

## **Board Action Request**

SUBJECT: Approval of spending for architect and attorney services related to real estate.  
DATE: September 28, 2022  
FROM: Director Pete Benequista  
TO: Tubac Fire District Board of Directors

### **Background:**

Over recent months it has been observed by me and numerous District members that the TFD BOD has lost control of the expenditure of staff time and taxpayer money for unnecessary architect and attorney services related to extravagant parcels of land and unrealistic facility plans.

An audit of such service fees, presented to the BOD on August 31, 2022, displays the astonishing amount of \$7,000.00 for architects over only one twelve-month period and at least \$4,220.00 for attorneys over an eleven-month period, for which we have nothing useful to show.

It costs the taxpayers \$40.00 minimum each time the attorney opens an email or takes a call.

The Purchasing and Purchase Order System policy currently authorizes the Fire Chief to approve up to \$5,000, and Assistant Chief up to \$2,500, per purchase order – for anything.

Real estate transactions, above all, are clearly a Board of Directors responsibility – to be considered in open forum, not in secrecy.

The Fire Chief should not be burdened with such responsibility in addition to the significant operational and management responsibilities detailed in the job description.

**Fiscal Impact:** A necessary step to help avoid unnecessary waste of District resources and maintain a balanced budget.

### **Proposed Motion:**

I move that no management and staff time or taxpayer money shall be committed to architects or attorneys for any services related to real estate without specific advance approval by the BOD.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter R Benequista