

Sun Lakes Fire District Regular Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2011

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 Members Sellers, Kohler, Price and Crawford were present. Board Member Utter was absent. Others in attendance included Fire Chief Wilson, Acting Battalion Chief Rock, Finance Manager Elikan, Captains Kenyon and Bennett, EMS Pennington and Barr, Administrative Assistant Hendry, and Members of the Public Ray Smith and Jim Kaiser. The meeting was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Board Member Crawford.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 26, 2011 Monthly Board Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 26, 2011 Monthly Board Meeting, therefore, Board Chair Sellers declared the Minutes approved as circulated.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 12, 2011 Insurance Committee Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 12, 2011 Insurance Committee Meeting, therefore, Board Chair Sellers declared the Minutes approved as circulated.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 17, 2011 Executive Session Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the open session portion of the May 17, 2011 Executive Session Meeting, therefore, Board Chair Sellers declared the Minutes of the open session approved as circulated. Note that the minutes of the closed session will be considered at the June 21, 2011 Regular Board Meeting.

Unscheduled Public Appearances Call to the Public

There were none.

A. Recognition—Service Anniversary:

15 years—Battalion Chief Daniel Guerra

Chief Wilson recognized Battalion Chief Guerra for his 15 years of service to the District. Chief Wilson noted that during Chief Guerra's tenure as Deputy Chief, he had overseen the specification and purchase of both an Engine and an Ambulance, the transition of the department to a 48/96 hour schedule, the relocation of the Fire Maintenance Facilities to Station 231, the institution of the Battalion Safety Training Officers, championed the IGA for Wildland Fire Fighting, helped work out the 800 MHz system agreement, served on the

intergovernmental committee for Computer Aided Dispatch meeting monthly and a number of other departmental projects.

Board Chair Sellers stated that the District is very happy to have Chief Guerra and “he’s a real asset to the organization.”

Chief Wilson also recognized Batt. Chief Van Horn for her work in organizing a training session for Service Dogs with fire personnel. This training conducted on May 21, 2011 introduced the Service Dogs to stressful situations such as might occur during an EMS call or a fire call where Firefighters/EMS personnel might have to physically handle the dog’s master causing the dog to go into a protective mode. The training session was reported to be very successful.

B. Correspondence and/or Other Important Information Attached

Chief Wilson called the Board’s attention to a donation received from the Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation of \$300. He also noted the letters received from a local Girl Scout Troup thanking SLFD for showing them around the Fire Station.

Chief Wilson reported that Deputy Chief McCoy was on assignment at the time of the meeting, serving on an assessment board for the City of Tempe Chief Officer Promotional Examinations.

C. Reports

Board Operations Committee Mtg. of April 5, 2011—Directors Utter & Sellers
Board Chair Sellers noted that this meeting was covered in last months meeting.

Fire Chief’s Report for April 16, 2010 through May 15, 2011

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

Chief Wilson began the report by noting that the Community Assistance Program (CAP) will be changing the hours of operation during the Summer on Weekends only to an eight (8) hour single shift. The hours will be 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday.

Chief Wilson reported to the Board that new voice synthesizers have been installed at both Stations. This will enable a call to be dispatched as soon as the dispatcher has typed in the call address. The computer will determine which unit(s) are closest and automatically dispatch them. Prior to this time each call had to be dispatched manually which meant that occasionally call could stack up.

Chief Wilson presented the Fire Chief’s Report.

1. News and Events.

There were no comments.

2. District Accomplishments & Highlights.

There were no comments.

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

There were no comments.

4. Significant Emergency Incidents

There was a brief discussion of the fire at the Oakwood Grille. Member of the Public Kaiser complemented the fire crew on their efficient operation.

Acting Chief Rock noted that Captain Puchta returned on May 23, after a 14 day deployment in SE Arizona. There are approximately 800 firefighters working on the fire.

Chief Wilson noted the 1st Quarter Operations report was attached to the Chief's Report.

