

# ORACLE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 6, 2014 / Approved November 4, 2014

Meeting was officially called to order at 6:08pm, Monday October 6, 2014 at 1475 W. American Ave., Oracle, AZ.

## **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Chairman Navarro, OFDBMs Bristow, and McMurry.

Members Absent: Clerk Brown , OFDBM Doran

Staff Present: Chief Larry Southard, Asst. Chief Jennings, (Capt) Tyler McGovern

Guests: Jennifer Phillips, CPA

## **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.** Chairman Navarro asked the Board members if there were any changes to the Tuesday September 2, 2014 minutes. There were none. OFDBM Bristow made a motion to accept these minutes as provided. The motion was seconded by OFDBM McMurry. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**3. CALL TO PUBLIC.** Bob Skiba, long-time Oracle resident , requested to speak about the Fire District Assistance Tax, or FDAT, which is a State wide tax. This tax accounts for approximately 20% of each Fire District's budget. Mr. Skiba thoroughly researched how this tax works and no one whom he contacted was able to provide him with the information for which he was asking. Regarding OFD responding to medical and fire calls outside of the district, Mr. Skiba recommends OFD annex the area to the east of the district, known as "Campo Bonito," including Sycamore Canyon Academy (aka Rite of Passage) or develop a policy of "fee for service" or a subscription service.

**4. PRESENTATION OF 2013/2014 FINANCIAL AUDIT BY CPA JENNIFER PHILLIPS.** Ms. Phillips presented a "clean" report of OFD financial statements, which is a very good report, with many less "findings" or issues, to be resolved from the last official audit of 2012.

**5. CHEF'S REPORT – (see end of minutes).** OFDBM Bristow requested that research continue on possible annexation of the Campo Bonito and Sycamore Canyon Academy areas, as well as Copper Hills Estates, and to have this placed as an agenda item for the November board meeting.

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FIRE CHIEF'S REQUEST TO SELL SEVERAL OF OUR UNNEEDED / EXCESS APPARATUS.** Chief Southard explained that many of these vehicles were either donated or purchased used and some are 20 years or older. The cost of maintaining these vehicles has exceeded their value. He would like to sell these obsolete vehicles

and purchase a vehicle that could be used for travel and as a Command vehicle on emergency calls. OFDBM Bristow requested a detailed written plan. Chairman Navarro requested information on how other fire districts handle this type of sale (sealed bids or public auctions?).

**7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FIRE CHIEF'S REQUEST FOR AN ANNUAL EMPLOYEE EVALUATION. THE BOARD COULD GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THIS.** Chief Southard provided a self-evaluation, per Chairman Navarro's request. Chairman Navarro asked Chief to send a copy of his self-evaluation to absent board members so they would have an opportunity to review it prior to the November meeting.

OFDBM Bristow made a motion for this item to be placed on the November meeting agenda. OFDBM McMurry seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**6. ADJOURNMENT.** OFDBM Bristow made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. OFDBM McMurry seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**Next Board Meeting: Tuesday November 4, 2014 at 6pm.**

Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Tina Acosta - Administrative Chief / Reviewed by OFD Board Clerk Ellie Brown

### **7. CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Financial, Budget & Account Balances Report: Documents will be presented by Chief Acosta.

Staff Report: Hiring & staffing of reserve firefighters has been going well. We have five newly hired, part time firefighter/EMT personnel to help cover the open shifts from two full time firefighters that have recently resigned.

Vehicle Report: All vehicles are in service. Engine 691 had some electrical work done during September.

Fire Station & Equip Report: All equipment is currently in service.

Fire District: Presentation by Chief Southard regarding several areas located near existing OFD boundaries that we have identified as areas that should be considered for annexation into the fire district.

On September 20th OFD Chief Officers met with the newly forming Pinal Rural Fire Rescue Fire District for a Meet and Greet and to discuss common issues such as communication, mutual aid, response areas etc. The meeting went very well.

Events: The annual OFD Family Picnic will be held at Mountain Vista School on

October 11th at 2:00. Donations from firefighters and the Oracle Firewise Board will provide the funding for food, soft drinks, games and door prizes.

Chief Southard attended the Grand Opening ceremony on September 24th for the new Golder Ranch Fire Station at Saddlebrooke Ranch. A three person Paramedic/engine crew is located closer now to Oracle for mutual aid assistance.

Current Fire Conditions: Fire conditions are currently at Moderate and are not expected to change much until spring of 2015.

Wildland Fire Report: We are near the top of the rotation list for sending out a Type 3 engine under our state contract.

The Pinal/Pima Wildland Team has requested that the 2015 statewide wildfire training exercise be held again in Oracle. They have requested the use of CERT volunteers to assist with the exercise.

Grant Report: The WFHF 2013 Grant is nearing the end of the available funding. Pinal County recently awarded us with a \$63,000 Firewise Grant to pay for creating defensible space around 40 to 45 residential structures. A Grant Committee met on September 30th to discuss the criteria for the upcoming Firewise Grant fuel thinning projects.

Donations: None to report.

CERT/Firewise Report: The Oracle Firewise Board received a Ten Year Firewise Community Recognition Award. Carrie Dennett from the Arizona Division of Forestry presented the award on September 23rd. Ms. Dennett had wonderful things to say about Oracle Firewise. The Miner News covered the event and the story, including pictures, has been featured on the OFD website home page.

The next CERT meeting will be held on October 14th at 4:00. A training exercise will follow the meeting.

Training Report: An OFD training exercise was held on September 20th. The exercise was Water Tender Operations and shuttling water.

Three firefighters attended Arizona State Fire School in Mesa during the first week of September.

Brush Dump Report: The brush that was accumulated over the spring and summer was burned on September 13th and September 21st. These recent brush burns have become too physically demanding for firefighter safety and for our on duty crew being able to respond to the next call. Future burns will have to be scheduled around the availability of mechanical equipment such as a backhoe rather than scheduling around school occupancy. To lessen neighborhood complaints we will adjust the burn schedule to burn more during the morning hours and to begin extinguishment earlier. Brush dump fees pay the costs of permits and equipment.