

Sun Lakes Fire District Regular Meeting Minutes

May 25, 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, Captain Kenyon, Firefighter Puchta, Grace, Isabel and Elizabeth Puchta and Member of the Public Bernadette Halpin. The meeting was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Board Member Crawford.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 27, 2010 Monthly Board Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 27, 2010 Regular Monthly Board Meeting, therefore, Board Chair Sellers declared the Minutes approved as circulated.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 4, 2010 Insurance & Legal Committee Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 4, 2010 Insurance & Legal Committee Meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 5, 2010 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 5, 2010 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

Board Member Price moved that the Minutes of the May 4, 2010 Insurance and Legal Committee Meeting and the May 5, 2010 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting be approved as printed. Board Member Kohler Seconded the Motion. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Unscheduled Public Appearances Call to the Public

There were none.

A. Recognition—Firefighter/Paramedic Craig Daniels—15 Year & Firefighter Martin Lain—5 Year Service Anniversaries.

This item was not taken at this time.

B. Correspondence and/or Other Important Information Attached.

Chief Wilson called the Board's attention to two letters included in the Board packages acknowledging a donation of \$600 from the Sun Lakes Lions Foundation to the Community Assistance Program and a donation of \$150 from the Sun Lakes Lady Putters to the Sun Lakes Emergency Relief Fund (SLERF).

Chief Wilson presented a brief update on the current grant process.

A grant application for a new Battalion Chief vehicle has been made through the County to the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) for State Revenue Sharing

Funds. The application is currently on the agenda for the next County Board of Supervisors Meeting for approval and formal application to the GRIC. Assuming passage by the Board of Supervisors, the application is due to be considered by the GRIC in October, 2010 with notice of their decision to be received in November or December, 2010. This application is for \$57,000.

A grant application for a Wildland Fire Brush Truck was completed May 25, 2010 and submitted to FEMA for funds from their grant program. This application will be considered in October, 2010 with a decision notice to be received in November or December at the earliest. This application is for \$95,000. Chief Wilson credited Captain Dimerling, EMT Barr and Battalion Chief McCoy for the work in preparing this application.

C. Reports

Board Committee Reports:

Scheduled reports from the Legal and Insurance meeting on 5/04/2010 and the Budget & Finance meeting on 5/05/2010 were not taken at this time.

D. Fire Chief's Report for April 16th, 2010 through May 15th, 2010.

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

1. News and Events.

- a. Upcoming CPR/AED Classes:*
** June 8th & 26th —8:30AM*

2. District Accomplishments & Highlights.

Chief Guerra reviewed the District Accomplishments & Highlights.

No Comments.

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

Chief Guerra noted that 800 MHz radios are now operational with portables on all vehicles fully programmed with Phoenix Alarm as well as Mesa Alarm. He also reported that the Apex Radios that will be installed in the vehicles have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they have been programmed. SLFD is the first department in the Valley to be fully covered and operational with 800 MHz radios.

Chief Guerra reported that all engine crews were doing tactical training in the classroom which will be followed by Live Burn training in Mesa.

Chief Guerra reported that training on Triage for Mass Casualties is being scheduled as a result of the critique of the recent I-10 bus accident.

There were no comments.

4. Significant Emergency Incidents

There were no comments.

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.

Finance Manager Elikan noted on the Operating Revenue Report that the item Taxes Back 1 Year was a negative number this month because the County Tax Assessors Office settled a number of appeals on assessment values and as a result refunded the overpaid money.

Ambulance Service income was below budget, however, Medclaim Data Services, Inc. (MDS) has told SLFD that the recent increase in Medicare Reimbursement fees was made retroactive to January 1, 2010. Revised invoices have been submitted but due to the time involved in reviewing all of these claims, it is likely that the income due SLFD may not be received by the end of this fiscal year. The amount of money to be realized is projected by MDS to bring the FY Ambulance Service account about up to budget.

Board Member Utter asked what the status of the Preemption Project was. Chief Wilson answered that the parts the SLFD was responsible for have all been purchased and are on hand. The County is working from Alma School Rd. toward Sun Lakes Blvd. installing the preemption equipment as they update each signal set. It is believed that the work is at Dobson Rd.

There were no other comments.

Local 3560 Report.

Union President Kenyon reported that the Union has completed the Spring cleanup of Riggs Road from Sun Lakes Blvd. to I-10. He noted that the project took about 2 hours. Another cleanup is planned for the Fall.

FF Puchta reported that the SLERF account had donated \$500 to a family of a Mesa Firefighter whose son is being treated for stomach cancer.

FF Puchta noted that the balance in the SLERF Account was getting very close the \$25,000.00 limit allowed by the IRS without having to pay taxes.

Captain Kenyon stated that the Union was working on a plan to hold a Financial Planning Seminar that would be open to Union Members as well as the Board and Administration. A date has not been set yet.

E. Regular Agenda

1. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Fiscal Year 2010/11 Medical, Dental, Long Term Disability, Life and Vision Insurance Plans, as recommended by the Insurance and Legal Committee.

