look at that. I want to look at those notes and see where that was 'cause I don't remember seeing that. So, I just don't remember. It's not good or bad. It's probably in the minutes someplace...

Rutter: It's in the agreement which I don't have. But...

Rutter: Then the last report that you have to do is the cash flow forecast. Now the first column B is the budget for 2021. The next three columns show the actual July, August, September, and all the rest are still forecast. Okay? On page two, if you look at line 80 for the net budgeted revenues and expenses, if everything happens as is forecast right now, over on the total, we're at a loss of \$4,760. And that's not really good to be projecting that at this point in our fiscal year, and that's just for the budgeted income and expenses. Then Page 3 are the other un-budgeted revenue and un-budgeted expenses. If you look down on line 104, shows the cash on hand, you can see at the end of September, it's \$479,698 and then if you go all the way across to the final column, we're showing \$718,000 at the end of the fiscal year, if everything happened as planned.

Okay, then above that on line 102, the net overall income and loss, which includes budgeted and un-budgeted, we're forecasting a loss of \$7,598. So both of those budgeted and un-budgeted are negative. Since both balances are not positive, there's potentially an adverse impact on operations or liquidity of the district to report. Now, we've never reported to the County Board of Supervisors. I don't think it's necessary because we do have cash, a fair amount of cash, but that's one of the requirements. If you're projecting a loss...then you're supposed to possibly report it. So anyway, expenses should be monitored very carefully for the rest of the year. So, are there any questions on the cash flow forecast? Any questions on anything?

Johnson: I think we're good. Thank you very much Vicky. Okay we are now on to well, item number four, possible executive session. We've had some scheduling issues with the attorney. Attorney's not going to be ready for at least an hour or more, so I'm going to table that for right now. But we've been, so item number five review, discussion and possible action on the status of the current investigation. The investigation is going well. I've talked with the investigator. She didn't go into any details other than basically saying she has talked with a number of members of the community who have written in and that things have been going well. She may follow up. If you've talked with her, thank you very much. She may follow up and then she's also talked with a number of members of the district itself, a small number, and then once she's talked with a number of those more then she'll have a better idea as to how long that this is going to be going on for.

Archibald: I think for the people that came up and talked today that would like to speak to the investigator, John has that phone number, and I hope that if you want to do that, you get that phone number from John so that if you have something to say that you feel is important that you want to share, whichever side of the coins, there's a million sides of this coin. Please do that. Please do that. If you sit back and wait for something to happen, I can't tell you it's going to happen. If you just take a step and make that phone call. There were... Dennis and Alex? Angel, sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Please get those phone numbers. I'd encourage you to do that.

Johnson: Okay. So, since we're not ready to go into executive session and we're still in item number five, I would like to recess until a future time that we can finish off items four and five.

Archibald: I'm okay with that. You okay with that?

Johnson: Okay.

Archibald: I'll move that we... It's not tabling it. Recessing, sorry, recess until we have the opportunity to go into executive session and then we'll come back. So, we have 24 hours to do that in, by law, we don't have... Just we learn as we go too. So, we have 24 hours. So, I don't know if it's gonna be later today or first thing tomorrow morning when we go into executive session. So, we don't know that right this moment, but we will go in the next 24 hours.

**Minutes to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District held at the Sonoita Bible Church across the street from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, 26 Oct 2020
0900**

Dorney: I'll second the motion.

Johnson: Okay. All in favor.

Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson: Opposed? Okay. We're in recess.

Goodwin: Can you please state the time?

Johnson: It's 10:20.

Dorney: I would like to say one thing very quickly. I'd appreciate if everyone would do their social distancing and wear their masks over their noses and mouths whenever we're meeting in a closed environment like this. Thank you.

Johnson: Good. Thank you.

Administrative note: Meeting ended. Unfortunately, the Board did not "recess" correctly, therefore this meeting is considered complete. A new meeting was scheduled for Oct 29, 2020 at 0900 at the firehouse to complete the remaining items on the agenda of 26 Oct 2020. The minutes of 29 Oct 2020 are posted separately.