



# TUBAC FIRE DISTRICT

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## TUBAC FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS April 28, 2021

1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m., by Mary Dahl. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Roll call of Board Members: Mary Dahl, Pete Benequista, Herb Wisdom, and Bill Kirkpatrick were present at Station #2. Mike Connelly was absent. Also, in attendance at Station #2 were Chief Horvath, Deputy Chief Rivera, Gabe Buldra, Ben Archer Clowes, and Nancy Lindsey. Sara Simonton, John Ashton, and Roshell Lee attended telephonically.
3. Report from Board Members: Pete Benquista commented about having attended the AFDA Statutory Training in Tucson.
4. Reading of public comments submitted via email: None
5. Correspondence: Chief Horvath provided the Board with a letter received from Tubac Health Care Foundation awarding the District a grant in the amount of \$7,500 for an EMT to attend the Paramedic Transition Program at Pima Community College.
6. Chair's Report : None
7. Chief and Staff Report: Chief Horvath presented the staff report.
8. Monthly Financial Report for March 2021: Gabe Buldra presented the financial reports for the month of March 2021.  
Key points for the month:
  - A. Santa Cruz County revenue for March is \$157,032 which is \$41,800 over budget.
  - B. Non-Levy revenue is \$58,139 which is under budget by \$15,536.
  - C. Expenses for the month totaled \$277,257 which is over budget by \$838.
  - D. Year-to-date Santa Cruz revenue is \$2,295,109 which is \$35,575 over budget.
  - E. Year-to-date Non-levy revenue is \$4,704,407 which is \$3,838,832 over budget.
  - F. Year-to-date ordinary expense is \$2,875,365 which is \$179,484 over budget
9. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of minutes from March 31, 2021 regular meeting
  - B. Approval of monthly financial reports

Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve the consent agenda with two changes to the minutes and Herb Wisdom seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.

10. Approval of annual renewal of VFIS Property & Casualty insurance: Chief Horvath explained to the Board that the quote received for the FY 21/22 was a slight increase from last year and further commented that VFIS has been a good partner with the District providing guidance on many issues including vehicle operator training for suppression personnel and aiding with development of standard operating procedure and facility use policies. Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve the annual renewal of VFIS Property & Casualty insurance in the amount of \$41,013 and Pete Benequista seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.
  
11. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Tubac Fire District Workers' Compensation policy: Chief Horvath explained that Tubac Fire District staff is in the process of assessing Workers Compensation (WC) insurance policies for FY 20/21. The current WC carrier for the District is 7710 Insurance with an annual premium of \$77,939. As the board is aware, the state of Arizona legislature expanded presumptive cancer legislation (S1451) which may potentially impact workers' compensation costs for fire districts and fire departments in Arizona. Research indicates firefighters are at increased risk for developing certain cancers given their exposure to cancer-causing carcinogens through either inhalation to skin absorption. This new legislation was signed by the Governor and goes into effect 60 days after the legislature adjourns session.  
Two options may be available to Tubac Fire District.
  - Option 1 - Remain with the current provider, 7710 Insurance Company. TFD has not received a quote yet from 7710.
  - Option 2 - Switch to Securis (formerly the Arizona Fire District Workers' Compensation Pool), with an annual premium of \$71,128, and a capitalization cost of \$42,677 or \$10,669 paid annually for the next four years. Pete Benequista asked if large expenditure such as this should be put out for 3 bids to which Gabe Buldra replied that due to the presumptive cancer legislation, the only two good options are 7710 and Securis. Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to enter into agreement with Securis for the District's Workers Compensation provider and Herb Wisdom seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.
  
12. Discussion and information only regarding the Tubac Fire District FY 21/22 budget: Gabe Buldra provided an overview of the preliminary FY21/22 budget that included the projected revenues and expenses that he explained had remained unchanged from the prior month's meeting. Pete Benequista asked: 1) Why the budget reflects a 96% increase in overtime expenses to which Gabe replied that last year the plan was to utilize the reserves more but due to COVID it did not work out as was planned and so we decided to go back to coverage being provided by full-time employees; 2) Why the cost of physicals are increasing 68.75% to which Chief Horvath explained that the District's Physician's office, Well America, closed its doors this year and in an attempt to have one provider who can take care of physicals as well as workman's comp or return to duty appointments the District was able to contract with a group out of Tucson that will provide for all of the needs under a membership agreement. With no further questions or comments, Gabe concluded by stating that once adopted, the tentative budget for FY21/22 will be posted for a minimum of 20 days as statutorily required.
  
13. Discussion and possible action to approve an Emergency Services Contract for Parcel #112-38-097, located at 74 Camino Tango in Rio Rico: Chief Horvath explained to the Board that the homeowner requested the emergency services agreement for fire protection that will go into effect on July 1, 2021, at an annual cost of \$585. Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve the Emergency Services Contract for Parcel #112-38-097, located at 74 Camino Tango in Rio Rico and Herb Wisdom seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.
  
14. Discussion and possible action on Chief Horvath's employment contract. The Board might convene into Executive Session regarding this item as allowed by A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) (allowing an executive session for the purpose of "discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a . . . employee") and A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) (allowing an executive session for the purpose of "discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body."):

Mary Dahl asked Chief Horvath if she consented to the Tubac Fire District Governing Board discussing her employment contract in executive session to which the Chief replied she did. Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to convene to executive session and Herb Wisdom seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.

15. Future Agenda Items:

- A. FY 21/22 Budget
- B. Surplus of vehicles

16. Next Meeting: May 26, 2021 at 1:30 pm

17. Adjourn Meeting: Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. and Herb Wisdom seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.