

# **Sun Lakes Fire District Regular Meeting Minutes**

## **February 23, 2010**

### **Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Sun Lakes Fire District Board of Directors was called to order by Board Chair Sellers at 2:00 P.M. Board Chair Sellers, Board Members Kohler and Utter were present. Board Members Price and Crawford were absent. Others in attendance included Fire Chief Wilson, Deputy Chief Guerra, EMS Coordinator Barden, Finance Manager Elikan, Captain Kenyon, Firefighters Puchta, Van Briesen, Chavez, McEnaney, Johnson, Hayes, Mixer and Quier and Member of the Public Jim Kaiser. The meeting was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Fire Chief Wilson.

Board Member Crawford joined the meeting at this point (2:05 P.M.)

### **Approval of the Minutes of the January 26, 2010 Monthly Board Meeting**

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 26, 2010 Regular Monthly Board Meeting, therefore, Board Chair Sellers declared the Minutes approved as circulated.

### **Unscheduled Public Appearances Call to the Public**

There were none.

#### **A. Correspondence and/or Other Important Information Attached.**

Chief Wilson called the Board's attention to the flyer included in the Board package for the FSC 110 Wildland Firefighter course noting that Sun Lakes Fire is proud to be hosting this course in April, 2010. The Chief credited Captain Dimerling with setting up this course with Mesa Community College and their Fire Science Staff. The goal of this training is to be ready for the annual wild fire season generally in August through November. Chief Guerra also noted that Captain Dimerling and EMT Barr will be helping with the instruction for this course.

Chief Wilson noted that the CAP group will be holding a new member training session March 1 through March 4, 2010 for 7 potential new members. Also, it was noted that thanks to statistician Gil Hendry, January, 2010 had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of calls in one month since the program began (137 for January, 2010 vs. 140 for the highest ever).

Chief Wilson next updated the Board on two current large construction projects in Sun Lakes. The first is a 5,200 square foot addition to St. Stephen's Church for meeting rooms and a satellite collection center for St. Vincent DePaul Charities. The Church had requested an exemption from the Fire Code Requirement to sprinkle the new facilities (the existing facilities are not sprinkled). This exemption was denied. Due to the distance from Dobson Road a new fire line with a hydrant will be required to service the proposed facility—a significant expense. The Chief also noted that a future addition in being planned that will also be required to be sprinkled.

The other project is the renovation/expansion of the Cottonwood Country Club. Chief Wilson noted that in the process of construction, it was discovered that the entire Country Club “campus” is served by a single, one source 4” fire water line. By the Fire Code this line needs to be 6” and fed from two points on the water main in Brentwood Dr. and/or Robson Blvd. Providing this additional pipe will be potentially costly because of the location of the existing fire main under an existing covered walkway. Chief Wilson and the SLFD Fire Code Consultant, Darryl Duty have met with the Cottonwood managers and architects to work out the least expensive solution.

The Chief concluded his remarks by noting that Employee Benefit statements had been issued to all employees. He noted that Barbara Smith had done most of the work with help from Andrea Elikan and the Spellcity Group. Board Member Kohler asked what the reaction was to receiving this statement. FF Puchta stated that there was a mixed reaction from the Union Members with most appreciating the purpose of the statement.

There was a question from Jim Kaiser on whether Phase 3 had requested an inspection of the facilities included with the proposed Amenities Purchase. Chief Wilson replied that no request had been received by the F.D. However, SLFD would be happy to assist IronOaks HOA if requested.

Chief Wilson discussed the request by Board member Kohler to calculate the dollar amount of the out of pocket subsidy that SLFD is providing for Ambulance transportation. Based on information from Mediclaim Data Services, Inc. that subsidy for calendar year 2009 was \$122,089.80. This was the result of not billing transported patients for co-pays and deductibles and other charges not reimbursed by Medicare and other insurances. Mike Sherry of Mediclaim Data Services, Inc. opined that had SLFD billed patients for this money, approximately \$100,000 probably would have been realized.

Board Member Kohler stated that he did not see changing the SLFD policy of not billing patients for this money because of the good community relations it fosters.

Chief Wilson concluded his remarks by calling the Board’s attention to the Projects and Programs status report included with the Agenda in the Board package.

No other comments.

