



MINUTES OF THE BUCKSKIN FIRE DISTRICT FIRE BOARD

04/11/23 - Open Meeting: Minutes to be approved at open public meeting on Tuesday, 05/09/2023, a public meeting of the Buckskin Fire Board convened on April 11, 2023 that started at 6:00 pm in the classroom of the Buckskin Fire District, located at: 8500 Riverside Drive, Parker, AZ 85344. The following matters were discussed at the Open Meeting

Agenda Open Meeting

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 5:59 P.M.
Roll Call:
Members Present: *Chairman, Jeff Daniel, John Mihelich, Jim Brouillette, Wayne Posey & Don Rountree (telephonically).*
Staff Present: *Chief McMahan, Barbara Cole, & Captain Weatherford, Captain Byrd.*
Public Present: *No Public Present*

2. **Call to the Public.** Consideration and discussion of comments from the public. *Those wishing to address the Buckskin Fire District Board need not request permission in advance Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(G), the Fire District Board is not permitted to discuss or take any action on items raised in the call to the public that is not specifically identified on the Agenda. However, individual Board members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct that staff review the matter or ask that the matter be placed on a future agenda. Public input is limited to two (2) minutes unless a greater amount of time is approved by the Board. **The Fire District Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public that is not on the current Agenda, due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law.***
No Public present.

3. (Action Item): Consent Agenda: Discussion & possible Approval of Consent Agenda Bill 23-26 to approve:
A: Minutes submitted for Open Meeting held on 03/14/2023.
B: Acceptance of monthly expense reports for 03/01/2023-03/31/2023.

Board member Posey, made a recommendation to the Board to approve the minutes of 3/14/2023, except for the Agenda item #4, that pertained to the Board approving Agenda Bill 23-23 do discuss changes to Financial Policy 1.6.5 Apparatus, Building & Equipment Reserve Policy, regarding 1.3, alternative to accumulating cash, his comment was to not approve this part of the minutes as his opinion that the Board should not have been made, as is was on a prior agenda that all board members had agreed to at a prior board meeting, and in order to approve something else that had been on a prior meeting, all Board members had to be present to rescind the original board decision and make a new board decision and since he was not at the last meeting, it violated open meeting law, therefore he wanted to exclude that part of the minutes, and



state the Chief can speak to legal regarding that. Chief McMahan stated it is the Board's minutes, if there was a violation, then it needs to be addressed for future, but taking it out of the minutes, that is what happened at the meeting and that history can't fix that, what is transcribed is what happened at the meeting. A motion was made by Jim Brouillette to accept the minutes as written including agenda item #4, with the Chief reaching out to legal counsel to check on the next step at the next meeting, along with a second from Jeff Daniel.

There were no comments or questions prior to voting.

Ayes Daniel, Rountree, Mihelich & Brouillette.

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain: Posey

Chairman Daniel: Motion passed by a majority vote on agenda item #3A.

3B: A motion was made by Don Rountree to accept the Financials for the month of 03.01.23-03.31.23, along with a second from John Mihelich.

There were no comments or questions prior to voting.

Ayes Daniel, Rountree, Posey, Mihelich & Brouillette.

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

Chairman Daniel: Motion passed by a unanimous vote on agenda item #3B.

4. (Discussion and Possible Action): Discussion and Possible action regarding the current San Bernadino agreement.

Chief spoke about the original San Bernadino and the current contract, where it could go, informal discussions regarding the changing the pricing, We can ride it out until the contract expires, 2025. We can move to terminate the contract and have to pay for the truck that San Bernadino for the truck they had provided, or the Board can have the Chief to start negotiates for a revised contract, which is probably 6 months out, advocate for the informal talks. Board discussions were terminating the contract and let them know 365 days to terminate, Don Rountree discussed were whether we like the contract or not, we should honor the contract and show the value, and work on amending the contract. Discussions included the volume of calls on a percentage basis, and that we are not charging a fair value, and should be renegotiated. A motion was made by Wayne Posey to give Chief McMahan the authority to re- negotiate the contract with San Bernadino and to utilize the gift clause to renegotiate the contract based on the % of volume of calls, along with a second from Jim Brouillette.

Chief McMahan asked to clarify from the Board if they were terminating or not, of which was a no, only opening the dialogue of intent to re-negotiate the contract.

Ayes: Daniel, Rountree, Posey, Mihelich & Brouillette.



Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

Chairman Daniel: Motion passed by a unanimous vote on agenda item #4.

5. Possible motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03. A.5: regarding a MOU negotiation with BFD Union: *Chief stated he needed clarification on Item 6 with the Board. A motion was made by Jeff Daniel to go into Executive Session regarding the MOU negotiation with BFD Union, along with a second from Don Rountree. There were no comments or questions prior to voting.*

Ayes Daniel, Rountree, Posey, Mihelich & Brouillette.

