

ORACLE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday May 14, 2015 / Approved June 10, 2015

Meeting was officially called to order at 6:17pm, Thursday May 14, 2015 at 1475 W. American Ave., Oracle, AZ.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chairman Brown, Clerk McMurry, OFDBMs Bristow, Navarro, and Smallhouse. Staff Present: Chief Larry Southard, Asst. Chief Jennings, Admin. Chief Acosta, and on-duty firefighters.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. AWARD PRESENTATION TO ORACLE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR, CAPTAIN PAUL FARRELL

3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.

OFDBM Bristow made a correction in the wording under item #5, from "due to" to "with the approval of." He also requested that wording be added to the policy, at some point in the future, to state that people or businesses within the Oracle Fire District are given preferential selection for procurement or services to OFD. With this change and recommendation, OFDBM Bristow made a motion to accept the minutes from April 8, 2015. The motion was seconded by OFDBM Navarro. All were in favor. Motion passed.

4. CALL TO PUBLIC.

No public to response.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2015/2016 OPERATIONS BUDGET. THE PROPOSED BUDGET INCLUDES MAINTAINING THE SAME TAX RATE WHILE DECREASING THE TAX LEVY. THE PROPOSED BUDGET WAS PUBLISHED IN THE MINER NEWSPAPER ON APRIL 15TH AND AGAIN ON APRIL 22, 2015.

Chairman Brown asked for discussion on the subject. OFDBM Navarro asked staff if they had received any comments on the advertised budget. Staff replied they had not.

Chief Southard presented the Wage and PTO (Paid Time Off) scales and stated that last year staff did not get a PTO increase. The Wage scale was amended to bring the "Step scale" back into alignment with the PTO scale. Staff will not receive a "raise", but will receive an additional 50 cents per hour with the revised wage scale. Chief also noted the increase in salary of his, the Chief's, salary. Chief Southard was instructed to include the Administrative Chief's pay scale in with the Assistant Chief's.

Noting that the format of the wage scale will be modified to include the changes noted above, OFDBM Navarro made a motion to accept the 2015/2016 Wage and PTO scales. OFDBM Bristow seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A brief discussion regarding the proposed Operations budget for 2015/2016 ensued, after which OFDBM Bristow made a motion to accept the 2015/2016 proposed Operations budget . OFDBM Navarro seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT – at end of this document.

Chief Southard thanked the Board members and Admin. Chief Acosta for their work on the budget, and stated that the Wage and PTO scale will be amended and signed at the next meeting. He also noted that the new mandatory training for all Board members will add about \$800 to the Board budget for this current fiscal year.

Issues with receiving up to date invoicing from Rural Metro, who provides our dispatching services, were briefly discussed. It was suggested that staff contact Seymour Grueber of Pinal County for council on how to proceed.

OFDBM Bristow requested an item be added to a future agenda on how to build "Esprit de Corps", such as posting photos of staff as recognition for certain accomplishments. He would also like to see photos of all the Chiefs with the years that they served, as well as provide a list of purchases and accomplishments by OFD over the years.

Chief Southard replied that there is a change to our website in progress. The firefighters have asked for their own page, upon which they can post photos of their drills and other trainings. Acting Captain Bubba Mathews has met with Kate Horton (our webmaster) and Chief regarding the proposed changes.

7. ADJOURNMENT

OFDBM Bristow moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by OFDBM Navarro. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Tina Acosta – Administrative Chief

Reviewed by OFD Board Clerk Bill McMurry