

Sun Lakes Fire District Regular Meeting Minutes

July 27, 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, Utter and Crawford were present. Others in attendance included Fire Chief Wilson, Deputy Chief Guerra, Finance Manager Elikan, Captains Kenyon and Dimerling, Firefighters Daniels, Moreni and Bogenhagen, EMS Barr and Burtch and Members of the Public Robert Price, Alan Sinclair, Leander Reilbert, Rob Marietta and Marcus Lisbt. The meeting was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Board Member Kohler.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 22, 2010 Monthly Board Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 22, 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. Presentation—Wildland Firefighting Demonstration—Captain Dimerling and EMT Ariel Barr.

Chief Wilson introduced Captain Dimerling and EMT Ariel Barr as the two SL FFs responsible for setting up the SLFD Wildland operation. Captain Dimerling gave a brief synopsis of Wildland Fire fighting this year noting that the season had been relatively inactive for all of the units around Sun Lakes—Tempe, Chandler, Mesa and Gilbert. There have been no deployments from the Southeast Valley area so far this year. Captain Dimerling also stated that the only wildland firefighting vehicle that had been deployed from the SE Valley was a water transport from Central Arizona Wildland Response Team (CAWRT). No Type 6 vehicles like the one SLFD is asking for in its grant application have been deployed.

Captain Dimerling introduced EMT Ariel Barr who in turn introduced Alan Sinclair. Mr. Sinclair is the Fire Management Officer for both the Pima Agency located in Sacaton and the Salt River Agency located in Scottsdale. Mr. Sinclair introduced three other FF's from the Pima Agency, Leander Rielbert, Rob Marietta and Marcus Lisbst who were assigned to the Type 6 engine that Mr. Sinclair brought to show to the Board.

At this point the meeting moved outside to inspect the Type 6 truck that Mr. Sinclair had brought that belonged to the Pima Agency.

When the meeting reconvened in the Lecky Community Room, EMT Barr

demonstrated the protective clothing that is issued to Wildland FF including a helmet, nomax jacket and pants. He noted that these items were purchased from the Federal GSA. He noted that all clothing is ordered from the GSA which gives significant cost savings.

EMT Barr then demonstrated the equipment pack which is purchased directly from vendors because the equivalent equipment from the GSA does not have the quality needed. He showed the Board what is included in the pack noting that the pack makes the FF self sufficient for at least a day. Captain Dimerling stated that SLFD has 4 sets of Line Gear which will fully equip two teams of two people. The cost per person is estimated at about \$400 each without the shelter which is \$350 each.

Board Member Crawford asked if the Type 6 truck SLFD had applied for would be similar to the one from the Pima Agency. EMT Barr answered that other than the specific make of the vehicle, the completed truck would be almost identical.

Board Member Utter asked if there was any update on the status of the Grant application. Chief Wilson answered that the application would not receive its first reading until the beginning of the Federal fiscal year on October 1, 2010.

B. Correspondence and/or Other Important Information Attached.

No comments.

C. Reports

AZ Fire District's Association Conference on July 9-10, 2010.

Board Member Crawford stated that he found the meeting very interesting and informative.

Board Member Price expressed the opinion that a lot of the information was redundant if you had attended several previous conferences. Board Member Utter agreed noting that most of the pertinent information was presented at the beginning of each session and the remainder was "just filler".

All Board Members noted the general concern present with all attendees about the current economic conditions and the property values throughout the state.

D. Fire Chief's Report for June 16th, 2010 through July 15th, 2010.

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

Chief Wilson recognized Captain Dimerling and his crew for their actions in aiding a resident stung by bees and in helping that homeowner get the hive removed.

Chief Wilson also recognized Engineer Bryan Smith for his efforts in providing training in the Verde Valley area.

Chief Wilson called the Board's attention to the donation received from the Sun Lakes Rotary Club.

Chief Wilson stated that the application process for a new Battalion Chief opened July 26, 2010 with a time line developed by Batt. Chief Van Horn.

Policy Manual updates have been written and are being reviewed by Administration and Union officials. In particular, Chief Wilson recognized Battalion Chief McCoy for his efforts in developing a draft Reduction in Work Force policy.

In conclusion, Chief Wilson announced that Chief Guerra will be stepping down from the Deputy Chief's position in November at his request and will become Battalion Chief on B Shift. Chief Wilson stated that Battalion Chief McCoy would move up to the Deputy Chief's position. Chief Wilson commended Chief Guerra for his 3 years of service as the Deputy Chief.

Chief Guerra presented the rest of the Chief's Report.

1. News and Events.

None noted.

2. Community Assistance Program Update.

There was no report.

3. District Accomplishments & Highlights.

Chief Guerra reported that Engineer McEnaney and Fire Mechanic Dan Figueroa had traveled to S. Dakota for a final inspection on the new engine. He noted that the truck is now in Phoenix awaiting a final delivery inspection.

Chief Guerra also reported that crews had done fire extinguisher training for the Cottonwood/Palo Verde staff and also at the Gold Canyon Candle factory. A fall prevention class was also put on at the Renaissance.

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

No items noted.

5. Significant Emergency Incidents

There were no comments.

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.

The Financial Report was reviewed by Finance Manager Andrea Elikan.

Local 3560 Report.

Union President Kenyon reported that the Union used the SLERF fund to pay for the removal of a hive at a vacant house. Otherwise President Kenyon said the Union had had a quiet month.