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

Chairman Daniel: Motion passed by a unanimous vote on agenda item #5

The board went into executive session at 6:35 PM.

Open Meeting: Re-Start at 7:07 PM.

Chairman Daniel stated that there were no decisions made in Executive Session.

6. (Discussion and Possible Action): Regarding possible Board directive regarding a MOU negotiation with BFD Union.
A motion was made by Wayne to direct the Chief to continue with a MOU with BFD Union and come back to the board when ready to discuss the completed document, along with a second from John Mihelich.

There were no comments or questions prior to voting.

Ayes Daniel, Rountree, Posey, Mihelich & Brouillette.

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

Chairman Daniel: Motion passed by a unanimous vote on agenda item #6.

7. (Discussion and Possible Action): Discussion & Possible approval of Agenda Bill 23-27 for FYE 2023/2024 Draft Budget for public posting.

Chief McMahan passed out three separate sheets to the Board and explained each handout, current budget, current budget with YTD expenses with new budget, and copy of proposed budget. He explained to the Board that in the prior Board meeting, he had included the budget assumptions, Current & past CPI % over the last 6 years and that BFD was 17 %



less than the national Western average, but had recommended an 8% COLA, he had stated that we could not hire the 12th Firefighter at this time, and be able to fund the Reserve funds from the policies that were adopted at an earlier meeting and the need to raise the tax levy, adding a post health retirement plan to the benefits, raising the Life & AD&D insurance to 100K instead of the current 35K and that under the Board direction the Board has stated that they had asked the Chief to come back with a balanced budget that included as much of the budget assumptions listed that included a COLA for staffing, except the Chief, which is under a separate contract, and see where we are when presented and that the budget in front of the Board was what was the result. The budget presented did include 7% COLA the cost of adding the additional Life & AD&D insurance, implementing the Post Health Retirement Plan, funding the Reserve accounts according to the Financial Policies that had been approved along with Pension Reserve fund.

A motion was made by Wayne Posey to approve the draft budget for public posting, but at the next meeting to come back to the Board and show what the new benefit costs are & what the benefits included, cost of the COLA including the pay scales, the Post health retirement and the extra Life & AD&D insurance and possibly have policies in place for the new benefits, along with a second from John Mihelich. Chairman Daniel asked if there were any more comments or questions before voting, of which Chief McMahan stated that approving the draft budget, but coming back to have possible policies written that could be approved or not approved by the Board is a counterproductive approach and not very transparent as the Board is approving a budget, but then wanting to have items put on a next agenda for approval is not what was asked at the prior meeting, where the Board had stated that the Chief come back with a balanced budget based on the budget assumptions that were presented at 3 prior meetings, and the Board had been asked to let the Chief know by March 31st if they had any questions or concerns, of which no Board member had reached out. John Mihelich at this time cancelled his second motion and no other second was provided. Original motion failed.

A new motion was made by Jeff Daniel to approve the budget as proposed by the Chief, along with a second from Don Rountree. Don stated that the Chief did go over all of these items at the last meeting, and he was satisfied and agreed with the Chief and trusted his judgement. There were no other comments or questions prior to voting.

Ayes: Daniel, Rountree, Mihelich, Brouillette & Posey (but with the comments to memorialize the added benefits that were being agreed on in the balanced budget that included a 7% COLA for all staffing, except the Chief, also to include the extra Life & AD&D insurance from the current 40K to the 100K and implementing a Post Health Retirement Plan).

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:



Chairman Daniel: Motion passed by a unanimous vote on agenda item #7.

8. (Report) Chairman's Report: Jeff Daniel.

A: Ask Board Members for *items to be considered for inclusion on the next agenda.*
Public Hearing

B: Schedule the next Regular Session. *Tuesday, May 9, 2023.*
No other report given.

9. Fire Chief's Report:

- A. Summary of Incident Report/Activity Log
- B. Monthly Activities
- C. Upcoming Activities and Events
- D. Other

10. Adjourn of Regular Board Meeting: 8:20 pm.

Jeff Daniel
Board Chairman

5/9/23
Date

Barbara Cole
Office Administrator

04/18/2023
Date

Minutes approved by: [Signature]

Date: 5/9/23

Minutes approved by: [Signature]

Date: 5/9/23

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY MAY REQUEST A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION BY CONTACTING, BRIAN MCMAHAN, FIRE CHIEF OF BUCKSKIN FIRE DISTRICT (928) 667-3321 AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING. FACILITIES ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.