

On February 5th we held an executive planning session with the Battalion Chiefs and Maria. We discussed our last board meeting minutes, new policies, Copper Queen hospital, BC assignments, budget, AirEvac contract, Palominas FD, Capital projects and personnel assignments.

There was a nice story in the local paper about our Automatic Aid agreement with the City of Sierra Vista a couple of weeks ago that shows the advantages of working together to serve the public's interest.

We will be making upgrades to the AC units at station 143 and station 141 this coming month. At both stations, the units that were originally installed were too small, along with wrong size ductwork at station 143. We received two bids from local companies, Mountain View and Bergs. Mountain View was the low bid winner.

The awards dinner will be held March 23rd at 6:00 at Manda Le Restaurant.

New run summary reports are in the board member's boxes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of December 31, 2012. She informed the board that our 2013 assessed valuations decreased 2%, which will affect our budget by approximately \$72,000. We will be working diligently on the budget over the next few months and will be presenting progress to the fire board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Banister made a motion to accept the regular board meeting minutes of January 23, 2012. Mr. Nash seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS AGENDA

A. Review of warrants issued for January 2013

Mr. Nash asked what the difference between the two City of Sierra Vista vendors is. Maria clarified that one is for the Sierra Vista Fire Department, while the other is to the city for fuel, etc. Mr. Nash also asked what we purchase from the vendor TriTech. Maria explained that that it is the software vendor for our ambulance billing program.

There were no further questions regarding the month's warrants.

B. Arizona Fire District Association Report

The legislative session is in full swing with over 1145 bills posted. Chief Miller provided the board members with several proposed bills to look at, but tonight we will review some of them that might have a direct impact on fire districts. The good news is that they cannot post any additional bills as Monday was the last day to post.

SB1057 regarding AHCCCS rates by re-coupling the rates or restoring authority back to ADHS rates which were 80% for emergency 911 calls and 70% for inter-facility calls. We are now receiving 68.59% of our approved rates. This bill passed out of committee 8-0 and is now being held by Senator Briggs in the Senate Rules Committee. He feels this should be handled in the Governor's general budget and not through legislation, so he plans to hold the bill for now.

SB1410 is a new bill sponsored by ABC ambulance. The bill would read, "a public necessity is not required if the applicant is requesting a certificate of necessity to provide only scheduled non-emergency ground ambulance services". This bill would allow any company the right to do non-emergency transports, including inter-facility. Arizona Ambulance Association and AFDA are opposed to this bill.

HB2200 County Fire Department Authorization, this bill would authorize the County Board of Supervisors to establish a county fire department by resolution if a fire district dissolves, but they could also enter into intergovernmental agreements with cities or towns, or private fire companies to provide services. AFDA, along with the County Supervisors Association are opposed to this bill.

HB2275 Insurance Premium Tax; Reduction. This is an insurance industry effort to reduce the tax amount. This bill would reduce or decrease the aggregate funding for PSPRS and therefore increase employer costs to support the retirement system. AFDA is opposed.

HB2331: BONDING; TAXATION; EXPENDITURES; DISTRICT LIMITATIONS passed out of House Reform and Human Services Committee on a 4-3 party line vote. This is the Goldwater Institute, which is designed to further restrict local government tax levies / spending. Fire districts and fire departments have been specifically singled out for spending control. Limits of 2% similar to SB1383. This bill was assigned to the House Ways & Means Committee, but was not on their agenda for a hearing. AFDA is opposed.

HB2483 Public Notices; Publishing; Public Medium. This bill is being introduced by Representative Stevens. He would like to eliminate the use of printed media if you have other means to inform the public such as webpages. AFDA doesn't

believe this bill will go anywhere due to the newspapers powerful lobbyists. We are not opposed to this bill as we could save several thousand dollars.

HB2572: FIRE DISTRICTS; FINANCIAL STANDARDS: AFDA request to address calls for various financial reforms by legislators. In summary, HB2572 requires fire districts to reconcile all fund accounts for each calendar month within 30 days after the end of the month and the fire district board must review the accounts monthly. Fire districts are required to produce monthly financial reports in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles to include cash flow projections for each fiscal year and the fire district board must review the updated cash flow projections each month. Any financial report or cash flow projection that indicates an adverse impact on ongoing operations or liquidity must be reported to the county treasurer and the county board of supervisors within 10 days after the discovery. AFDA is supporting and sponsoring. Our fire district is already meeting the intent of this bill.

SB1282 Countywide Fire Districts. This bill would establish a single countywide fire district that is governed by the County Board of Supervisors and authorizing a secondary property tax. The bill is sponsored by Senator Crandell from the White Mountain area. This is due to both Show Low Fire District and White Mountain Lakes Fire District having financial challenges. We don't think this bill will go anywhere due to increases in property taxes; AFDA is opposed as well as the AZ Tax Research Association and the County Association.

