

Sun Lakes Fire District Regular Meeting Minutes September 28, 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 and Utter were present. Board Member Crawford was absent. Others in attendance included Fire Chief Wilson, Deputy Chief Guerra, Battalion Chief Van Horn, Finance Manager Elikan, Captains Kenyon and Helie, Admin. Asst. Engel and Members of the Public Bernadette Halpin, Jim Kaiser, Harvey Friedson, Steve Poole and Judy Manley (CAP Member). The meeting was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Board Member Utter.

Approval of the Minutes of the August 24, 2010 Monthly Board Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the August 24, 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. Recognition—Mr. Harvey Friedson and Mr. Steve Poole for Traffic Pre-emption Improvements in Sun Lakes:

Fire Chief Wilson introduced Mr. Harvey Friedson of Sun Lakes and Mr. Steve Poole of Maricopa DOT, Battalion Chief Van Horn and Captain Helie. Captain Helie briefly explained the preemption system that has been installed at the intersections on Riggs Rd and the invaluable assistance provided to SLFD by both Mr. Poole and Mr. Friedson. He noted that SLFD saved significant money in the Preemption Project because of the contributions by both Mr. Poole and Mr. Friedson. Captain Helie presented each with a letter of appreciation from the Department. Mr. Poole commented that many other people were also involved in this project and it ran smoothly because of the efforts of SLFD personnel.

Mr. Friedson expressed his appreciation for being asked to be involved with something he knew a lot about (retired City of Tempe Traffic Engineer).

B. Correspondence and/or Other Important Information Attached.

Chief Wilson called the Board's attention to the letters from the U.S. Census Bureau and also from an article in the Arizona Republic concerning Fire Districts not requesting money due to them from the insurance fund supporting pensions. The Chief noted that SLFD was cited in the article as one of the Districts that had consistently applied for and received the funds due us. No comments.

C. Presentation—Insurance Services Office Grading Process—Chief Wilson

Chief Wilson gave a brief presentation explaining what the Insurance Services Office (ISO) is, how it is funded and what its purpose is. He explained that ISO produces insurance risk ratings of municipalities, Districts, etc. These ratings are purchased by various fire insurance underwriters and are used to set insurance policy rates for both residential and commercial properties.

Chief Wilson explained that the ISO ratings go from Class 1 to Class 9 with Class I being the highest. He noted that there are no Class I fire departments in Arizona at this time and only 100 in the entire U.S. Medical services have no effect on the Ratings.

Sun Lakes is currently rated Class 3/9. The Class 3 rating applies where there are hydrants and the Class 9 rating is for areas that do not have hydrants such as the Hunt Highway/McQueen areas. We were last rated in 2002 with rating cycles running about 10 to 12 years thus Sun Lakes should be coming up for a rating review in the next couple of years. The ratings are based on 3 things: (1) The ability of the Department to receive and dispatch fire calls (2002 rating was 9.10 out of 10), (2) the staffing and capability of the Department to suppress fires (2002 rating was 33.77 out of 50+) and (3) the capability of the water supply company to provide sufficient water (2002 rating was 32.89 out of 40).

Chief Wilson stated that a number of improvements have been made in the Fire Department part of the rating since the 2002 rating. Those include fully equipping E239, keeping all engine pump tests current (<12 months old) and equipping E232 with a high capacity deck gun, extra SCBAs, extra salvage covers and a portable generator that is currently being purchased through a Governor's Office of Highway Safety grant. The extra equipment on E232 will help to offset SLFD's lack of a ladder truck which would normally carry the salvage equipment.

Additional factors that have improved since the 2002 rating include all areas in the SL District are within a 1 ½ miles of a station now due to Chandler Engine 2810 being stationed less than 1 ½ miles from the Hunt Hwy/McQueen area and normally dispatched to a fire in that area. SLFD engines all operate with minimum of 4 person crews dedicated to fire fighting and not subject to EMS calls and 2 people on Battalion Chief crews. Training programs and sessions are being closely monitored by Battalion Chiefs to assure all areas of fire fighting are covered properly and the training is documented.

Preplans and inspections in the District are also being kept current. Chief Wilson opined that SLFD has dealt with all items in the 2002 rating that were deficient and thus should receive a high rating in the Fire Department section. All factors appear to be well managed including the water supply and the dispatch system which are not under SLFD control.

Board Chair Sellers asked if there was a system of notification when Pima Utility shut

down a hydrant for some reason. Chief Wilson answered that there was not a formal system of direct notification of SLFD at this time. He agreed to consider this.

D. Fire Chief's Report for August 16th, 2010 through September 15th, 2010.

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

Chief Guerra presented the Chief's Report.

1. News and Events.

Chief Wilson began the Chief's Report by noting that Chandler Regional Hospital was certified as a Stroke Center on September 7, 2010 and that Mercy Gilbert was currently working on getting a similar certification. He noted that prior to this time, stroke victims were taken to Scottsdale Osborn hospital which usually required an expensive helicopter flight.