Member of the Public Smith asked about the fire last month in Sun Lakes Country Club. Chief Wilson noted that the Sun Lakes Fire Dept. investigators, Bryan Smith and Robert Helie, had turned all evidence over to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for their investigation. He noted that results were not expected back from the MCSO for at least a couple of months.

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.

There were no comments or questions.

Local 3560 Report.

Captain Kenyon presented the Local 3560 Report.

Captain Kenyon noted that the Union had manned a MDA evening at the local Baskin and Robbins Ice Cream store earning about \$380 which will be donated to MDA.

Board Member Price asked how much money in total does the Union donated to

the MDA. Capt. Kenyon answered between \$1,200 and \$1,500 per year.

An Highway cleanup for Riggs Road is scheduled for May 28, 2011.

There were no comments.

D. Regular Agenda

1. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011/12 Medical, Dental, Long Term Disability and Life Insurance Plans as recommended by the Insurance and Legal Committee.

Board Member Kohler reviewed the Insurance and Legal Committee recommendation for the Board. He stated that the recommendation was to stay with all of the current insurance carriers except the Vision Insurance Carrier. The Committee recommended changing to VSP Vision Insurance because of the better coverage and rate. Mr. Kohler noted that approximately five (5) hours of Committee Meeting time as well as numerous staff hours had gone into the formulation of these recommendations.

Board Member Kohler explained that numerous options for Health Insurance in particular were reviewed. Only one other proposal by United Health Care (UHC) was viable and that was about \$155,000 per year less expensive than maintaining the current BC/BS package. Mr. Kohler went on to explain that the dollar savings while significant came at the expense of less coverage, higher deductibles and UHC's less than exemplary claims service record.

Board Member Crawford stated that he agreed with Board Member Kohler. He noted that when the health care proposals were first put on the table, he was in favor of the UHC proposal because of the cost. However, after reviewing the details of the coverage, the UHC proposal offered significantly less coverage.

Board Member Kohler pointed out that the MOU passed and signed at the April, 2011 Board meeting called for the continuation of the BC/BS policy. He also stated that the Union clearly understood the problem of cost increases. ~~The Union had agreed to and would be negotiating a Side Letter to the MOU that would cap the BC/BS insurance cost to the District at the proposed cost for FY 2011/12. If BC/BS raises the FY 2012/13 rate above the current rate, the Members of the Union would agree to have the excess above the 2011/12 rate deducted from their pay for FY 2012/13.~~

The Union is being sensitive to the District's fiscal responsibility and yet being sensitive to the employees' financial situation. With successful negotiations there will be some changes to the MOU that are in a side letter to the MOU for health care benefits. The Union is agreeing to the \$494,000 for [Fiscal] Year 2011-12 and we will get the numbers for next Fiscal Year 2012-2013 prior to agreeing to formal changes in the MOU. The Union has agreed to look into additional options to assist the Department with the rising premium costs, but no formal agreements have been

reached.

The MOU will state the cited BC/BS premium for the current year will be compared to the proposed coming years BC/BS premium and if there is a 20% increase in employee and employer combined contributions, the MOU will be open for negotiations.

Union President Kenyon and Vice President Bennett confirmed this tentative verbal agreement but noted that the agreement was subject to the successful negotiation of the Side Letter details.

Member of the Public Ray Smith asked “Has the District considered asking the Hospitals for a medical insurance quote?” Chief Wilson explained the District uses an Insurance Broker and received quotes from the major medical insurance providers.

Board Member Kohler moved that SLFD retain the same insurance carriers for the FY2011/12 as are in place currently except that the Vision Insurance Carrier be changed to VSP. Board Member Price Seconded the Motion. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

2. Conduct a Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2011/12 Preliminary Budget.

Board Chair Sellers declared the Public Hearing open on the FY 2011/12 Preliminary Budget.

Finance Manager Elikan reviewed the preliminary budget.

