

**Mountain Vista Fire District Board Meeting
2292 W Magee Rd, Suite 180-190**

Monday, May 16, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Agenda

- I. CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 PM by Chairman Archuleta followed by ROLL CALL

Members Present

Peter Archuleta, Chairman
Mike Treece, Treasurer
Donna Heidinger, Clerk
Jerry Phillips, Director
Earle Ruhnke, Director

Absent

Staff Present

Scott Butler, Administrative Chief
Lorrie Palmquist, Executive Asst
Eric Hawkins, Attorney

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

- II. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no applications to speak from the public.

- III. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Meeting minutes from April 11, 2011 WorkStudy Session
- b. Meeting minutes from April 18, 2011 Board meeting
- c. Minutes from May 2, 2011 WorkStudy Session

Clerk Heidinger motioned to approve the consent agenda in its entirety.
Director Phillips seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

- IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CHIEF'S REPORTS AND UPDATES

- a. April 2011 Financial Statements

Director Treece asked for clarification of the following line items:

Equipment purchase/rent = \$ 664.50 for purchase of poles, US flag, ladder cover

Vehicle maintenance = \$259.59 for gasoline and vehicle wash

Travel = \$ 319.68 expense for trip to Henderson, NV for final inspection of Engines

- b. Update on the ISO rating

Administrative Chief Butler stated that MVFD currently has a 4 rating and commented that the District is in the process of resubmitting information to try for a class 3 rating.

Chief Stoltenberg addressed the Board. He stated that he and Chief Treatch have reviewed the information together, commenting that because the District lost 11-15 points on the rating, it requires a closer look. He stated that he spoke to Adrian (ISO) today and asked him to research the rating because there should not have been that big a change. Chief Stoltenberg also commented

that he spoke to John Sullivan, Golder Ranch Fire Department, because they also had issues with their ISO rating and could give our District pointers on how to resubmit the information. Clerk Heidinger commented that it does seem strange that the rating would come down like that. Director Treece clarified that the ISO is separate from the Fire Marshall's office, so the issue is not related to a budget or staffing problem.

Chief Stoltenberg summarized that he will be submitting the following information to support an upgraded rating: 2 new engine companies, 23 new fire hydrants, the new station, the new ladder truck and reserve ladder trucks, and the addition of 6 personnel. Chief Stoltenberg stated that he will turn something into Administrative Chief Butler within 2 weeks, and further commented that the ISO is aware that we are requesting an upgrade.

Director Treece commented, "Good job."

c. Update on discussions with RM regarding annexation & Strategic Planning objectives

Chief Butler stated that the target date is June 16 for a proposal on the annexation issue from RM. He further commented that, hopefully, we will get some type of draft before that date.

Chief Butler stated that he will have a draft of the Strategic Planning objectives to the Board by the end of the week, commenting that he is waiting on input regarding the annexation issue.

d. District correspondence

Clerk Heidinger asked about an email received from Jim Miller, a property owner who lives near the NW Fire District annexation area. Chief Butler clarified that even though this area is contiguous with our boundary, the area is currently filled in by Marana or NW Fire, and that, by statute, the town of Marana has to approve any changes in fire service. Chief Butler further commented that the homeowners in that area may come before the Board personally. Firefighter, Phillippe Torres, stated that the area has been approached door-to-door, but many individuals were not responsive. Chief Butler commented that even if we were to annex there, the dollar amount from that area is miniscule. Clerk Heidinger expressed gratitude that the area wants to be in our District. She further inquired if NW will succeed with this annexation project. Chief Butler stated that he anticipates not. Anne Marie, PRO for RM, addressed the Board stating that the messaging RM has been given on this issue is that this is a collaborative effort between the Districts. She further commented that it is not in the best interest of public safety to deploy ER responders in that area currently, because they have to geographically go around instead of reaching the area directly. She commented that this makes it significantly more expensive. Chief Butler commented that even if the District took the whole area all the way to the freeway, it does not resolve the problem of fire service for that area.

e. Rural Metro reports

Chief Stoltenberg handed out reports and addressed the Board. He stated that RM responded to 135 emergency calls and 136 non-emergency calls, with 3 exceptions.

He stated that they are still having issues with Opticom on the units. He explained that Pima County does not have a programming cable, and that they are having trouble getting a cable because the Opticom cables are infrared. He further commented that Green Valley uses that style of Opticom and it took them 90 days to get a cable. He stated that ladder 610 did not have one and

RM put an older style on it. He stated that he will work with Chief Butler to address this issue because it has to be programmed ASAP. Chairman Archuleta inquired about the benefits of infrared. Chief Stoltenberg responded that no one sees it as a flashing light, but that it will trip the traffic light and keep traffic going. Chief Butler responded that it was not clear which unit was imbedded in the truck. Chairman Archuleta directed staff to look into the situation with Chief Stoltenberg and inform the Board as they proceed. Director Treece reiterated that the issue must be resolved ASAP. Chief Stoltenberg commented that RM has been in constant contact with Global Communications and they are now on their 5th representative ! Chairman Archuleta commented that it sounds like RM has been attempting to resolve the issue. Director Treece commented that this is a liability issue and needs to be resolved ASAP, but don't wait until the next Board meeting. Director Phillips commented that as serious as the issue is, it is amazing they only had 1 response time outside the norm.

