

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, October 20, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by **Judy Garner, President**, at 4:02 PM.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge was led by **Lew Theokas**.
3. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD:** **Judy Garner, Wayne Keller, Phil Lobeck, Dave Schroedl, Nancy Tschikof**.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Minutes of the Regular Session of 09-15-2021.

A motion was made by **Phil Lobeck** to approve the minutes from the 09-15-2021 Board Meeting.

Seconded: Wayne Keller

Ayes: Judy Garner, Wayne Keller, Phil Lobeck, Dave Schroedl, Nancy Tschikof

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

5. **CALL TO PUBLIC:** Members of the community in attendance: **Lori Bomar, Shawn Bomar, Scott Mayer, Ray Paiz, Neil Rifembark, James Serbin, Lew Theokas, Marcie Theokas**.

6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Fire Chief's Report:

❖ Number of Calls:

Month	Number of EMS Calls	Number of Fire Calls	Number of MVA* Calls	Mutual Aid EMS/Fire	Public Assist
September	12	1	1	0	1
October	11	1	0	0	1

*MVA - Motor Vehicle Accident

**Numbers for the current month are up to the date of the Board Meeting.

- ❖ Grants: Continuing Safer Grant with Southern Yavapai Fire (\$590K). AFG Grant for Fuels Reduction Equipment was awarded (\$231K). We have applied for a Title III Grant to cover our communications needs: still pending. We received Healthy Forest Funds (\$48K); the funds will be used to remove vegetation debris and dead trees. An entomologist will be conducting 'autopsies' on the dead trees to determine what caused their deaths.

- ❖ Personnel/Training: Currently have 21 volunteers (8 of which are EMTs). Training continues with 10 hours of on-site training and 8 hours of on-line training. **Ronnie Hernandez** has been promoted to Battalion Chief.
 - ❖ Irwin Status: 13 are available.
 - ❖ Apparatus/Equipment: All apparatus and equipment are operational. The newly purchased chipper and truck are not yet in service.
 - ❖ Wildfire Mitigation: Mitigation efforts are being conducted on private property. The fire danger has dropped to the moderate level. The priority is taking care of previously mitigated property that experienced vegetation death.
 - ❖ Water Resources Along Highway 89: The installation of dry hydrant at Hidden Springs is pending.
 - ❖ Additional Hydrants. Once the two new hydrants get installed, a new ISO status will be requested by the PVFD. The Mountain Aire and Yarnell Water Company are taking care of this effort. Logan Mini Storage on Highway 89 (near the old schoolhouse) is installing a 5,000 gallon water storage tank on their property.
- B. Financial Report: September financials were received. End-of-Year financials have been received in a draft format.
- C. Correspondence received by the Board: An approval letter was received from the county regarding the annexation of parcel 20203005X.
- D. Auxiliary Report: **Marcie Theokas** reported the following:
- The Chili and Bingo Night will be held on 10-23-2021 at the Model Creek School at 5:00 PM. Sadly, Wendy Fostiak-Amos, a long-time supporter of the PVFD, passed away; a voluntary donation jar will be available to help Wendy's husband Rob with massive hospital bills.
 - Highway Clean-Up is scheduled for 11-07-2021 to start at the Mountain Aire at 2:00 PM.
 - The Hoe Down is scheduled for 04-22-2022 (limit 120 attendees).
 - The Trail Ride will be on 04-22-23, 2022, (limit 40 riders) with meals provided by the Auxiliary.
 - No alcohol will be available or allowed at the Hoe Down and the Trail Ride.
 - The sale of poinsettias will be the December fund raiser; \$15.00 per plant.

