



MINUTES OF THE BUCKSKIN FIRE DISTRICT FIRE BOARD

07/18/23 - Open Meeting: Minutes to be approved at open public meeting on Tuesday, 08/08/2023, a public meeting of the Buckskin Fire Board convened on July 18, 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: 6:02 pm.
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 Maxwell, Lt. Kowalski, Lt. Foster, Lt. Fernandes, FF Rather, FF Brandon McConnell, FF Tanner Irwin.*
Public Present: *Duce Minor, Kowalski Family, Friend & Family members of the new officers for the pinning ceremony.*
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 comments.
3. (Recognition): Pinning Ceremony for new Officers and acceptance of Oath of Office given by Board Chair.
The new officers included: Lt. Maxwell to Captain Maxwell, FF Kowalski to Lt. Kowalski and FF Foster to Lt. Foster. Officers were made through a testing process that was held on June 27th, 2023. Chief McMahan explained to the new officers what the new positions responsibilities included and expectations of the new positions. Chairman Daniel read the oath of officer as each new officer was sworn in. A family member of the new officers was picked by the Officer to have them pin the new badge, of which Captain Maxwell had Kate Moss do his pinning, Lt. Kowalski had his father, Captain Kowalski of the Lake Havasu City Fire Department do his pinning, and Lt. Foster had his wife, Allayzia do his pinning.



4. (Action Item): Consent Agenda: Discussion & possible Approval of Consent Agenda Bill 23-34 to approve:

A: Minutes submitted for Open Meeting held on 06/13/2023.

B: Acceptance of monthly expense reports for 06/01/2023-06/30/2023.

A motion was made by John Mihelich to accept the Consent Agenda 23-34 as written which includes items A&B, along with a second from Jim Brouillette.

There were no comments or questions prior to voting.

Ayes Daniel, Posey, Rountree, Mihelich & Brouillette.

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

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

5. (Discussion & Possible Action): Discussion and Possible approval of Agenda Bill 23-34 regarding revising the Fire Recovery Billing Rates (Schedule A) Resolution 2024-1(A) effective July 1, 2023, was pre-approved at prior meeting.

A motion was made by Wayne Posey to approve Agenda Bill 23-34 as read, 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 #5.

6. (Discussion and Possible Action): Discussion and Possible approval of Agenda Bill 23-36 regarding stipend pay to be part of the hourly rate, instead of separate dollars.

Chief McMahan explained that Capt. Byrd receives a stipend for Vehicle Maintenance, \$46.15 per pay period and Capt. Weatherford receive 2 stipends for Wildland Coordinator and Training Officer at \$92.30 per pay period, and the proposed would be to include it in the normal pay and have their rate match the current adopted pay scale. It would make a .45 cent increase for Captain Byrd, and a \$.86 cent increase for Captain Weatherford, which would not affect the current budget as the budget included Captain Chambers who retired before the new fiscal year started. He also stated that as the two above officers retire, the stipends that were grandfathered in would eventually go away as they are no longer giving these stipends in the future, but the two that have had them in the past are still part of their wage. Wayne Posey stated that the effect would add to their OT rate, and that



it increases the cost to the taxpayers based on the new rates, which would affect salaries in the future.

A motion was made by John Mihelich to approve the inclusion of the current stipends for the two current Officers as part of their hourly rate, along with a second from Jim Brouillette. There were no other comments or questions prior to voting.

Ayes: Daniel, Rountree, Mihelich & Brouillette.

Nays: Posey, he stated that he didn't agree, due to the financial increase cost that would affect the taxpayers in the future

Absent:

Abstain:

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

7. (Discussion): Discussion regarding ARPA funds.

Chief McMahan explained about the ARPA funds of what it was and how it affected Buckskin Fire. ARPA was part of COVID dollars that were available to Fire Districts based on their assessed values, if the Districts did their part, and sent in all of the required information that was needed, the funds were available to assist in the extra cost that had to be paid by the Districts regarding Work Comp. Chief had stated that the Board had agreed any unbudgeted revenue that came in would go into the Apparatus Fund to build up the fund for replacement as engines deteriorate over time. But, in this case he asked if the ARPA funds could be put into the Building Fund to work on getting another building or shade structure that could house all of the equipment at Station 11, so that nothing sits outside in the sun. The Board discussed the need to have additional coverage for the engines and they agreed to put the ARPA funds into the Building Fund, and the Chief stated that they were working on bids for pricing of different shade structures or buildings and when he had something more concrete on pricing, he would then bring it back to the Board. No further action required as a discussion item only.

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

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

B: Schedule the next Regular Session. Tuesday, August 8, 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

Some of the topics Chief McMahan discussed were:



New Engine moved to Phoenix, warranty work, current Wildland assignments, SCBA grant and receiving the equipment. Asphalt on the parking lot, part of SLIF grant.

10. Adjourn of Regular Board Meeting: 7:04 pm.

Jeff Deuel
Board Chairman

8-8-23
Date

Barbara Cole
Office Administrator

07/26/2023
Date

Minutes approved by: Don Mount Date: 8-8-23

Minutes approved by: Bull Date: 8-8-23

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.