

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
RINCON VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
HELD February 27, 2020**

A public meeting of the Rincon Valley Fire District Governing Board was convened on **February 27, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.** at RVFD Station 2; 14550 E. Sands Ranch Rd. Vail, AZ 85641. Present at the meeting were the following members of the Rincon Valley Fire District Governing Board: Clerk Mark Tate, Member Christopher Klasen, Member Kevin McKinley and Member Jennifer Spears.

The following matters were discussed, considered and decided at the meeting:

**1. Call to Order** at 6:00 P.M by Chairperson Harrington

A. Roll Call - Chairperson Michelle Harrington	present
Clerk Mark Tate	present
Member Jennifer Spears	present
Member Chris Klasen	present
Member Kevin McKinley	present

- Also attending – Fire Chief Jayme Kahle and Administrative Manager Laura Bucklin. (Sign-in sheet attached).

**2. Pledge of Allegiance** – Firefighters Eric Pettersen and Danny Gonzales lead the pledge of allegiance.

**3. Date of next meeting scheduled for March 19, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.**

- Confirmed by all board members.

**4. Call to the Public**

- An email from a resident was sent thanking Firefighters Mike Prough and Scott O'Halloran for saving her life during an emergency.
- A letter from Cienega High School Student Chloe Olson was submitted for Firefighter Jentry Foster and his crew, thanking them for the opportunity to shadow them for her Senior Exit Program.
- A letter from Cienega High School William McHolm was submitted for Firefighter Jerry Murray and his crew for the opportunity to shadow them for his Senior Exit Program.
- Chief Kahle presented the flyer for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast Event on March 14, 2020.

**5. Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Consent Agenda** – Motion by Member Klasen, second by Member Spears to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 5 to 0.

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the January 23, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.
- B. Approval of Resolution #20-114 Dirren Annexation (80 N Suntan Dr).

- C. Approval of Resolution #20-115 Ault Annexation (15611 E Marsh Station Rd).
- D. Approval of Resolution #20-116 Mate Annexation (6171 S Mesquite Trail).
- E. Approval of Resolution #20-117 Woltjer Annexation (14305 E Sands Ranch Rd).
- F. Approval of Resolution #20-118 Jacobson/Anderson Annexation (7641 S Pistol Hill Rd).
- G. Approval of Resolution #20-119 Curtis Annexation (340 N Hilton Dr).
- H. Approval of Resolution #20-120 McCartney Annexation (1021 N Solar Dr).
- I. Approval of Resolution #20-121 Rogers Annexation (13535 E Greystokes Dr).
- J. Approval of Resolution #20-122 McDaniel Annexation (980 N Solar Dr).

## 6. Reports and Correspondence

- A. **Fire Chief's Report** – Reviewed by the Board. Report on file.
- ISO – Chief Kahle received a call in which the rep said we would be happy with our score. We received announcement that our new ISO Rating is a 2/2Y.
  - Chief Kahle attended our dispatch consortium meeting, SAFER C. It was decided to deploy NFORS as a consortium, which will lower our joint costs.
  - Staffing. We only have one firefighter out for injury and he has modified duty. We are advertising for the Administrative Assistant Position, and have given a contingent job offer for the Community Relations Manager Position pending background check and fingerprint clearance.
  - CON Report – January 2020 – Note: Bridgework is delaying our responses.

Clerk Tate asked if we knew how long the bridgework would take to compete. Chief Kahle stated that we do not have a completion date yet.

Member Klasen asked Chief Kahle if he would look into getting a diesel exhaust removal system for our stations. Chief Kahle stated he would work on incorporating it into our Capital Replacement Plan and seek quotes.

- B. **January's Financial Reports** – Review, discussion and possible action, of the district's financial status including monthly summary reports.

- Monthly Financial Report for the month of January 2020.
- Monthly Expense Report for the month of January 2020.
- Monthly Bank Reconciliations and Balance Sheet for the month of January 2020.

-Motion by Member Spears, second by Chairperson Harrington to approve the district's financial reports for the month of January 2020. Motion passed unanimously 5 to 0.

**7. Unfinished Business**

A. None.

**8. New Business**

A. **2020-027** – Review, discussion and possible action to approve Contract #CTN-TR-20\*0096 with Pima County for EVP Access at signalized intersections.

- By 1990, Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) was widely endorsed by the emergency response community as an effective tool for reducing response time, improving safety of emergency vehicle operations, addressing risk management, savings in fire/rescue and EMS planning, and savings on fire insurance premiums. (Source: Traffic Signal Preemption for Emergency Vehicles Traffic Signal Preemption for Emergency Vehicles, A Crosscutting Study, FHWA, Page 3-1, January 2006). EVP came to Pima County in the early 2000's and became ubiquitous in about ten years. However, Rincon has not enjoyed the benefits of these systems. However, with the addition of the recent road projects, our response times are extending and the addition of EVP is now needed at Rincon. There is no cost of the IGA. However, Rincon will need to purchase approximately 6 device emitters at \$1,000 each. Total cost of approximately \$6,000.

