

MINUTES

AVRA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Meeting Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021
Meeting Time: 4:00 PM
Location: 21021 E. Homestead Drive, Red Rock, AZ 85145

RECORDING ON.

- 1) **Call To Order** Chairman Castenada called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**
- 3) **Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum**

Chairman Castaneda, Jr	Chief Delfs
Vice-Chairman Bauer	Assistant Chief Klein
Clerk Neilson	Lorrie Palmquist (present by phone)
Director Armendarez (absent/excused)	Counsel Wencker (present by phone)
Director Haffner	
- 4) **Recognition of Personnel** NONE
- 5) **Call To The Public** NONE
- 6) **Announcements, Current Events & Correspondence**
 - AFDA hotel and class registrations have been made. Per diem checks will be available at the June 24th Board meeting.
- 7) **Review, Discussion and possible Action regarding the following items for consent:**
 - *Minutes from the regular meeting held April 22, 2021*
 - *amendment to the dispatch agreement*

Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to approve the *Consent Agenda* as presented with the recommended amendment to the April 22, 2021 Minutes, adding the words "discussion ensued" to Agenda item 10 regarding discussion of the FY22 Proposed Budget. Chairman Castenada seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.*

8) **Chief's Report**

The Fire Chief may update the Board on items of interest relating to but not limited to the following: Response times, vehicles, facilities, labor relations, personnel, finance, grants, communications and/or training. Alternatively, the Fire Chief may provide written comments in the Board Member's packets or by email. The Board Members may ask clarifying questions and they may direct the Chief to place items on future agendas for further discussion or action.

The Chief highlighted the following items from his report:

- Greater Tucson Fire Foundation has provided funding for special testing as part of the annual physicals for our suppression staff. This will allow several of our personnel to have specific bio-marker testing beginning in June. If the test is successful, the testing will be utilized by the entire region.
- Other grants have been received for hazmat and wildland equipment.
- Our workers compensation provider has provided estimates for the worst case scenario because their numbers will not be approved until the end of June.

- 9) Review, Discussion and possible Action to modify and/or approve the April 2021 Financial Reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the *Certificate of Review*.

We are 83% of the way through the fiscal year. We have received 81% of anticipated revenue and expended 76% of the budget. All wildland monies have been received. Clerk Neilson motioned to approve the April 2021 financial reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the *Certificate of Review*. Vice-Chairman Bauer seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.*

- 10) Review, Discussion and possible Action to review and/or adopt the Proposed FY22 Budget and direct staff to post as required by law in preparation for final adoption at the June Board meeting

In developing the budget, we had the goal of enhancing all frontline services and establishing a foundation for economic prosperity while eliminating the structural deficit. This budget is legally balanced and includes a two-year projection. It eliminates any non-priority items, provides for all frontline services, pays our bond debt, increases compensation 2.5% across the board except for the Fire Chief, provides funds to maintain our assets, ensures non-recurring revenues are directed to non-recurring expenditures, and anticipates a reserve for future years. The slight increase in property tax levies still only equates to FY11 tax levies. We will be moving everyone up by one step in the compensation plan, except the new hires in July will enter at step one. The Proposed Budget accurately reflects all Board policies, and is the first time in a decade that the District projects a solid five year sustainable budget. One example of an item that still needs to be addressed is the installation of coolers at the stations, which is listed for discussion later in this Agenda. Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to adopt the Proposed FY22 Budget including the tax levy rate of \$3.50 and the bond levy rate of \$.60 and direct staff to post it as required by law in preparation for final adoption at the June 24th Board meeting. Director Haffner seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.*

- 11) Review, Discussion and possible Action to modify and/or approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Avra Valley Fire District and the IAFF Local 4462

Ten years ago, the Board resolved to meet and confer with the Local 4462 for purposes of maintaining a written annual agreement. The MOU is a written record of those things decided upon from the meet and confer process. The current agreement expires at the end of June. The proposed MOU amendment has been updated to reflect current practices such as revising language referring to the purchase of boots and increasing the death benefit to \$10,000 which more properly reflects the current economy. Counsel Wencker addressed the Board stating that this MOU is explicitly not a contract. However, constitutionally once a public employee is given a right, it cannot be taken away from them without providing due process. So, the Union or a member has the right to take action against the District. However, we have not had a legal challenge over the MOU in nine years and our employees are happy with the benefits pursuant to the MOU. Furthermore, the MOU mirrors the District *Policy Manual*. Captain Tharp addressed the Board expressing thanks to Chief Delfs for exercising great patience, openness and teamwork regarding the whole meet and confer process. Chairman Castenada expressed appreciation to the employees for their service to the community and expressed total support for the proposed changes to the MOU. Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Avra Valley Fire District and the IAFF Local 4462. Director Haffner seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.*

- 12) Review, Discussion and possible Action to review and/or approve the purchase of new coolers for Stations 192, 193 and 194 apparatus bays

Chief Delfs addressed the Board explaining that this issue will be far more expensive than anticipated. Bids from three companies were received, with no response received from a fourth bidder. Although this will be a very expensive fix, we anticipate that replacing coolers will save us money in the long run by protecting our valuable equipment. The lowest bid received was \$14,042 per station for 2 coolers per station, including upgrades to the water and electric systems and an extended 2-year warranty. Because of the size of the bays, each station requires two coolers. If we have a surplus, I suggest that we apply some of the carryover funds to install coolers at one or more of the stations. Discussion ensued. Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to approve new coolers for Stations 192, 193 and 194, pending available funds from any carryover at June 30, 2021. Clerk Neilson seconded. *Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.*

- 13) Reports of Board Members and Staff NONE

- 14) Future Agenda Items


- Hold public hearings in conjunction with the 4:00 PM June 24th Board meeting in preparation for adopting the FY22 Budget with a tax levy rate of \$3.50 and a Bond Levy Rate of \$.60, or as otherwise determined by the Board, at the June 24, 2021 Board meeting.


- 15) Date of Next Board Meeting June 24, 2021

- 16) Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Haffner seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *Meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM.*

RECORDING OFF.


SIGNED


DATE

Board Members

Luis Castaneda, Jr. Sara Bauer Eric Neilson Thomas Armendarez James Haffner

In accordance with the Federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, Avra Valley Fire District is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD).