

## MINUTES

### AVRA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

#### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Meeting Date:** Thursday, February 25, 2021  
**Meeting Time:** 4:00 PM  
**Location:** 21021 E. Homestead Drive, Red Rock, AZ 85145

#### RECORDING ON

- 1) **Call To Order** Chairman Castaneda called the meeting to order at 4:12 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  
Vice-Chairman Bauer  
Clerk Neilson  
Director Armendarez (present by phone)  
Director Haffner

Chief Delfs  
Assistant Chief Klein  
Lorrie Palmquist (present by phone)  
Counsel Wencker (present by phone)

- 4) **Recognition of Personnel**

**Retirement:** Captain Billy Eader

Chief Delfs addressed the Board stating that Captain Eader has decided to retire after a long career with the District. He presented Captain Eader with a plaque in grateful appreciation for 27 years of service to the Avra Valley Fire District. Chief Delfs recognized the family members who were present, thanking them for their generous support which enabled Captain Eader to serve the community for so many years. Captain Eader addressed the group expressing both sadness and thanksgiving, stating that it was a real privilege to work with the Avra Valley family. He also expressed gratitude to his family for the sacrifices and support during his tenure. Chairman Castaneda expressed extreme thanks on behalf of the District.

**Presentation of 10 Year Pin:** Chief Delfs

Chairman Castaneda presented a 10-year service pin to Chief Delfs, expressing extreme gratitude for his unswerving commitment to the successful operation of Avra Valley Fire District. Union President, Captain Tharp, addressed the group also expressing extreme thanks for his commitment to the personnel. We are all looking forward to 10 more years!

- 5) **Call To The Public** NONE

- 6) **Announcements, Current Events & Correspondence**

*A brief summary of announcements, current events, correspondence, and other information concerning the District. The Governing Board is prohibited from proposing, discussing, deliberating, and/or taking legal action on any matters under this agenda item, unless specifically listed as an agenda item elsewhere on this agenda.*

- Friday, February 26, 2021, via Zoom meeting, Pinal County will host an open discussion regarding the anticipated economic boom which Nikola Motor Company will bring to the region.

7) **Review, Discussion and possible Action** regarding the following items for consent:

*A consent agenda allows the Board to approve several items simultaneously without the need to file separate motions for each item. Items are usually believed to be non-controversial and do not require further explanation. Any Board Member may ask that an item be removed from the consent calendar and considered separately.*

The two Consent Agenda items were approved separately.

- **Minutes from the regular meeting held January 28, 2021**

Vice Chairman Bauer motioned to approve the Minutes from the regular Board meeting held January 28, 2021. Clerk Neilson seconded. **Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.**

- **Confirm the appointment of Mr. Castaneda to Chair the Avra Valley Fire District Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Local Board effective immediately**

Chief Delfs explained that due to his work schedule, Clerk Neilson has requested to step down from serving as Chairman of the Local Pension Board. Per Statute, the District appointed Chairman Castaneda to serve as Chair. Vice Chairman Bauer motioned to confirm the appointment of Mr. Castaneda to chair the Avra Valley Fire District Local Pension Board. Clerk Neilson seconded. **Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.**

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:

- The District will be hiring 4 additional personnel
- The District met the CON response times during January
- There are still no models or policies available for districts to implement regarding the recent marijuana legislation. Therefore, Counsel Wencker was asked to draft a policy for the District.
- Legislation is going through now which may make it difficult to project numbers for a budget draft in March. Therefore, a look at the preliminary FY22 budget is suggested for April.

Counsel Wencker addressed the Board. He stated that many other districts are establishing zero tolerance policies for both medical and recreational use of marijuana. The zero-tolerance policy is for many reasons, including the fact that there are other medications which can be used in lieu of marijuana, and also that there are specific rules related to all entities which are recipients of Federal funding. Chief Delfs commented that the Unions of these districts do support the zero-tolerance position.

9) **Review, Discussion and possible Action** to approve the January 2021 Financial Reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the *Certificate of Review*.

Clerk Neilson motioned to approve the January 2021 financial reports and authorize the Chairman and clerk to sign the *Certificate of Review*. Director Armendarez seconded.

**Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.**

10) Review, Discussion and possible Action to approve the FY20 Audit report. The District auditors will be present telephonically to present the audit report.

Mr. Saunders was present by phone. He explained to the Board that the preparation and presentation of the financial statements is management's responsibility. The auditor's responsibility is to express opinions on the financial statements. An audit is conducted in accordance with U.S. auditing standards and governmental auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General. The following opinions were contained in the final audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020:

1. The financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects.
2. No material weaknesses were identified in the District's internal controls.
3. No instances of noncompliance or other matters required to be reported under government auditing standards were identified.
4. The District complied, in all material respects, with the requirements identified in the State of Arizona Revised Statutes.

Vice Chairman Bauer motioned to approve the FY20 Final Audit Report. Director Haffner seconded.  
*Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.*

11) **Reports of Board Members and Staff**


12) **Future Agenda Items**

13) **Date of Next Board Meeting**                      **March 25, 2021**

14) **Adjournment**

Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Clerk Neilson seconded.  
*Motion carried unanimously, 5:0. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.*

**RECORDING OFF**

  
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**SIGNED**

3-25-2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

**Board Members**

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

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