

ORACLE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2015 / Approved September 9, 2015

Meeting was officially called to order at 6:18pm, Wednesday August 12, 2015 at 1475 W. American Ave., Oracle, AZ.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chairman Brown, Clerk McMurry, OFDBM s Bristow and Navarro. Staff Present: Chief Larry Southard, Asst. Chief Robert Jennings, Admin. Chief Acosta, OFD firefighters.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. **CALL TO PUBLIC.** No response from the public

3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.

OFDBM Bristow made a motion to accept the minutes from July 8, 2015. The motion was seconded by OFDBM Navarro. All were in favor. Motion passed. OFDBM Bristow made a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting on July 15, 2015. The motion was seconded by OFDBM Navarro. All were in favor. Motion passed.

4. OATH OF OFFICE FOR RECENTLY APPOINTED FIRE BOARD MEMBER

FRANKY HILL. The Oath of Office for new Fire Board member Franky Hill was administered by Chairman Brown.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REGARDING THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING BANK RECONCILIATION AND CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS.

Chief Acosta presented the July actual numbers, compared to the budget for July. She explained that the July bank statements and reconciliation reports were in the Board binder awaiting the signature of Board Clerk McMurry, however, the Board and Chiefs agreed that going forward, Chief Acosta would scan and project these documents for both the General Fund (held in Florence, Pinal County) and the payroll account (held at Chase bank, in Oro Valley). In this way, the Board as a group can view, discuss, and vote to accept the documents as presented.

OFDBM Bristow made a motion to accept the documents as discussed, with the understanding that the July and following months bank statements and reconciliation reports will be scanned and presented to the Board for vote. OFDBM Navarro seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

6. **CHIEF'S REPORT** – see end of this document

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

OFDBM Bristow moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by OFDBM Hill. All were in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Next (regular) Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6:15pm. Minutes respectfully submitted, Tina Acosta – Administrative Chief / Reviewed by OFD Board Clerk Bill McMurry:

Chiefs Report – August 12th, 2015

Staff Report: Several new Reserve Firefighters have been hired to fill vacant part time positions. Staffing and backfilling of shifts is going well and with few exceptions, we have had 3 person 24/7 firefighter staffing.

Vehicle Report: All vehicles are currently in service. A ten day notice was posted last month regarding the sale of four surplus vehicles. Sealed Bid procedures are currently being explored and the selling process should take place soon.

Fire Station & Equip Report: The annual SCBA service and Fit Testing process was completed on August 6th.

We experienced an electrical problem with the Generator Switch-over system on Aug. 5th. The cause is unknown, but several of the main connections have been re-tightened.

Fire District: We have received the final 2015/2016 valuation figures from the Pinal County Treasurer's Office. The Treasurer has corrected a type-o on one of the documents, but it does not appear to have had any effect with our tax levy or our taxing rate.

The old fire station located at 1010 East Mount Lemmon Highway has been officially listed for sale. Regarding the listing of the old fire station at 1010 E. Mt. Lemmon Hwy, the Realtor showed the building to an interested party who investigated some issues. He found out the current GR zoning requires a residence on the property, which would be impossible given the required setbacks. Requesting rezoning for Commercial would cost \$4,500 and the outcome is not guaranteed. Also, it is not known at this time if there is a septic tank on the property.

Training Report: Four firefighters have been selected to attend State Fire School in Mesa next month. Captain Farrell wrote a request for a tuition scholarship and it was accepted.

Golder Ranch Station 378 came to Oracle and trained with our "C" Shift crew on August 6th. In addition to training they also worked on "area familiarization" and were shown where our helicopter LZ is located near the courthouse.

Events: An appreciation dinner event is in the planning stages for axillary volunteers CERT's and Firewise. A date and location has not yet been selected but it should be announced soon.

Current Fire Conditions: Fire conditions continue to be HIGH. The timing and the quality of the 2015 monsoon has been beneficial for reducing community wildfire risks.

Wildland Fire Report: Engine 692 was dispatched under our state contract to assist with the Chorro Fire in Southern California. On board are 2 OFD personnel and 2 Golder Ranch Fire District personnel. Recent reports indicate they are doing "burn-out" operations.

Grant Report: The Pinal County Firewise Grant has reached a point where the remaining funds are not enough to pay for a full day of thinning work. Options to use up the remaining funds are being discussed.

The 2015 SFA grant from the State Forestry Division is due on August 21st. The 50% cost sharing of this grant makes it more difficult to find fuel thinning projects. An on-line Webinar regarding the SFA Grant is scheduled for August 12th. Larry and Tina will attend. We may have to make a last minute decision whether to apply for this grant.

We are still waiting for the final award confirmation of the 2015 WFHF Grant.

Donations: None to report.

CERT/Firewise Report: Chief Acosta and two Oracle Firewise Board members met with representatives from the town of Kearny, the State Foresters Office and the Pinal County Emergency Management to talk about a possible Firewise program for the town of Kearny.

Oracle Firewise has ordered a new computer to replace the old one that is used by the Oracle CERT's for the Emergency Notification System. Oracle Firewise is funding the cost of the new equipment.

The Emergency Notification System (ENS) has been modified to match a new evacuation planning map and the phone numbers have also been updated. A number of CERT's have been trained to operate the ENS.

Brush Dump Report: The brush dump continues to be well used by local citizens. Oracle Firewise is looking into making some additional signs for the entrance area.

Call Load Report: See OFD website for August totals.

Respectfully submitted by: Fire Chief, Larry Southard