E. Regular Agenda

1. Discussion and Possible Action on future attendance of Board Members to the AZ Fire District Association Conferences—Director Kohler.

Board Member Kohler moved that a study be undertaken by the Budget Committee to see if the District is getting good value from sending all 5 Board Members to the AFDA conferences. There was no second to the motion therefore, the Motion died.

Chief Wilson noted that the District budgets money to cover this attendance.

Board Member Price stated that she felt the charges at the Star Pass Resort were excessive, in particular, the meal and parking costs. All other Board Members also voiced their displeasure with the excessive charges.

Chief Wilson noted the 3 year contract that AFDA had with Star Pass was now complete and a new contract would need to be negotiated possibly with another venue.

The consensus of the Board was for Chief Wilson to draft a letter to the AFDA board expressing the displeasure of the SLFD Board with the excessive charges. Chief Wilson agreed to do so.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on a Proposed Hiring Freeze of Two (2) Vacant Firefighter Positions, for FY 2010/11..

Chief Wilson explained that the Board had decided that when Dave Niehuis and Carl Hayden retired last fiscal year, they would not be replaced. Chief Wilson is recommending that the hiring freeze be continued for the FY 2010/11. He noted that both Captain positions would be filled which leaves two firefighter positions open. He also noted that this was a joint recommendation of Management and the Union.

Board Member Price moved that the hiring freeze be continued. Board Member

Utter seconded the Motion. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution CII (102) The Transfer of FY 2009/10 Capital Reserve Funds in the Amount of \$136,823.00 to the Capital Reserve Account.

Finance Manager Elikan presented this proposal. Board Member Crawford moved Approval of Resolution CII (102) as presented. Board Member Utter seconded the Motion. There was no discussion. The Motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Disposal of Unusable District Equipment consisting of:

Two (2) cases of CPR Mannequins—10 plastic adult models (donated—4 years old) and 10 plastic baby models (15 years old). Neither type of mannequin is used for CPR instruction and:

One (1) Whirlpool Clothes Dryer—approximately 10 years old.

Chief Wilson explained that as part of the annual equipment inventory CPR mannequins that are no longer used in the CPR classes were identified as extraneous. The dryer has been replaced by a newer donated unit.

Board Member Crawford asked what was meant by the term “disposed of”. Chief Wilson explained that the procedure was to offer the item(s) for sale to employees at a nominal cost first and if the item(s) do not sell to try to donate the item(s) to an appropriate organization.

Board Member Kohler moved Approval of the disposal of the mannequins and clothes dryer. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Utter. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

5. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution #CIII (103) to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Arizona Division of Emergency Management for Sun Lakes Fire District to be a signatory agency to the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact in order to be eligible for County, State and Federal assistance and financial reimbursement in the event of a major emergency or disaster.

Chief Wilson explained that SLFD is a current signer to the Valley wide Mutual Aid Agreement but never a signer to the State wide Mutual Aid Agreement. The Arizona Division of Emergency Management is recommending that all agencies become signers of the State Mutual Aid Agreement so that in the event of a major emergency all participating agencies would be eligible for reimbursement for expenses. He noted that this agreement as presented had been reviewed by our attorney.

Board Chair Sellers asked why this had not been done before. Chief Wilson answered that the administering agency had Sun Lakes listed as “City of Sun Lakes” and any correspondence sent to us had been returned and eventually ended up at the County offices by default.

Board Member Kohler moved Approval of Resolution #CIII (103) as presented. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Price. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

F. Board Member Comments

Board Member Utter commented that recently the Manager of the Sun Lakes Country Club Golf Course was called on to do CPR on a person at the Golf Club until SLFD Paramedics arrived and took over. Mr. Utter suggested that this occurrence might be an opportunity to advertise the benefits of knowing CPR.

Board Member Crawford commented that a resident of Cottonwood had told him that clubhouse personnel had told the resident that the AED (automatic external defibrillator) was not available to the general public, that it was kept in a secure location. Mr. Crawford wondered if that was so. Chief Wilson agreed to investigate.

Board Member Crawford noted in the correspondence that a resident had donated an antique fire truck to the department. Chief Wilson explained that this donation was a model truck about one (1) foot long and on display in the Fire Chief’s Office.

Board Member Price asked who is responsible for removing accident debris from the side of the road—specifically at Riggs and Alma School. Chief Wilson answered that the County DOT was the responsible agency.

Board Member Crawford asked what the status of the traffic preemption system was. Chief Wilson answered that it was not complete yet. However, a presentation was planned for the September Board meeting to review the system in detail with the Board.

Chief Wilson stated that SLFD had purchased a new accounting system designed to bring the District into full compliance with current Government Accounting Standards requirements. He proposed to have a full presentation to the Budget Committee meeting to be scheduled either August 11 or 12, 2010. Board Member Price stated that she would not be available for most of the month of August. Chief Wilson agreed to schedule another agreeable meeting time.

Chief Wilson asked the Board if they would like to move the August 24, 2010 Regular Board Meeting to Station 231 in order to also inspect the new Engine 231. All agreed that the meeting should be relocated for August 24, 2010.

Board Chair Sellers asked the Administration to provide a presentation on ISO and on

an abbreviated Sun Lakes specific Accreditation process at a near future Board Meeting. Chief Wilson agreed to do so.

G. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Board Chair Sellers declared the meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Kohler,
Board Clerk
FK/geh