-Motion by Member McKinley, second by Clerk Tate to approve Contract #CTN-TR-20\*0096 with Pima County for EVP Access at signalized intersections. Motion passed 5 to 0.

B. **2020-028** –Review, discussion and possible action concerning the FY 20/21 Annual Budget.

- Chief Kahle gave a verbal presentation regarding the issues and solutions for the FY 20/21 Budget:

2020/21 Budget, The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, and the The Hopeful

**The Good** – Growth - Annexations are Good. We have increased Assd Value through annexations by \$1.6M – 84 annexations, \$542/house. That yielded \$46 at current tax rate. Growth is good. Our new total assessed value is \$145M, which is a 10.45% increase. If we keep our tax rate the same that would generate additional \$369,000. Capacity is good. If we raised our tax rate to \$3.25, we could generate an additional \$1M.

**The Bad** – PSPRS increased 21%. At last meeting, we showed that our employer rate increased, this will cost us an additional \$101,000 next year. This does not include SAFER FF's. Predicted Budget is now \$586,000/year. In FY16/17, PSPRS was only \$255,000 – before pension reform.

**The UGLY** – Workers Comp Insurance - Workers Comp e-mod worsened to 1.92. This means our agency is twice the injury expense of

an average fire department. If we could stay with Copper Point, our rates would go up 37% - \$48,000. Copper Point is leaving all Arizona Fire Agencies. The cause is Senate Bill 1160 – Presumptive Cancer – it is needed, but it has spooked everyone. The only other authorized private insurer is 7710. They are quoting their current clients a 270% increase. For RVFD, that would be an additional \$357,000 – total of \$491,000. That would leave absolutely nothing for Union requests, Member requests, and Strategic Plan direction.

**The Hopeful** - Fire Department Risk Pool. We tried to get this going a few years ago, but Copper Point killed it. Chief Kahle had a meeting with Ashton Tiffany – Largest public sector risk pool administrator. School Districts started using a risk pool in 1986. We can get this going before July 1, 2020. If so, we would own the pool/trust and we could manager our own trust. Labor Management is Collaborating Local and State Level. Chief Kahle presented a preliminary budget that is only about \$50 K over – assumes full PSPRS impact, emod impact, and a 30% increase for Risk Pool. We could still address some of the budget requests.

### **Moving Forward**

After general discussion regarding the budget, the fire board agreed to:

1. Authorize Chief Kahle to negotiate for Arizona Fire Service Risk Pool Membership.
2. Direct Chief Kahle to continue with budget as status quo, until we receive final costs of Workers Compensation, General Insurance and Health Insurance.
3. Authorize Chief Kahle the use of Prior Year Carryover if Workers Compensation Insurance costs are catastrophic. Chief Kahle is predicting carryover that would cover the \$50,000 current shortfall.
4. Direct Chief Kahle to keep the tax rate at the current rate of \$2.78. If we maintain this rate, the combined rate reduces to \$0.07 to \$3.15  
The average homeowner sees an increase of 3.5% - all homes increased 5%. No formal action taken.

### **C. 2020-029 – Review, discussion and possible action to declare equipment as surplus.**

- Repaired Commercial Refrigerator. This freezer broke down in early January and caused the waste of almost all food contained over all three shifts. We were able to repair, but it is only a matter of time before it fails again. We have ordered three new refrigerators so we are no longer dependent on a single failure. We hope to regain at least \$500 from the sale of this asset. (We received \$325 for a non-working single door freezer.)

-Motion by Clerk Tate, second by Chairperson Harrington to declare the Station 292 commercial refrigerator (RVFD Asset #RV 0150) as surplus and authorize its sale. Motion passed 5 to 0.

**D. 2020-030** – Review, discussion and possible to renew the Regional Hazmat IGA.


- In 2014, Rincon Valley entered into the regional hazardous materials response Inter Governmental Agreement. As such, it allows the region to pool its resources in the event of a major hazardous materials incident. For Rincon, a large incident would quickly exceed our resources and we must rely upon a regional response. The renewal of this agreement allows us to remain a participant and helps us meet the community risks as identified in our Community Risk Assessment document. The agreement requires that we all maintain adequate insurance, adequately train and respond to our neighbors when we are able. There is no cost of the IGA. However, Rincon needs to maintain adequate insurance and training standards.

-Motion by Member McKinley, second by Member Spears to approve the renewal of the Pima County IGA for Hazardous Materials response. Motion passed unanimously 5 to 0.

**9. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion by Chairperson Harrington, second by Member Tate to adjourn. Motion passed 5 to 0. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Dated this 28th day of February 2020.


Rincon Valley Fire District Governing Board

  
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Chairperson Harrington

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Clerk Tate

  
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Member McKinley

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Member Spears

  
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Member Klasen