

Sun Lakes Fire District Regular Meeting Minutes

March 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, Price, Crawford and Utter were present. Others in attendance included Fire Chief Wilson, Deputy Chief Guerra, Battalion Chief McCoy, Finance Manager Elikan, Captains Kenyon, Rock and Dimerling, Firefighters Moreni, Daniels and Wiley, EMS Barr and Pennington and Members of the Public Jim Kaiser and Mrs. Halpen. The meeting was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Board Member Utter.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 23, 2010 Monthly Board Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 23, 2010 Regular Monthly Board Meeting, therefore, Board Chair Sellers declared the Minutes approved as circulated.

Approval of the Minutes of the March 9, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 9, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting, therefore, Board Chair Sellers declared the Minutes approved as circulated.

Unscheduled Public Appearances Call to the Public

There were none.

A. Presentation—Sun Lakes Women’s Association.

Chief Wilson reported that the Sun Lakes Women’s Association has donated \$15,000 to the Sun Lakes Fire Department for equipment purchases. He noted that it was not possible for anyone from the Women’s Association to be present at this meeting, however, a formal presentation would be made at the next Women’s Association Meeting.

Chief Wilson stated that \$9,000 of the donation would be used to purchase a machine that will enable SLFD to test the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) used by each Firefighter in-house saving the Department considerable money.

Chief Wilson said that the remainder of the donation would be used to purchase an additional Patient Care Tablet.

Board Chair Sellers requested that the Chief put an article in the paper acknowledging the donation and also include some history of the Women’s Association donations over the past years.

Presentation—Wildland Firefighting Update—Capt. Craig Dimerling

This item was not taken up at this time.

B. Correspondence and/or Other Important Information Attached.

No comments on this item.

C. Reports

Board Committee Reports:

Finance & Budget Mtg. of March 9th—Board Members Sellers and Price.

Finance Manager Elikan discussed the effects of predicted decreasing tax evaluations through the FY 13/14.

The Committee discussed seeking proposals for professional audit services for next year.

Board Chair Sellers noted that the decreasing property valuation would essentially balance an increase in the tax rate meaning minimal change in the tax bill to the homeowners for Fire Department operations.

Legal & Insurance Mtg. of March 17th—Board Members Crawford, Kohler & Price.

Board Member Kohler reported that the Committee met with representatives of VFIS to discuss SLFD insurance needs for FY 10/11. VFIS has reduced SLFD's insurance rate by 15% for FY 10/11 and also decreased our deductible from \$5,000 to \$2,500 recognizing both the current economic times and also the relatively good claims experience of SLFD. Mr. Kohler credited the good driving skills of our FF and EMS personnel and good station maintenance for the good claims experience.

Board Member Crawford stated that the Committee had received one other quote for SLFD insurance needs. However, he noted that the quote, while slightly lower than VFIS, was not complete and therefore, was not considered.

Presentation—Wildland Firefighting Update—Capt. Craig Dimerling.

Captain Dimerling presented his report at this point.

Captain Dimerling stated that the Wildland Firefighting group was doing regular training and would be ready for deployment during the 2010 Wildland fire season. He noted that the required equipment had been purchased and received and was now stored on new shelving on the 2nd floor of Station 231. Capt. Dimerling credited EMS Ariel Barr with doing a lot of the work on getting the Wildland program in SLFD up and running.

Captain Dimerling noted that this program was under the overall aegis of the Federal Government and as such, it is possible that some deployments will involve working in other states beside Arizona.

Capt. Dimerling discussed the acquisition of a future Wildland Type 6 Vehicle (Brush Truck). He, along with EMS Barr, explained the different types of Wildland Vehicles and their capability.

There was a brief discussion of the cost of an appropriate piece of apparatus and other options for apparatus. It was noted that a basic piece designed for Wildland fire fighting would cost about \$75,000 minimum and would be 4-door, carry at least 250 gallons and have a pump. This type of vehicle is a Type 6 Brush Truck.

There was also a brief discussion from Chief Wilson and Chief Guerra about a Grant opportunity for a Wildland Vehicle.

D. Fire Chief's Report for February 16th, 2010 through March 15th, 2010.

Chief Wilson began his report by giving a brief synopsis of the immediate effects of the recently passed Federal Health Care Legislation. He noted that SLFD will be able

to collect a 2% increase on each ambulance transportation billed to Medicare since January 1, 2010. Medclaim Data Services is preparing to send out these bills. He also noted that the changes in reimbursement mandated for 2014 have not been fully evaluated as to their ramifications to SLFD.

Chief Wilson updated the Board on pending state legislation. H2414 which called for the elimination of the Fire District Assistance Tax is dead for this year. If this bill had passed, it would have eliminated \$300,000 of SLFD's annual income. HCR2061 which would limit annual property value increase to 5% annually is being opposed by the Fire District lobby as not good for the current economic times.

Chief Wilson also reported that through the efforts of Chief Guerra and Andrea Elikan doing a thorough evaluation of the Department's radio needs, they had saved approximately \$60,000 by carefully allocating the available radios. Chief Guerra stated that with the current inventory of radios, it will be possible to equip each on-duty FF with an 800 MHz radio.

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:
April 9 & 17—8:30AM*

2. District Accomplishments & Highlights.

Chief Guerra reviewed the District Accomplishments & Highlights.

No Comments.

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

Chief Guerra reported that crews completed training on hearing protection this month. The crews are currently doing night training at Chandler Fire Training Academy.