Chief Wilson also stated that the Department had received notice from the Governor's Office that \$150,000,000 was available in stimulus funds for grants of up to \$99,999 to individual departments. The grants are restricted to replacing funds cut from budgets. SLFD has applied for a grant to replace the staffing funds cut from the budget. Notification of awards will be made on October 7, 2010.

The fallen firefighters will be honored nationally by flags at half staff on October 3, 2010. Chief Wilson stated that 84 firefighters had died in the line of duty nationally this year.

Fire Prevention Week will occur from 10/3/2010 through 10/9/2010. Department activities are being coordinated by Battalion Chief Van Horn. Chief Van Horn stated that the theme this year would be Smoke Detectors and keeping them in good condition. There will be a banner hung at Station 232 to that effect which will be in place for all of October. Chief Wilson also noted that there were approximately 100 battery operated smoke detectors remaining from the original smoke detector grant and A Shift would be working with CAP to get the rest of those distributed.

The CAP will have a new member training class starting 10/25/2010 and running through 10/29/2010.

Chief Wilson reported that at the medical building under construction at the corner of Sun Lakes Blvd. and Riggs Road, thieves has stolen the entire sprinkler riser and a significant amount of the electrical wiring.

Chief Guerra presented the remainder of the Chief's report.

There were no comments.

2. District Accomplishments & Highlights.

Chief Guerra reviewed the items printed in the Chief's report.

There were no comments.

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

Chief Guerra reviewed the personnel shifts that have been made due to injuries and illnesses.

Chief Guerra noted that the Eloy Fire District has instituted a Battalion Chief system and their newly appointed BC's would be doing ride-alongs with SLFD BC's through September.

According to Chief Guerra, the training on the new dual band mobile radios has been completed and trucks and vehicles are being cycled into Phoenix for installation of the radios.

Chief Guerra reported that the new E231 would be ready for service this week (week ending 10/01/2010).

There were no comments.

4. Significant Emergency Incidents

Board Member Kohler asked why SLFD was going so far away from Sun Lakes. Chief Guerra responded that each call answered outside of Sun Lakes was a result of automatic aid needs particular to the calls responded to. The call answered by CAP was a result of the our CR231 being in Scottsdale to retrieve some medical equipment coincident to a fire call being toned out. CR231 was the closest crisis care unit to the fire and were thus dispatched.

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.

Local 3560 Report.

The Local 3560 report was presented by Union President Kenyon.

President Kenyon reported that the Union is planning a highway cleanup in October.

President Kenyon also reported that the Union had ordered pink t-shirts to be worn by the members during the month of October to mark Breast Cancer Month.

There were no comments.

D. Regular Agenda

1. Discussion and Possible Action to declare the election of two (2) Board Member seats “uncontested” per the Arizona Revised Statutes.

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Affirmed on Sept. 1, 2010 the Designation and Cancellation of Special District Elections in the November 2010 General Election (see attached documentation).

Board Member Incumbents Michael Sellers and Diane Price will be Reappointed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors in November, 2010 to serve new terms of December, 2010 through November, 2014.

Chief Wilson reviewed the Supervisors action and congratulated the two newly elected Board Members.

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Fire Chief to enter into Negotiations on the Disposition of Real Estate Property from the Elizabeth Hendrickson Trust.

Chief Wilson reviewed the Hendrickson Trust donation to SLFD noting that the estate had been left to six (6) entities in equal amounts with SLFD being one of those entities. It has recently come to light that the estate included two lots in a development called Whispering Ranch in Wittman, AZ. Chief Wilson noted that the estate trustee, Wells Fargo/Wachovia Bank had attempted to sell the lots with no success. As a result, they have deeded the land to the 6 entities each with equal interest. This means that SLFD will also pickup a one sixth share of taxes, insurance and liability on the land. He noted that the current value of the land is around \$20,000.

Chief Wilson, in concert with Neighbors Who Care (one of the other interested parties) is recommending that SLFD and NWC enter into negotiations with Catholic Health West Foundation (also one of the 6) to sell SLFD's interest to CHW Foundation.

Board Member Kohler moved that the Chief be authorized to enter into

Negotiations for the disposition of SLFD's interest in the land. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Price. There was discussion on relative values and exact location of the land. The Motion was voted with all present voting for the Motion. The Motion passed with no abstentions.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Change the Regularly Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting Dates to November 16th and December 21st (the third Tuesday of those two months) to avoid potential conflicts with the Holiday weeks. The Library meeting space is available on the above dates.

Board Member Kohler moved to change the Regularly Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting dates to November 16th and December 21st (the third Tuesday of those two months). The Motion was seconded by Board Member Utter. There was no discussion. The Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

E. Board Member Comments

There were no comments.

G. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Board Chair Sellers declared the meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Kohler,
Board Clerk
FK/geh