Board Member Price asked in which newspaper the Preliminary Budget would be published. Fin. Mgr. Elikan replied the East Valley Tribune.

There was no further discussion or questions.

Board Chair Sellers declared the Public Hearing Closed.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the FY2011/12 Preliminary Budget, as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Board Member Crawford moved the Approval of the FY 2011/12 Preliminary Budget, as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee. The Motion was Seconded by Board Member Kohler. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Board Member Price asked for a brief discussion on tax rate ramifications of the Preliminary Budget just approved. Finance Mgr. Elikan reviewed the spread sheets showing historical tax rates vs. the assessed valuation that were included with the Board Package.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to approve the Ratification of the Compensation package for Chief Wilson, as outlined in the Proposed FY 2011/12 Proposed Budget.

Board Chair asked for a motion to approve the Ratification of the Compensation package for Chief Wilson as outlined in the Proposed FY 2011/12 Budget.

Board Member Kohler so moved. Board Member Price Seconded the Motion.

Board Member Price stated that the Board reviewed the Compensation Package with the Board Legal Counsel. Board Chair Sellers noted that the Package was the same as last year. Board Member Crawford noted that he felt the Board had received outstanding legal counsel in this matter.

Board Chair Sellers called for the vote. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

5. Discussion and Possible Action to stop pursuing Chief Wilson's inclusion in the Arizona State Retirement System and place those equivalent funds in Chief Wilson's Post Employment Health Plan.

Board Chair Sellers stated that this issue had been thoroughly researched, vetted and ultimately trumped by Session Law 357 so that is why we [SLFD Board] are not pursuing this any further.

Board Member Kohler moved that the Sun Lake Fire District Board of Directors stop pursuing Chief Wilson's inclusion in the Arizona State Retirement System and place those equivalent funds in Chief Wilson's Post Employment Health Plan. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Price. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Board Member Price commented that Chief Wilson was not singled out. This situation applied to several other Chief Officers throughout the State.

Member of the Public Jim Kaiser asked "Does the Fire Chief not have a retirement plan?" Board Member Price indicated not from SLFD. Chief Wilson explained he was agreeable to the Board action as the equivalent funds would go into a 401K type plan for investment, known as the Post Employment Health Plan.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on the Disposal of Unneeded Equipment, for a Negotiated Sale of a 1999 Chevy Pick-up Truck and the Donation or Disposal of outdated Protective Clothing and Respirators.

Chief Wilson reviewed the reasons for disposing of this equipment. The pick-up truck is of no use to the District and research of the Kelly Blue Book value indicates the truck should be offered for sale for \$5,000.

Chief Wilson went on to explain that the disposal of the Protective Clothing and Respirators would be by donation to the East Valley Institute of Technology for their fire training classes. The equipment has reached the end of its useful life and certain items are reaching their expiration dates.

Board Member Crawford moved that the equipment be disposed of as recommended. Board Member Kohler Seconded the Motion. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

D. Board Member Comments

Board Chair Sellers asked about a “Yellow Dot Program” that was being promoted by Frys Stores. Chief Wilson explained that it was a program similar to the Vial of Life program except that the dot is put on the rear of an automobile and the medical information is placed in the glove box.

Board Member Crawford commented that the training session with the dogs went much better than expected. There was a concern that in a crisis, the dog might “freak out” and actually attack the fire personnel.

There were no further comments.

E. Scheduling of Committee Meetings:

Budget & Finance
Thursday, June 16th

Diane Price and Mike Sellers
10:00 AM

Board Members confirmed their availability.

Board Chair Sellers announced the rescheduling of the June Regular Board Meeting.

June Regular Board Meeting—Rescheduled to June 21st at 2:00 PM at the Maricopa County Library, 9330 E. Riggs Rd., Sun Lakes, AZ, Lecky Community Room.

H. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Board Chair Sellers declared the meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Kohler,
Board Clerk
FK/geh