SB1291 Fire Districts; Board Meetings; Attendance is sponsored by Senator Gail Griffin. This bill would require that a board member must be present in person for the purpose of determining a quorum. This bill was introduced after the problems that exist in the Palominas Fire District. The problem here is that the bill only addresses fire boards and no other boards or councils. AFDA is opposed.

SB1340 Municipal Fire Districts. Senator Driggs introduced the bill along with several sponsors. It is designed to allow cities to form a fire district if approved by citizens during an election, if placed on the ballot. Allows for a secondary taxing authority, so municipal fire departments would no longer use sale tax or other city taxes, but rather secondary taxes like fire districts. This bill was to help Paradise Valley. AFDA does not believe this bill will move forward.

SB1383 Property Tax Limits; Local Districts. This bill would limit the taxing authority of fire districts to 2% of the levy from the previous taxing year beginning in 2014. AFDA will oppose this bill. This is the number one priority bill to kill for AFDA or our lobbyists.

There are several bills concerning fireworks. Most of the bills will give cities and towns more authority to regulate the sale and use. AFDA is in support of the regulations being enforced by said entities.

Lastly, there are over 31 bills relating to pensions and labor that we will continue to monitor. Chief Miller has already made contact with our local representatives on our positions on several of the bills mentioned.

C. Badge Presentations

Chief Miller called up Battalion Chief Billy Seamans and presented him to the board, as well as the audience, as the newly promoted Battalion Chief of Fry Fire District. Chief Seamans was promoted to the position formerly filled by Jeff Spencer. Chief Seamans's work ethic and dedication are two of the attributes that we feel will best aid him in his new position. Chief Miller called his wife and children up to pin his badge.

Chief Miller called up our seven new Reserve Firefighters; Ryan Dannels, Jared Haros, Mike Kean, Scott Redmond, Dylan Roberts, Jason Santo and Brett Scheib. Each was presented to the board, as well as the audience, and Chief Miller read about the importance of their role to the fire service. Each was introduced and had a loved one come up and badge them.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

ACTION ITEM

- A. Review, discussion and possible action to instruct the fire district's attorney to represent the Fry Fire District in the pending or possible contemplated litigation with the Copper Queen Hospital regarding patient transports.

Mr. Nash made a motion that the board adjourn to executive session to discuss this matter. Mrs. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION CARRIED (adjourned at 7:39 pm)

Regular session resumed at 8:06 pm.

Mr. Nash made a motion that the board allow Chief Miller to continue discussions with our attorney and report any updates to the board. Mr. Gil seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION CARRIED

- B. Review, discussion and possible action to approve “Resolution 2013-001” allowing the Fry Fire District to submit an application to the Arizona Highway Safety Plan.

Chief Miller explained to the board that this is the annual resolution that must be board-approved for grant funding. We are requesting rescue tools through this grant.

Mr. Barnett made a motion that the board accept and approve Resolution 2013-001. Mr. Nash seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION CARRIED

- C. Review, discussion and possible action to accept the “2013 Strategic Plan” for Fry Fire District.

Chief Miller explained to the board that the strategic plan is used as a guide and changes can and will be made as necessary. We would like the board to approve it as written, with the knowledge that we will update it as needs change.

Mrs. Banister made a motion that the board accept the Strategic Plan as presented. Mr. Nash seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION CARRIED

- D. Review, discussion and possible action to add or amend the fire district policies regarding the Finance Policy, DUI (Driving while under the Influence) Policy and the Donation of Leave Policy.

Chief Miller previously mailed each board member a packet, which included the aforementioned policies. We would like to institute both the Finance and DUI policies, as we currently don’t have either in our Policies and Procedures, and amend the donation of leave policy to reflect necessary changes.

The financial policy outlines what we do as an organization regarding purchasing, accounts payable, payroll, deposits, account posting, etc. The DUI policy is one that Chief Miller feels we need to implement as we have experienced three DUI’s throughout his tenure as Fire Chief. He feels that appropriate actions have been taken on the previous infractions; however, would like a guide in writing. As the chief, Chief Miller will still have final decision making regarding the discipline.

Mr. Barnett asked that the board consider tabling the policies, as he didn’t have an opportunity to review them. The board discussed and gave feedback on each. Mr.

Nash stated that he thought the Finance policy looked great and feels that it is very detailed. Mr. Nash and Mr. Brofer both expressed their feelings that there should be a “Zero Tolerance” in regards to the DUI policy as we are public figures.

Mr. Barnett made a motion that the board tables the Finance Policy until he had an opportunity to review it. Mrs. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Gil made a motion that the board tables the DUI Policy until next meeting to allow Mr. Barnett an opportunity to review the policy. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Nash made a motion to accept the sick leave policy and the donation of leave policy as amended. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
MOTION CARRIED

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Barnett mentioned that he will likely be gone next meeting. There were no further comments/requests from board members for future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barnett made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:47 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Banister.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

DATED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2013.

Art Nash
Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board