



Copper Canyon Fire & Medical District

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Camp Verde Public Library – Terracotta Room
130 N. Black Bridge Road, Camp Verde, AZ 86322
Wednesday, July 24, 2024 / 4:30 PM

~ MINUTES ~

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- A. Salute to the Flag of the United States of America and Moment of Silence to Honor all Military, Firefighters, and Police Officers.

Board Present: Joshua Maxwell – Chairperson (via Teams); Jon Huey – Clerk; Danna Quinn; Ed Gee – Members in at 4:32pm.

Staff Present: Fire Chief Danny Johnson; Fire Marshal Nate Bailey; Administrative Assistants Misty Weatherford and Kerrie Tarver – Records; Battalion Chief Daniel Elliott; Fleet Manager Rob Jennings

Others Present: JVG Finance Director Dominic Filosa (via Teams)

Clerk Huey informed everyone that he would rearrange the agenda and move the Executive Session up.

II. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

- A. Public Forum:

1. Public Comment(s):
2. Board Action Resulting from Public Comment(s): Response to comments or criticism directed at the Board; Direction to staff to look into the matter; Schedule matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

- B. Discussion/Possible Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular meeting on June 12, 2024:

1. Regular Meeting Minutes June 12, 2024.

Chairperson Maxwell made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 12, 2024. Board Member Quinn seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

- C. Financial Report and Updates – Finance Director Gabe Buldra (JVG)

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Review and Approval of the June 2024 Finance Report

Dominic Filosa gave an overview of the revenues and expenditures for the month of June 2024 and stated that we finished the fiscal year with a positive balance and gave the financial report to the Board.

Chief Johnson stated “the key line that we are looking at for this last year and the overall health of this District, as of June 30, 2023, the district had ended the fiscal year \$1.5 million in debt and as of June 30, 2024, we ended the year with \$314,000 in the positive. He stated that this is a win and a testament to the Board, staff, and everyone working together and a commitment to the residents for making sure we have a fiscally responsible district, and it should not go understated”.

The Board shared the same sentiment and thanked the entire organization.

Board Member Quinn made a motion to approve the June 2024 Finance Report. Board Member Gee seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Staff Reports:

1. **Fleet Report:** A report regarding current repairs; maintenance; significant projects; and other fleet activities. Discussion and Possible Action items to follow. – Fleet Manager Rob Jennings

Fleet Manager Rob Jennings informed the Board that all apparatus is currently in service and there is nothing to report.

2. **Fire Marshal Report:** A report regarding public education, fire prevention, meetings and events attended, permits issued and closed, significant projects, inspections, social media statistics, and other potential updates. Discussion and Possible Action items to follow -Fire Marshal Bailey

Fire Marshal Bailey updated the Board with the significant projects and inspections that are ongoing.

3. **Fire Chief / Operations Report:** A report regarding current events, activities, meetings and events; human resources; finances; grants; operations; significant incidents; training; EMS; County, State, and AFDA information; special projects; and other potential administrative items. Discussion and Possible Action items to follow – Chief Johnson.

Chief Johnson presented the Fire Chief report to the Board and highlighted the meetings he has attended and special projects that the district has been working on.

Chief Johnson stated that Firefighters Jennifer Cuevas and Kyle Lobaugh are graduating Paramedic School on July 25, 2024, at the Yavapai College Campus in Prescott.

Chief Johnson stated that the district has received the HRSA funds, and they will be utilized to pay off the 2023 ambulance that we received the funds for.

4. **Discussion/Possible Action:** Possible approval of the Project Proposal from Emergency Services Consulting International to conduct a Joint Powers Authority study between Verde Valley Fire District and Copper Canyon Fire & Medical District.

Chief Johnson stated that the Board received the proposal for the study and provided other successful models. Chief Johnson stated that once the Board approves, we will begin the extensive process gathering data and documentation. He stated that we will begin to review the financials, efficiency and the structure of the two organizations for the Battalion Chiefs, Administration and look for efficiencies. We will include cost allocations for each organization to make sure that each agency is funding their operations, and we will also look at other successful models and how they are structured.

Board Member Gee agreed that this is the direction that the state is moving for less fire districts in the State of Arizona.

Chief Johnson informed the Board that there is a push from agencies to condense the services of Fire Districts. This gives us an opportunity to not be short-sided and to have control over our own study.

Chief Johnson further explained asset allocation and how we would track the expenses and costs for each organization, it is not a rush and needs to be planned out strategically.

Beaver Creek Community member Janet Aniol expressed her concerns of going through a JPA with Camp Verde and doesn't feel that it was done properly and thinks that it needs to be done carefully and also wondered why a JPA is necessary instead of a merge.

Chief Johnson stated that one of the reasons why a JPA step is important is because there is over a \$0.30 disparity of the Mil rates between the Verde Valley and Copper Canyon Fire Districts. In order for them to become one entity the mil rate would have to be the same and we would need to make sure that every community has the service that they can afford, that they deserve, that they need and that the firefighters at every station are protected and have what they need to do their jobs. The plan is to have oversight and transparency and documentation that is done by an outside consulting firm that will give impartial data.

Chairperson Maxwell stated that we want to make sure that the goal is to protect the communities as well as the firefighters and reassures that we will make sure we have the right service and get the firefighters pay where they need to be, we cannot go backwards.

Board Member Gee stated that we are at a momentum moving forward with full visibility to try and look at everything.

Board Member Gee made a motion to approve the Project Proposal from Emergency Services Consulting International to conduct a Joint Powers Authority study between Verde Valley Fire District and Copper Canyon Fire & Medical District. Chairperson Maxwell seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion/Possible Action:** Possible award of contract for Professional Auditing Services.

Chief Johnson stated that we put out an RFP for audit services. We only received one bid from Walker and Armstrong. They are a very qualified entity and are familiar with Fire Districts all over the state and as well as working with entities that contract with JVG.

Board Member Gee would like it noted that we did our due diligence to satisfy procurement.

Board Member Gee made a motion to award the contract for Professional Auditing Services to Walker and Armstrong. Board Member Quinn seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Possible Vote to go into Executive Session for legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3), and to give instructions to legal counsel pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(4) regarding possibly selling various District owned properties and matters relating to the same.
- B. Possible vote to go into Executive Session for discussion or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale, or lease of real property pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(7) regarding various District properties and matters relating to the same.

Clerk Huey made a motion to go into Executive Session and to include Chief Johnson to provide legal foundation and Misty Weatherford to take the Minutes. Chairperson Maxwell seconded. Regular Meeting adjourned at 4:42pm.

Clerk Huey reconvened the Regular Meeting at 5:15pm.

IV. RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION

- A. **Discussion/Possible Action:** Instructions to staff, legal counsel, and designated representatives regarding possibly selling various District properties.
- B. **Discussion/Possible Action:** Approval of Utility Easement Offer from APS regarding parcel APN: 403-20-007B to upgrade electric service along Old State Highway 279 and State Route 260.


Board Member Gee made a motion to allow Chief Johnson and staff to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. Board Member Quinn seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

A. Discussion: Future Agenda Items; Potential items to discuss at the next regular meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk Huey adjourned the meeting at 5:47pm.



Jon Huey, Clerk of the Board