

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

Monday, October 3, 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

NONE

Staff Present

Lorrie Palmquist, Asst
Eric Hawkins, Attorney
Chief Brandhuber, RM
Fernanda Echavarri, RM

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

- II. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no applications to speak from the public.

- III. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discuss and/or take action regarding the NW Fire District annexation areas

Attorney Hawkins recommended that the Board go into Executive Session for legal counsel and discussion of this topic.

Director Phillips motioned to adjourn to Executive Session.

Clerk Heidinger seconded.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 6:32 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 PM.

Chairman Archuleta called for a motion by the Board for reaffirmation of the decision from August 1 which indicated that as of October 1, MVFD would no longer serve the area.

Director Phillips so moved. Treasurer Treece seconded.

Discussion:

Director Phillips stated that Rural Metro announced they would respond to calls in the annexation area from their Station 80 on Skyline Road. He further commented that unless MVFD is the closest, which the map shows we are not, and if MVFD is called in per the Mutual Aid Agreement with RM, then the District would correctly be following the contract.

Treasurer Treece commented that the District's foremost responsibility is to the residents of MVFD and if the District is sending equipment out of the District, which we have been, and the equipment is so far away that we cannot respond to our own residents within a reasonable time, then we shouldn't respond to calls outside the District. Treasurer Treece stated his agreement with Director Ruhnke that all Districts should give aid, and further added that these areas in question are covered by ambulance service regardless if MVFD responds or not. He stated that where people *are* at risk is if there is a fire or an auto accident requiring extrication. He further commented that MVFD is not the closest station to the annexation area, that NWFD has 2 stations which are closer. Treasurer Treece stated his belief that this decision *is* the proper decision, and that the District might want to clarify their position.

Clerk Heidinger stated that this is a difficult issue and it is hard to know what is exactly the right response. She stated that the District's first responsibility is to serve *our* constituents who pay for our stations, equipment and firefighters. She further commented that should the District have to go outside of our borders, then we will have to bill for those services as was decided previously. Beyond that, it is a difficult position we have been placed in because there is a NW fire station right there and they ought to be the one to serve emergency calls.

Chairman Archuleta stated that he believes the decision to stop servicing the area as of October 1st should stand. His concern is if the District has to respond outside the area, that this may leave MVFD residents uncovered, and that creates a problem.

After no further discussion, the Chairman stated that there is a motion on the floor and called for a vote. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

Attorney Hawkins asked for clarification and direction from the Board.

Clerk Heidinger suggested that the Board should appoint one or two people to meet with RM to discuss the matter and establish parameters of how this will work out.

Attorney Hawkins asked for clarification of what incidents the District will respond to if called into the annexation area, stating that the current agreement states "major" incidents.

Treasurer Treece commented that he agrees that it is wise to have a meeting of the minds with RM to clarify what the District will respond to and under what conditions. He stated that a lot

of these same issues are occurring in Phoenix, where fire districts are annexing and leaving “pockets” of residents who don’t want to join a particular fire district, leaving Rural Metro with serving these people from stations a long distance away. Treasurer Treece commented that the District does need to clarify their position.

Attorney Hawkins recommended that the Board should give direction about what parameters are appropriate.

Director Phillips commented,for example, structure fires and major incidents.

Chairman Archuleta asked for the pleasure of the Board in appointing individuals to address this issue. Clerk Heidinger commented that her schedule does not allow her to do much during the day. Treasure Treece commented that Director Phillips would be a good choice. Clerk Heidinger commented that Director Ruhnke would be a good choice. Director Phillips stated that due to a personal matter he would, respectfully, have to decline right now. Director Ruhnke stated he would work with Attorney Hawkins to draw up parameters.

Chairman Archuleta called for a motion that the Board should appoint Director Ruhnke to meet with Attorney Hawkins and Chief Brandhuber to clarify the parameters of servicing the annexation area. Director Phillips so moved. Clerk Heidinger seconded. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

Attorney Hawkins stated that some direction regarding the parameters would be appropriate, stating, “ For example, is the Board willing to agree to structure fires and major incidents, as per Director Phillips previous comment?” Chairman Archuleta clarified that the bottomline of ***not*** serving this area still stands. Attorney Hawkins clarified that the District will continue to respond as per the existing agreement.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk Heidinger motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Director Phillips seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM

Approved By: _____

Date: _____