



Harquahala Fire District

Minutes of Special Board Meeting

Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 5:45 pm

The Harquahala Valley Fire District Governing Board convened in a Special Meeting on June 20, 2013 at the Harquahala Valley Fire Station located at 51501 W Tonto Street, Tonopah, AZ 85354.

Call to Order: Chairman Michael Haynes announced Call to Order and commenced with the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call of Board Members: Chairman Michael Haynes proceeds with roll call of board members.

Judy Henderson - present, Frank Haas - present, Michael Haynes - present, Charlie Kooistra = present, Joe Roman - present all five board members were present.

Call to Public: Chairman Michael Haynes proceeded with the Call to Public

- Tom stepped forward indicating that he discussed with his managers in Maryland. He suggested that the payment to the Harquahala Generating Plant that \$100,000 can be deferred and payment of \$17,176 be paid from the funds that were allocated in the new budget for 2013-2014. Harquahala Generating Plant would like to go into negotiations for new MOU.

Chairman Michael Haynes and Board Member Joe Roman had a phone conference call with the Harquahala Generating Plant Representatives in Maryland, Joy and Morris. They had a discussion of Plant's budget going forward, and ways to provide a set value to establish with the next MOU which ends on 6/30/2014. The Chairman asked if the \$117,176 be deferred or broken up into multiple years. The MOU negotiations will be put on the agenda for the next board meeting with a possibility of appointing a committee.

- Carol stepped forward on the way the board is handling the financials. She read her statement and provided a copy to Board Member Joe Roman to include with minutes.
- Captain Shephard spoke on behalf of the departments Fire Fighters. They would like to propose at the next meeting a Sunrise Clause for the fire fighters to get back some of the concessions they have lost.

Chairman Michael Haynes indicated that he needs a clear meaning of what the fire fighters expect from the Sunrise Clause, as there are several different meanings.

Reports and Correspondence: N/A

Business:

- **Discussion and possible action regarding Budget for 2013 - 2014 for posting only.** Discussion was held in regards to the budget between the board members and Chief Sandell. Budget income is projected to be \$1,665,125. The budget needs to be adjusted due to the generosity of the Harquahala Generating Plant allowing the amount of \$100,000 to be deferred.

Chairman Michael Haynes explained that the money that came as income into the budget \$247,000 as prior year income. Maricopa County did not pay the rest of the taxes for Harquahala Generating Plant however, because of the court settlement in had reduced the values. Maricopa County had to hold harmless and pay back the taxes.

Board Member Judy Henderson question why the retirement values were increased since the raises were cut from the budget. Chief Sandell indicated that this was due to the fact the employees received their stip within the last 12 months and the amount the Department pays toward retirement went up to the amount of 12%.

Board Member Judy Henderson question Account 6120 On-Call Chief. This category if for payment of assignment pay when a Captain acts as Chief a not our contract with Tonopah Fire Department. The new budget will be eliminating the assignment pay.

Board Member Judy Henderson question Accounts 7050 & 7055 it is budgeted for zero, but we still need to make payments on the Brush trucks. We still owe \$51,605 and \$69,000 for these vehicles how do we plan to make the payments. Chief Sandell indicated that we were going to take the payments which total of approximately \$35,000 from the reserve.

Board Member Joe Roman brought the issue of paying the vehicles off with the \$100,000 or at least the vehicle that does not go on the Wildland Fires.

Chairman Michael Haynes discussed that the use of the Capital Reserve may cause a financial hardship to the department in future years. The personal property value decreased by 38% for this budget and the values are expected to continue to decrease. The board needs to tighten their belts or raise taxes. The reason for this meeting was because the first proposed budget was going to increase property taxes by 25%.

Board Member Charlie Kooistra indicated that we can argue this until tomorrow, without getting any further.

Chairman Michael Haynes brought back the discussion to have the board to decide if we should continue the make payments on the trucks or pay-off 1 or both trucks. All members agreed that the budget should reflect making the truck payments. The \$33,290 for the payments will be subtracted from the \$100,000 deferred MOU payment and reflected in the budget.

Next Chairman Michael Haynes requested discussion in regards of the remaining \$66,710 from the \$100,000. He expressed that the Fire Fighters are our asset and that we should give back some of the concessions they accepted. The items that were taken off and were suggested to be returned into the budget is an estimated total amount of \$68,616. There were discrepancies in the amount to be returned however Chief Sandell needs to remove \$1,100 to \$1900 from the amounts.

Board Member Judy Henderson questions the separate category for Wildland contingency. It should be only in one category, it was discussed that there should be a separate category for Wildland and sub-categories for the different groups within this category to be created.

Chairman Michael Haynes requested that the rest of the budget to be left as is. Chief Sandell needs to clean-up as discussed, pass to the board members for one

last review and get the budget posted. He indicated there is an item on the agenda to move the next meeting.

- **Health Insurance Renewal for Employees.** This is the same plan that they had last year for the employees with the increase rate of 3.14%. Harquahala Fire Department will continue paying 50% of the premium for dependents. The allocation in the budget includes for 2 life changing events.

Board Member Judy Henderson makes the motion to approve the Health Insurance Renewal. Board Member Frank Haas seconds the motion.

Chairman Michael Haynes takes a vote to Approve the Health Insurance Renewal.

Judy - Yes, Frank - Yes, Michael - Yes, Charlie - Yes and Joe - yes.

5 unanimous votes to Approve the Health Insurance Renewal.

- **Liability, Vehicle and Property Insurance Renewal.** Chief Sandell indicated he was not able to get a quote from VFIS; however the quote from Cindy Albert was for \$16,686.

Board Member Frank Haas makes the motion to approve the Liability, Vehicle and Property Insurance Renewal Quote from Cindy Albert. Board Member Judy Henderson seconds the motion.

Chairman Michael Haynes takes a vote to Approve the Liability, Vehicle and Property Insurance Renewal Quote from Cindy Albert.

Judy - Yes, Frank - Yes, Michael - Yes, Charlie - Yes and Joe - yes.

5 unanimous votes to Approve the Liability, Vehicle and Property Insurance Renewal Quote from Cindy Albert.

- **Allocation of End of Year Funds.** Last year there was \$75,600 which was allocated between Capital Reserve and Operations Accounts Payable. Chief Sandell needs to know by July 1, 2013, so this can be discussed further at the next meeting. There may only be \$14,000 left to be allocated.

- Chairman Michael Haynes makes the motion to move the next meeting to Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 5:30 pm. Board Member Frank Haas seconds the motion. Chairman Michael Haynes takes a vote to Move the next meeting to Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 5:30 pm. Judy - Yes, Frank - Yes, Michael - Yes, Charlie - Yes and Joe - yes.

5 unanimous votes to move the next meeting to Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 5:30 pm.

- **End of Business Items.**

Board member Charlie Kooistra voted to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Judy Henderson seconds the motion.

Chairman Michael Haynes takes a vote to adjourn the meeting. Judy - Yes, Frank - Yes, Michael - Yes, Charlie - Yes and Joe - yes.

5 unanimous votes to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:41.