No comments.

4. Significant Emergency Incidents

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

Chief McCoy elaborated on how the I10 bus accident was handled noting that the scene was very complex due to the number of injuries and the instability of the bus itself. He said that in general the incident went well with a critique being held shortly after the incident.

5. 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.

The Financial Report was reviewed by Finance Manager Andrea Elikan.

Board Member Kohler asked why the 5502 and 5806 accounts showed such a large balance remaining. Chief Wilson answered that the 5502 account covered the annual physicals given to each employee. Those physicals were currently in progress and the cost for them had not been billed yet. The 5806 account covered the training costs that Chandler Fire Department charges us for training at the Chandler Fire Training Academy and the majority of those charges have not been billed yet.

There were no other comments.

Local 3560 Report.

Union President Kenyon reported that the Union had hosted and helped with the postponed "Art at the Lakes" exhibition at Cottonwood Country Club. He reported that the Union had taken in over \$3,200 at the exhibition for the Sun Lakes Firefighters Emergency Relief Fund (SLERF). They are planning for a similar activity next year.

Captain Kenyon reported that the Union was planning a highway cleanup on Riggs Road sometime in the 2nd week of April.

The Union will be helping with a \$0.31 per scoop night at the local Baskin-Robbins store on April 28.

E. Regular Agenda

1. Discussion and Possible Action to approve new Legal Counsel for the District, as recommended by the Insurance & Legal Committee.

Board Member Kohler explained that the I & L Committee had interviewed two firms with one being an old, established firm with \$300+/hour billing rates. The other was a single person firm that was relatively new with a billing rate of \$175/hour. The Committee reviewed the credentials of the both firms and as a result are recommending the small firm.

Board Member Crawford moved that the District hire the single person firm. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Utter. There was no further discussion.

The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

2. Discussion and Possible Action to approve the 2010/11 Automobile, Liability and Property Insurance Policy, as recommended by the Insurance & Legal Committee.

Board Member Kohler moved that the District keep the same Automobile, Liability and Property Insurance carrier. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Price. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution #XCIX (99) to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Maricopa County for Sun Lakes Fire District to be a participating agency in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, in order to be eligible for future grant funds.

Board Member Price moved that SLFD enter into the IGA as described in Resolution #XCIV (99). The Motion was seconded by Board Member Utter. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Member of the Public Kaiser asked if SLFD does get a grant to purchase a Wildland fire truck and that truck is called out for a fire would a SLFD FF be with that truck at all times? Captain Dimerling answered that all of the Wildland fire trucks in a given class are essentially identical and could be operated by anyone trained on that particular truck regardless of what department they worked for. On a given fire, SLFD would be providing the truck to the fire fighting effort and personnel would be assigned to it at the fire scene and may not include any SLFD personnel. However, whenever the truck is assigned to a fire scene, SLFD receives compensation for all time the truck spends assigned to that fire. Any personnel on the truck would be paid separately through their individual departments which in turn, would be repaid by the Federal Government regardless of what department they came from. Captain Dimerling also gave assurance that any vehicle used at a fire scene received very good care from any personnel operating it regardless of whether they were SLFD personnel.

Board Member Crawford asked where the piece of apparatus would be housed. Chief Wilson answered that the apparatus would be housed at Sta. 231 on Sun Lakes Blvd.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to award a contract to the low bidder of Martin-Harris Construction to relocate utilities and traffic control equipment and construct an ADA sidewalk, compliant with Maricopa County Department of Transportation standards, at 25020 S. Alma School Rd. in the amount of \$19,984.00 including tax from FY2009/10 Capital Improvement Funds.

Chief Wilson reviewed the staff report included in the Board Package in particular

noting the lack of parking at Sta. 232 which requires some people to park at the Mini-Mart and walk to Sta. 232. Currently, they are required to walk in the street.

Board Members Price and Kohler expressed dismay at the cost of a “mere sidewalk” Chief Wilson explained the complex requirements needed to install the sidewalk.

Board Member Crawford moved to award the contract for the sidewalk to the lowest bidder. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Kohler.

Captain Kenyon asked if any effort had been made to place the public meetings in other buildings that have more parking and easy access. Chief Wilson and Board Member Kohler recounted the difficulty in finding accessible rooms around Sun Lakes for any meetings.

Captain Kenyon asked if an opening in the wall had been considered. Chief Wilson replied that an opening in the wall provides significant more liability due to security, landscaping, sidewalks, etc.

Board Member Price asked why there was such a large difference between the bids. Chief Wilson answered that he had asked the same question of Atwell-Hicks. They felt that it was because the two lowest bidders were already mobilized in Sun Lakes which allowed them to minimize the mobilization costs.

There was no further discussion. The Motion passed with Sellers, Kohler, Utter and Crawford voting in favor. There were no opposed votes. Board Member Price abstained from voting.

F. Board Member Comments

Board Member Kohler thanked the crew that evaluated, treated him and took him to the hospital for a recent illness.

There were no other Board Member comments.

G. Scheduling of Committee Meetings:

Operations Committee—Mike Sellers and Gerald Utter

This meeting will be scheduled at a later date at Board Member Utter’s request.

Insurance and Legal—John Crawford and Forrest Kohler

April 20, 2010 9:00AM

Budget and Finance—Diane Price and Mike Sellers

May 5, 2010 9:00AM

H. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Board Chair Sellers declared the meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Forest Kohler,
Board Clerk
FK/geh