Chief Stoltenberg stated that there were 2 fires within District and they are listed on Chief Treatch's report. Director Phillips inquired about the fire at the church and why there were no sprinklers. Chief Stoltenberg responded that the building was an add-on modular and was not required to have sprinklers. The refrigerator caught on fire and there was not enough oxygen in the building so the fire burned out. He commented that the people did not even know about it for 2 days. RM learned about it when Station 620 got a call for public assistance to help clean the building out. Director Phillips commented how fortunate they were.

Director Phillips commented, "Good job."

V. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and approval of proposed FY 2011-12 Budget

Administrative Chief Butler pointed the Board to the budget options provided in their packets and commented that the Board webpage posted the same information. He commented that the 4 options provided are a result of the budget workstudy session on May 2. Clerk Heidinger inquired about the amount listed for the Administrative Chief's health insurance. Chief Butler clarified that the higher number is part of a benefits package that would be put in place if the Board votes to change the parttime staff into a fulltime employee, otherwise, the health insurance would remain as per the contract amount for the Administrative Chief. Chairman Archuleta asked if there is a proposal for the health insurance rates from the insurance provider. Chief Butler responded that if the Board gets to that point, staff will provide the information obtained from Benefits Logic Group.

Chairman Archuleta summarized the 4 options for the Board: 2 options contain income at a higher tax rate of \$1.299 and 2 options contain income at the current tax rate of \$1.2549. Chairman Archuleta clarified for the Board that the difference between the 2 tax rates is approximately \$120,000 in income. Clerk Heidinger asked about the contingency line-item. Chief Butler responded that the contingency is a number to balance the budget. Chairman Archuleta stated that the budget is an estimate and the contingency could be used as needs arise. Director Treece inquired about the \$419,000 listed as an amount transferred-in from the Capital Fund. Director Treece suggested establishing an amount of at least \$200,000 and somehow identifying the item as "Rural Metro contract-realted". Director Treece suggested that he would be willing to move \$800,000 over from Capital Funds instead of raising the tax rate, but that if the District is going to come up with an agreement with RM, then we need an amount set aside to pay RM if, in fact, we do the annexation. Director Treece clarified that he suggests some line item for \$300,000ish for RM and contingency to go down to \$200,000 so as not to change the tax rate. Chairman Archuleta

reminded the Board that there is still some vagueness regarding the annexation and costplus contract with RM because we do not have their proposal in hand. The proposed budgets do include annexation and marketing line items. Chairman Archuleta stated that he is concerned about a large contingency being reported, and that he would be even more concerned about an additional line item placed in the budget for RM since 2 other line items have already been identified regarding an annexation. Chairman Archuleta stated that the two real issues are the tax rate and personnel. He stated that the Board will deal with the personnel issue in Executive Session. Attorney Hawkins stated that the Board is not entitled to discuss the tax rate in Executive Session.

Clerk Heidinger suggested the Board adjourn to Executive Session and then reconvene in regular meeting with which budget option to adopt. Director Treece inquired if the \$160,000 for purchasing the fire truck from RM is still included in the \$419,000 budgeted capital expenditures. Chief Butler responded in the affirmative. Director Phillips stated that the Board needs to get the budget approved.

Director Phillips moved to adjourn into Executive Session. Clerk Heidinger seconded. Regular meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 7:25 PM.

Regular meeting reconvened at 9:00 PM.

Director Ruhnke moved to adopt Budget option "B". Director Phillips seconded.

Motion passed 4/1: Chairman Archuleta, yes; Clerk Heidinger, yes; Director Phillips, yes; Director Ruhnke, yes; Treasurer Treece, no.

Chairman Archuleta offered to speak with Administrative Chief Butler regarding his contract and duties for the next year. The Board concurred. The Directors agreed to be available for another quick Board meeting prior to June 20th's regular Board meeting, if necessary. Director Ruhnke stated that he will be out of town from June 8 through 28th, and will not be here for the meeting on the June 20th. He will be available by phone for that meeting.

- b. Approve June 20, 2011 for public hearing regarding the FY 2011-12 Budget

Clerk Heidinger moved to set June 20, 2011 as the Public Hearing for the FY 2011-2012 budget. Director Ruhnke seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Approved By: _____

Date: _____