Board Member Kohler reviewed the process that led to the current recommendation of the Insurance and Legal Committee. He noted that the premium increase mandated by BC/BS was again a double digit percent increase while our income sees only single digit percent increases. Many plans were reviewed by the Administration, the Union and the Board Committee. Three recommended plans came out of that effort including the medical plan currently in effect at SLFD. These three plans were presented with explanations to all employees. The overwhelming vote on the three plans was for the PPO plan from BC/BS currently in effect at SLFD. Due to the cost of this plan, each employee will be picking up \$47 per month for the Employee only cost. A full family plan will cost the employee \$499 per month.

Board Member Kohler went on to explain that SLFD will be offering another plan called a High Deductible Health Savings Plan. This plan will have an initial \$2,600 deductible payable by the employee. However, after the \$2,600 deductible is met all costs over that are fully paid. He also noted that due to the savings in premium that SLFD will realize, SLFD will contribute \$1,500 toward the Health Saving Plan for each employee thus reducing the employee's out of pocket expense for the deductible to \$1,100. It was also noted that with a full family plan each employee will be contributing \$100 per month in addition to the HSA deduction.

Board Member Crawford reviewed the other insurances provided noting that all essentially remained the same except the Dental Insurance that will now cover 2 routine visits for cleaning instead of one.

Board Member Kohler moved approval of the Fiscal Year 2010/11 Medical, Dental, Long Term Disability, Life and Vision Insurance Plans as recommended by the Insurance and Legal Committee. Board Member Price seconded the Motion. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Fiscal Year 2010/11 Preliminary Budget, as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Chief Wilson and Finance Mgr. Elikan reviewed the development process that the proposed budget went through. In particular, the ramifications of the property valuation decrease were reviewed along with the budget reductions made to accommodate the approximately \$1,000,000 shortfall in income expected over the FY 09/10 budget income.

Board Chair Sellers asked what the \$30,000 item for 800 MHz radios under Capital Projects covered. Chief Guerra answered that this was the beginning of a fund to buy radios that would accommodate both the 800 MHz system and the VHF system in a single unit.

Chief Wilson noted that the line item for the 800 MHz radios and the SCBA equipment were both items that might not be needed. If not used the money would stay in the Capital Projects Account.

Board Member Kohler asked if the income from Wildland Fire Fighting was contingent on having the Wildland Brush Truck. Chief Wilson replied that the budgeted income of \$65,000 for FY 10/11 was based on income from individual FF's being assigned to a Wildland Fire operation. Any income from the truck if it is put in service in FY 10/11 would be additional.

Board Member Utter moved that the Preliminary Budget be approved as presented. Board Member Crawford seconded the Motion. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

F. Board Member Comments

There were no Board Member comments.

G. Scheduling of Committee Meetings:

**Budget and Finance—Diane Price and Mike Sellers
June 15, 2010 1:00AM**

This time was agreed to by both Board Chair Sellers and Board Member Price.

At this point a resident, Bernadette Halpin asked to be recognized. Board Chair Sellers recognized Ms. Halpin.

Ms. Halpin identified herself as the Board of Directors Chair Person and Acting General Manager of the Sun Lakes County Club (SLCC).

She stated that the SLCC would be purchasing 2 Automatic External Defibrillators and would be asking SLFD for help in training.

Ms. Halpin next brought an “Area of Concern” from a resident of SLCC to the Board. A resident was concerned that fire trucks were shortcutting through Pima Rd. to Michigan to Fairway Blvd. rather than using Riggs Rd. to Sun Lakes Blvd. Captain Kenyon replied that this was the route taken by E232 when that engine had occasion to visit Sta. 231. By taking this route, they would be able to park on Fairway Blvd. headed in the most expeditious direction if they receive an emergency call. That being out Sun Lakes Blvd. to Riggs Rd. Ms. Halpin said that she would convey that information to the concerned resident.

Board Member Kohler asked if the Sun Lakes area has a system called “Reverse 911”. Chief Wilson answered that Sun Lakes did have a Reverse 911 system funded by the Maricopa Emergency Management Office. He explained that the purpose of the system was emergency notification of residents of an area affected by an emergency situation such as a Hazmat situation. The system makes an automatic call to the land line of the residents in that affected area from 911 to alert the residents of the situation and provide any needed immediate instructions. The affected area would be identified by the on-scene Battalion Chief to Phoenix Alarm. The call will come up on caller ID as 911. Chief Wilson noted that by the end of the year you will be able to register your cell phone with this system and also receive notification by cell phone.

Item A. Recognition—Firefighter/Paramedic Craig Daniels—15 year & Firefighter Martin Lain—5 year Service Anniversary.

This item was taken at this time.

Fire Chief Wilson recognized Firefighter/Paramedic Craig Daniels for his 15 years of service to SLFD and Firefighter Martin Lain for his 5 years of service to SLFD.

Chief Wilson noted that FF Lain was now on the qualified Captain’s list.

Fire Chief Wilson next recognized FF Ron Puchta who was this day appointed Captain. Captain Puchta introduced his family in attendance. Chief Wilson presented Captain Puchta with his Captain’s Badge and Captain’s helmet. Chief Wilson noted that Captain Puchta had scored the highest of the three candidates for Captain in a rigorous evaluation process that included interviews, tactical challenges, a practical exam and also evaluations by the applicants’ co-workers.

H. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Board Chair Sellers declared the meeting adjourned at 3:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Forest Kohler,
Board Clerk
FK/geh