

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Clarkdale Fire District
Meeting Held April 21, 2011**

A Regular meeting of the Clarkdale Fire District Board of Directors was held on April 21, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Clarkdale Fire District Station #21, 895 First South Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

Board of Directors:

Jim Elmer, Chairman
Seth Murphy, Clerk
Ron Ballatore
Bill Snyder
Jerry Brown

Staff:

Joe Moore, Fire Chief
Dean Koropatnicki, Captain
Matt Robertson, Captain
Jeff Richey, Engineer
Donny Minardi, Firefighter
Joyce Driscoll, Admin Assistant/Finance Manager

Others Present: None.

CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Board Chairman Elmer.

ROLL CALL. All members were present. A quorum was present.

MINUTES – Consideration of the minutes of the meeting held March 17, 2011. Boardmember Ballatore moved to approve the minutes. Boardmember Snyder seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC. Chief Moore introduced Captain Dean Koropatnicki. Captain Koropatnicki stated that he was pleased to be with Clarkdale Fire District.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Discussion and consideration of the Monthly Financial Report. Chief Moore stated that the district is 75% into the fiscal year and has received 66% of its budgeted income. He added that the District has expended 67.9% of the budgeted expenses for the year.

Boardmember Snyder moved to approve the financial report. Boardmember Ballatore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL AND OTHER REPORTS

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – A report from the Chairperson on current events.

Chairperson Elmer reported that VVMC should be moved into their new building the week of May 10th. He stated that the remodel of the building is almost complete. He stated that he likes the reports done by the new personnel. He attended a PSPRS local board meeting this month. The LAFS program will be at the C-J school on May 2nd at 9a.m. He encouraged board

members to attend. Chairperson Elmer commented that he liked the annual report and appreciated staff's effort in putting it together.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – A report from the Fire Chief on current events. Chief Moore reported on the following:

- He appreciates the Board and noted that they have a full page of accomplishments in the Annual Report.
- A “lock down” exercise is scheduled for April 29th at the Clarkdale-Jerome School.
- The District's ISO rating improved; as of April 1st it is 5/8b.
- He has reviewed plans for the Spirit of Joy church.
- He has had successful results in his personal fitness goals.

Boardmember Snyder commented on the house fire that occurred on Western Drive. Chief Moore explained that the District has no authority to enforce the clean-up of the property. He stated that the Town is working to make sure the clean-up occurs and they are looking into adopting an ordinance specifically regarding after-fire clean-ups.

SHIFT REPORTS – Written monthly reports by personnel regarding day-to-day operations. No discussion.

ACTIVITY REPORTS – Written monthly reports regarding calls for service. No discussion.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE – Letters, news articles and other items of interest. No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

GRANT APPLICATION – Discussion and consideration of submitting a grant application for the 2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Chief Moore stated that the District has the opportunity to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant. He stated that these grants require that the Board to approve the application. Board Clerk Murphy stated that the District has submitted for a grant for a new engine several times and that he stated that he feels it would be better to apply for a water tender this year. He stated that there are many firefighter injuries and deaths involving water tenders because they are the least maintained of all apparatus and personnel receive the least amount of training on them.

Board Clerk Murphy stated that eventually the District is going to have to make a commitment to purchase an engine. He stated that he feels the engine can last another year, but he doesn't agree with the reasons why the Board wants to wait another year. He stated that he does not feel that another grant application will be successful, and, if the District does get the grant, the current engine would have to be taken out of emergency service permanently per the grant requirements. He stated that he is concerned that this grant fund will be eliminated in the future.

Boardmember Brown stated that he heard someone suggest that Reserve Firefighter Irwin reviewed the past applications and he found some issues with them.

Board Clerk Murphy stated that he has all the faith in the world in the Chief and he says that the District can afford to purchase a new first-out engine. He stated that the system of delivering the service the District provides is very important and it needs to be a priority.

