

# MINUTES

## AVRA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Meeting Date:** Friday, February 28, 2020  
**Meeting Time:** 8:00 AM  
**Location:** 21021 E. Homestead Drive, Red Rock, AZ 85145

Recording On.

- 1) **Call To Order** Chairman Castaneda called the meeting to order at 8:09 AM.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance** The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by all present.
- 3) **Roll Call**  
In attendance :  
Chairman Castaneda, Jr  
Vice-Chairman Bauer  
Clerk Neilson  
Director Armendarez  
Director Haffner  
Chief Delfs  
Assistant Chief Klein  
Lorrie Palmquist (present by phone)  
Counsel Wencker (present by phone)  
Several firefighters were in attendance.
- 4) **Recognition of Personnel**

<b>Tony Lopez, Paramedic</b>	<b>5 year pin</b>
<b>Mike Ryder, Firefighter/EMT</b>	<b>10 year pin</b>
<b>Mark Velasquez, Paramedic</b>	<b>10 year pin</b>
<b>Captain Lyle Kennedy</b>	<b>20 year</b>
<b>Captain Daniel Coody</b>	<b>Award of Service</b>
<b>Captain David Collings</b>	<b>Award of Merit</b>
<b>Firefighter Louie Rojas</b>	<b>Award of Merit</b>

Chief Delfs recognized Paramedic Tony Lopez, commenting on his active participation in the community events. Paramedic Lopez always has a positive outlook and is happy to be here. Chief Delfs expressed thanks for 5 years of service, adding that the District looks forward to many more years of service.

Captain Coody was presented an Award of Service for distinguished service to District and the Avra community. Captain Coody serves the District in many capacities, not just as a Captain, but also as a paramedic and a wildland Engine Boss. He will always find a way to get things done and serves the District with utmost integrity.

Captain Collings was presented an Award of Merit for his outstanding work on refurbishing the wildland trucks. Beyond that, Captain Collings provides exemplary service to the District in his role as a wildland Engine Boss.

- 5) **Call To The Public** None.
- 6) **Announcements, Current Events & Correspondence**
  - Marana State of the Town Address & Luncheon will be held Thursday, April 23, 2020, at the Ritz at Dove Mountain
  - The annual Pinal County Special Districts Meeting will be held Friday, April 3rd, 2020 at The Florence Community Center

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

- **Minutes from the regular meeting January 24, 2020**

Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to approve the Minutes from the regular meeting held January 24, 2020. Director Haffner 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:

- Written test for firefighters/medics will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>
- We have placed \$800,000 worth of equipment into service via grant funding, with a new ambulance coming in the Spring
- District CON times are improving slightly
- We have been notified that Copper Point will no longer insure fire districts throughout Arizona due to a recent Senate bill regarding presumptive cancer occurrences for firefighters assumed to be work related. We currently have 2 other options in Arizona, the 7710 group and the Risk Pool shared by 32 States. We have been told that the 7710 Group could increase our premium as much as 280%. However, our broker has informed us that for next year we may not see a huge increase in premium under the Risk Pool option due to our favorable EMod rate. Our employees have done a stellar job in bringing this rate down substantially. Currently, several entities are working on getting a State pool to insure fire districts. We are hoping to have some clarity soon. Our broker is actively shopping for carriers.
- A preliminary look at the budget for next year shows that tax levies will go up, but not as much as hoped. Our ambulance revenue will increase because of the State allowed automatic rate increase which we will apply for in April. We have a budget shell, but numbers will be more solid next month when some benefit rates are available.
- SB1398 will lower the commercial rate by 1%, however there is a possibility that the tax levy cap may increase to \$3.75.

**Discussion ensued.**

9) **Review, Discussion and possible Action** to approve the January 2020 Financial Reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the *Certificate of Review*.

Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to approve the January 2020 financial reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the *Certificate of Review*. Director Haffner seconded.

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

10) **Review, Discuss, and/or Take Action** to approve Contract Amendment No.: One (01) to Contract No.: CT-OEM 15\*240, an Intergovernmental agreement between the Avra Valley Fire District, Drexel Heights Fire District, Golder Ranch Fire District, Green Valley Fire District, Northwest Fire District, Rincon Valley Fire District, City of Tucson Fire Department, and Pima County, on behalf of the Pima County Office of Emergency Management, allowing for emergency response by a hazardous materials team in Pima County, Arizona. The agreement terminates on January 5, 2025, and may be renewed for one (1) additional five (5) year period.

Chief Delfs explained that this is an extension of our current agreement in which the Consortium will share resources, personnel, training. Counsel Wencker has reviewed the renewal agreement. Chairman Castaneda motioned to approve the Contract Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement. Vice-Chairman Bauer seconded. **Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.**

**11) Review, Discuss, and/or Take Action to approve the 3-year engagement letter from our auditors for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 through June 30, 2022.**

Lorrie clarified that the first year of the renewal agreement will remain at the same rate, while years two and three will increase by \$400. Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to approve the 3-Year Engagement Letter. Director Armendarez seconded. **Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.**

**12) Reports of Board Members and Staff NONE**

**13) Future Agenda Items**

**14) Date of Next Board Meeting March 20, 2020**

**15) Adjournment**

Vice-Chairman Bauer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Armendarez seconded. **Motion carried unanimously, 5:0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM.

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**SIGNED**

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**DATE**

**Board Members**

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

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