**B. Fire Chief’s Report for January 16<sup>th</sup> , 2010 through February 15<sup>th</sup> , 2010.**

The full text of the Fire Chief’s Report is attached to the Board Agenda Package.

**1. News and Events.**

*a. Upcoming CPR/AED Classes:*

*February 26 CPR/AED at 8:30 AM.*

*March 5 & 13 CPR 8:30 A.M.*

*b. New CAP Member Training Program  
March 1 to 4, 2010.*

**2. Community Assistance Program Update.**

This information was covered in the Fire Chief's remarks.

**3. District Accomplishments & Highlights.**

Chief Guerra reviewed the District Accomplishments & Highlights.

No Comments.

**4. Operations Report – A, B & C Shifts & Emergency Medical Services**

Chief Guerra reported that crews were training for apartment fires at Tempe Fire Training Academy and were gearing up for wildland fire training.

Chief Guerra also reported that the new engine being manufactured by Rosenbauer will be ready for a final inspection March 15 through 19 with delivery anticipated around March 22, 2010.

EMS Coordinator Chris Barden indicated the new ambulance was parked outside for the Board to see after the meeting.

Chief Wilson noted that the new ambulance is well designed and impressive. He credited the Ambulance Committee with developing the good design. Board Chair Sellers asked when the new ambulance would be put into service. Chief Guerra replied that it was planned to put the unit in service 2/26/ 2010 if all of the equipment can be fully installed and loaded. DHS is scheduled to do an inspection on 2/26 and passing that inspection is the last step before putting the unit in service. Chief Guerra stated that the new ambulance will be M232 and the present Freightliner will become M239 and placed in reserve.

Director Crawford asked about the old M239 status. The old M239 Ford ambulance was traded in and Professional Ambulance picked up the unit on 2/23/2010.

**5. Significant Emergency Incidents**

There were no significant Emergency Incidents during the reporting period.

**6. Chief Wilson represented the Fire District and met with the Individuals and Organizations noted:**

This information is presented in the Chief's Report included with the Agenda package.

## **Financial Report.**

Finance Manager Elikan reported that she had attended a meeting put on the Maricopa County Assessors Office. The meeting included explanations/discussions on how evaluations are determined and also on predictions of tax assessments.

Ms. Elikan distributed maps from the meeting that showed the Maricopa County Commercial and Residential Full Dollar assessment and the percentage of change over the past two years.

The Financial Report was reviewed by Finance Manager Andrea Elikan.

There were no comments on the financial report.

## **Local 3560 Report.**

Union President Kenyon reported that the Union was preparing to host and help with the Art in the Park exhibition at Cottonwood Country Club Saturday 2/27/2010.

He also reported that a crew had made a presentation to the San Tan Junior High and had emphasized the importance of staying in school and striving for the best grades possible.

Another crew gave a presentation to the Cottonwood Tennis Club, fielding many questions on CPR versus CCR techniques and uses.

Board Member Crawford recognized this crew for a well received and excellent presentation to the Tennis Club.

## **C. Regular Agenda**

### **1. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution # XCVIII (98) to approve the Submission of an Emergency Medical Services Grant for consideration in Arizona's 2011 Governor's Office of Highway Safety Plan.**

Chief Wilson reviewed the purpose of the grant application. He noted that SLFD was applying for a grant to purchase portable generators and lighting for each engine for nighttime operations. He noted that the funds applied for are flow through funds from the Federal Government that come from highway use taxes.

Board Member Crawford moved passage of Resolution #XCVIII (98). The Motion was seconded by Board Member Kohler. There was no further discussion. The Motion was passed unanimously with Board Member Price absent.

Chief Wilson reminded Board Members of the scheduled committee meetings noted on the Agenda. He noted that the meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee would specifically include a review of the proposed budget and the tax

implications.

Chief Wilson noted that the Legal and Insurance Committee will be receiving presentations/proposals for Vehicular Insurance. This committee may also consider new legal counsel.

Chief Wilson handed out a list of State House Bills that are under consideration in the current legislative session. This list was received from the AZ Fire District Association. He reviewed the list briefly.

**D. Board Member Comments**

There were no Board Member comments.

**E. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Board Chair Sellers declared the meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

The Board Members assembled outside to see the new ambulance.

Respectfully submitted,

Forest Kohler,  
Board Clerk  
FK/geh