



TUBAC FIRE DISTRICT

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TUBAC FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 26, 2023

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: Pete Benequista, Rich Bohman, Sandy Johnson, Herb Wisdom and Mary Dahl were present at Station #2. Also, in attendance at Station #2, Fire Chief Ben Guerrero, Deputy Chief Genaro Rivera, Acting Deputy Chief Hesly Guerrero and Bianca Hamric. Gabe Buldra and Ben Archer-Clowes attended on behalf of James Vincent Group. Members of the public in attendance were Ron & Kathi Campana, Dean Hahn-Carlson, Mike Pettypool, Nan Fitzpatrick, Tom Gervais, Mindy Maddock, Gary Pundt, Heather Alvarez, CJ Alvarez, Emilio G. Velasquez, Luis Aguirre Jr., Clem Shute, and Antoinette Frey.
3. Badge Pinning and Years of Service Recognition:
 - a. Special guest the Honorable Emilio G. Velasquez, Justice of the Peace, administered the oath of office:
 - i. Chief Ben Guerrero
 - ii. Firefighter Maria Ruiz
 - b. Chief Guerrero presented years of service:
 - i. Firefighter Tim Slate 15 years
 - ii. Captain Charlie Alvarez 15 years
4. Report from Board Members: Rich Bohman reported his findings regarding the section of land for sale north of the fire district. He stated, after speaking with Harrison Real Estate Group, that the property will not be an option for a future Tubac Fire District. Mr. Bohman's second item to report was regarding the window display at the post office. He stated that the Citizens Council is looking to obtain the display and will reserve its use for county wide official reports including notices from the Tubac Fire District.
5. Reading of public comments submitted via email: None.
6. Call to the Public: Nan Fitzpatrick gave a thank you to the Tubac Fire District for helping my husband when injured. Mike Pettypool commented on the lack of transparency from the fire board regarding the USDA grant funding and wanted to know how the different options to build would affect taxpayers. Mindy Maddock commented on her displeasure regarding the timing delivery of the month's Board Agenda sent to the Public via email. Clem Shute from the Santa Cruz Valley Citizens Council was pleased to know the district board held a special meeting to discuss the future building of station#1. He also commented on his concern regarding the tower height. He is concerned that the height of the tower may not be in the community's best interest. Antoinette Frey presented Deputy Chief Genaro Rivera with a check for the Tubac Fire Fighters Union. This was to show appreciation for his efforts to help the Tubac Chamber of Commerce with the Tubac Art Festival. She stated that he is a treasured resource of the community. Kathi Campana, seconded the notion of Mindy Maddock's displeasure in the timing delivery of the month's agenda

that was sent via email. Secondly, Campana stated that fire station #1 needs to be built, as it is a flagship of the community. Dean Hahn-Carlson, commented on agenda item 17b. He stated that the special meeting held regarding station #1 was very informative and we need to move forward with building a new station #1.

7. Correspondence: None.
8. Chairs Report: Board Chair Mary Dahl reported that she attended the Taste of Tubac, and a minor incident occurred. She witnessed Tubac Fire respond swiftly and professionally, it made her proud.
9. Chief and Staff Report: Captain Charlie Alvarez, Genaro Rivera and Fire Chief Ben Guerrero provided the monthly Staff Report for April.
 - a. Operations Update
 - b. Training
 - c. Wildland Update
 - d. Administration Update
10. Monthly Financial Report for April 2023: Gabe Buldra presented the financial reports for the month of April 2023.
11. Consent Agenda: Mary Dahl made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Rich Bohman seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.
12. Discussion and information only regarding the Tubac Fire District FY 23/24 budget: Gabe Buldra presented the draft FY 23/24 tentative budget.
13. Discussion and possible action approve **Resolution No 2023-01** appointing Chief Guerrero and Captain Hesly Guerrero as the authorized representative and alternate authorized representative with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs. (Req: Guerrero): Chief Ben Guerrero and Acting Deputy Chief Hesly Guerrero made a request for authorization to be representatives to apply for disaster relief funds with AZDEMA if such an event were to arise. Sandy Johnson moved to approve **Resolution No. 2023-01** and Rich Bowman seconded the motion; all in favor, the motion passed.
14. Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of an ambulance as a replacement for a 2008 Chevrolet Kodiak ambulance. (Req. Guerrero) Chief Ben Guerrero and Gabe Buldra from James Vincent Group presented to the board the cost to purchase a new ambulance. Payment is due upon delivery and the quote is a fixed quote. Rich Bohman moved to approve the purchase of a 2023 Medix type I ambulance in the amount not to exceed \$233, 830.82 and Sandy Johnson seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.
15. Presentation on Station 1 Tower replacement project by AT&T by representative William Daley. (Req: Benequista) The Tubac Fire Board questioned Mr. Daley regarding costs, advantages, and height of the tower. Mr. Daley informed the board that AT&T would build the tower on station #1 property and that AT&T would bear the cost. He further commented that Tubac Fire District would benefit from the tower because it would give the district more coverage area and better reception. Mary Dahl asked what the cost would be to remove the old tower. Mr. Daley said that he is not entirely sure but would find out and let us know. Sandy Johnson asked if there are any studies that can be provided to the board to show the communication needs of the district. Mr. Daley responded that the district is working with Canyon State Communication to reach a conclusion.

16. Discussion and possible action on new changes to the employee benefit package. (Req: Guerrero) Chief Guerrero discussed the health insurance cost increase with EMI. Chief Guerrero presented the board with the best outcome to lower costs by bundling our insurance. Sandy Johnson made a motion to approve the motion; Rich Bohman second the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.
17. Discussion of Fire Station 1 Items:
 - a. Discussion and possible action to further formalize communication between Fire Chief, Board Chair, Fire Board and Community. (Req: Johnson)
Sandy Johnson wanted to discuss a formal process for Fire Chief Guerrero to submit paperwork for the USDA grant. He is suggesting that he would like to see the board involved before grant funding submissions are sent, giving board members the opportunity to review documents submitted and allow for transparency.
 - b. Discussion and possible action to revise the requirement to WSM Architects regarding square footage, budget restrictions or other items for the USDA grant application. (Req: Johnson)
Sandy Johnson stated that he would like to see a downsized version of the property. He also stated that he would like to see a new set of requirements and work toward a 5-million-dollar budget. Sandy Johnson would like WSM to draw up plans that would eliminate the community center completely.
Rich Bohman also expressed that he would like WSM to come up with an alternative design that would stay on budget. Sandy Johnson said he would like WSM to come up with a new drawing that the district could prepare and submit for the pending grant funding. He would like to zero in on a 5-million-dollar budget that could be somewhat flexible. Mary Dahl commented that it is not a good idea to put an official dollar amount on the proposed building. She supports the new changes to make the fire station functional but does not support putting a dollar amount on the project. Sandy Johnson made a motion for WSM to rework the design for station #1 and to eliminate the community center. Peter Benequista second the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.
 - c. Discussion and informational only, of the relocation of staff, equipment, and the administrative offices during the building and construction of station#1. (Req: Bohman) Chief Guerrero discussed a possible scenario of emergency units for Station #1 having a post near administrative offices possibly a leased office space and crews would sleep at station #2.
18. Future Agenda Items: Discussion of Fire Station #1
19. Next meeting: May 31, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.
20. Adjourn meeting: Mary Dahl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:43 and Rich Bohman seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.