Chairman Elmer stated that the decision was not all about not spending the money, it was also based on the current climate and it is not a good time to have a shiny new truck.

Board Clerk Murphy stated that though it could look bad to the community, it is up to the Board to make a decision that is in the best interest of the community and the personnel. It is the Board's job to be able to justify the decision.

Boardmember Snyder stated that he feels the Board has done all of the research prior to making the decision to not finance a truck at this time.

Board Clerk Murphy stated that he feels that due diligence has still not been done.

Boardmember Brown stated that he was comfortable with the safety and mechanical condition of the existing engine.

Board Clerk Murphy stated that it would be a great second-out truck, and if the grant application were successful, it could not be used as a second-out truck.

Boardmember Brown stated that the board has decided to put aside funds to finance a truck in the future, or to be able to purchase a truck if something happens to the existing truck. He stated that they have pretty solid assurance that the truck will not be a problem mechanically for the next year. Brown said he would be ready to buy a new truck when the Chief says it is time.

Chairperson Elmer said that if the District does not get the grant this time, then he is prepared to go ahead and finance a truck. He stated that he has a lot of faith in Reserve Firefighter Tim Irwin being able to write a successful grant application.

Chief Moore stated that financing \$480,000 for an engine is a greater financial burden than financing \$160,000 for water tenders, therefore he feels that applying one more time for an engine grant was a good decision.

Boardmember Murpy moved to approve the submitting of a 2011 Assistance to Firefighter FEMA grant application for a new first-out engine. Boardmember Snyder seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASE OF SCBA'S – Discussion and consideration of purchasing surplus Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) from Verde Valley Fire District. Chief Moore reported that Verde Valley Fire District is getting rid of used SCBAs for \$400 each. He stated that the District has been purchasing masks every year for \$1,200 each in an effort to get a mask for every member of the department. Chief Moore stated that the air bottles included with the SCBAs were hydrostatically tested by Verde Valley Fire District last year, therefore the District would not need to get these tested for another four years. It was noted that the District can purchase 10 of these SCBA packs for half the price of what one new pack would normally cost.

Board Chairman Elmer stated that the last time he bought just an air bottle it was \$600. Chief Moore stated that the District has enough funds in its budget to make this purchase and that they would serve the District for five years. He stated that in five years these, and all of the District's SCBA air bottles, will be at their maximum life span of 15 years and require replacement.

Board Member Snyder suggested that it may be a good idea to purchase more than ten. Discussion followed. It was unknown if the SCBA's had communication devices included.

Board Clerk Murphy moved to approve the purchase of ten SCBA packs with extra air bottles from Verde Valley Fire District. Boardmember Ballatore second. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET WORKSESSION – A worksession to discuss the draft budget for fiscal year 2011-2012. Chief Moore stated that the Budget Committee met and reviewed the draft budget.

Boardmember Snyder stated that the Committee felt very comfortable with the staff presentation and that they are comfortable with the draft budget. He stated that the budget includes some funds being transferred to the Capital Reserve fund.

Boardmember Brown stated that the draft budget is based on using Capital Reserve funds to pay-off the balance owed on land. Chief Moore stated that if the Board is not concerned with the interest expense, they could continue to make the payments out of Capital Reserve rather than pay it off.

Boardmember Snyder clarified that the budget gives the board the option to pay-off the note out of the Capital Reserve fund, but it is not mandated that the board pay-off the note.

The provisions of the service contract with the Yavapai Apache Nation were discussed. It was noted that the fee to the Yavapai Nation goes up and down as the levy and tax rate for the rest of the district does. Chairman Elmer stated that the method used for this fee is as fair as it can be.

It was noted that the overall budget is higher, but this is largely due to possible grant funding.

It was noted that the mil rate is increasing, however the overall tax income is less than it was last year.

There were no proposed changes to the draft budget.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – A listing of items to be placed on a future agenda. No items were listed.

ADJOURNMENT. With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Jim Elmer, Chairman

Date

Seth Murphy, Clerk

Date