7. BUSINESS

- A. Discussion/possible action to approve the September 2021 Treasurer's report.
- **Wayne Keller** made a motion to approve the August 2021 Treasurers Report.
 - **Seconded: Phil Lobeck**
 - **Ayes: Judy Garner, Wayne Keller, Phil Lobeck, Dave Schroedl, Nancy Tschikof**

- **Nays: 0**
 - **Abstain: 0**
- B. Discussion/possible action to approve Warrant Requests including stipend checks and regularly budgeted items.
- **Phil Lobeck** made a motion to approve the Warrant Requests including stipend checks and regularly budgeted items.
 - **Seconded: Nancy Tschikof**
 - **Ayes: Judy Garner, Wayne Keller, Phil Lobeck, Dave Schroedl, Nancy Tschikof**
 - **Nays: 0**
 - **Abstain: 0**
- C. Discussion by Jim Serbin regarding the information he received from a tax attorney regarding employment tax.
- All volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel are considered employees per the IRS.
 - Going forward, as the PVFD is aware of this; all pay will be subject to taxes.
 - In the past 2.5 years no taxes have been taken from the firefighters and EMS personnel's pay, however, some individuals have requested voluntary withholdings but that is not considered required withholding by the IRS.
 - 1099s have been provided to all firefighters and EMS personnel for the past 2.5 years.
 - Starting on 01-01-2022, all firefighters and EMS personnel will be paid with the correct withholdings per IRS requirements and receive a W2 statement at the end of the calendar year for tax purposes.
 - Additionally, all firefighters and EMS personnel will have to be paid by-weekly or two times per month.
 - New firefighters and EMS personnel will need to fill out the required paperwork (W2 and I9).
 - The PVFD will have to hire a payroll company to ensure accurate and timely payrolls and tax reporting.
 - **Judy Garner** asked if the PVFD Board could be provided names of several payroll companies. **Jim Serbin** will provide those names to the board.
 - When asked, **Jim Serbin** noted that he believes that Federal unemployment does **not** apply with regards to the \$30.00 per call, but State unemployment does.
 - **Chief Bomar** suggested that a separate committee be formed regarding this issue. **Judy Garner** agreed. **Chief Shawn Bomar** will organize a committee to include **Battalion Chief Ronnie Hernandez, Jim Serbin**, other operations representatives, and a community member(s). The recommendations of the committee will be brought to the board.
- D. Discussion/possible action the PFVD website. The new website is currently being built. Members' photographs from the following groups need to be taken: Operations, PVFD Board, Fuels Mitigation, and the PVFD Auxiliary.

- E. Discussion/possible action regarding a Station Building at Ruger Ranch. **Chief Bomar** noted the application was submitted two weeks ago; awaiting approval.
- F. Discussion about placing a Repeater Station at Ruger Ranch. **Chief Bomar** noted that the station will be all solar with battery backup. The two tactical channels will reach from Skull Valley to Yarnell.
- G. Discussion/possible action to amend Resolution 20210721 7.F. See below for the wording of the resolution.
 - *Judy Garner noted whereas PVFD has received AZ State Fuels Reduction Grant to maintain existing fuels reduction equipment.*
 - *Be it resolved that the PVFD Board authorizes Chief Bomar to obtain a BC100 chipper, an additional half-ton pick up for use on homeowner's fuels reduction efforts, and a 2-ton truck for use on AZ State Fuels Reduction and any upgrades needed for these units up to \$50,000.00. (Resolution 20210721 7. F.)*
 - *Seconded: Phil Lobeck*
 - *Ayes: Judy Garner, Wayne Keller, Phil Lobeck Nays: 0 Abstain: 0*

Chief Bomar noted the following: a BC1500 chipper was purchased versus the BC100 originally approved and that a ¾-ton and 1-ton trucks were purchased versus the ½ ton, and 2-ton trucks as originally approved. This increased the cost to \$60,903 versus the \$50,000 originally approved. **Chief Bomar** suggested that the overage of approximately \$10,000 be taken out of districts services.

- **Judy Garner** noted whereas the original costs related to Resolution 20210721 7.F exceeded the original approved amount by approximately \$10,000.
- Be it resolved that the PVFD Board authorizes **Chief Bomar** to take the \$10,000 out of district services. (Resolution 20211020 7. G.)
- **Seconded: Dave Schroedl**
- **Ayes: Judy Garner, Wayne Keller, Phil Lobeck, Dave Schroedl, Nancy Tschikof**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Abstain: 0**

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS; UPCOMING MEETING DATE

- A. New Business Agenda Item Requests for next Regular, Workshop, and Other Meetings.
 - Discussion/possible action website update.
 - Discussion/possible action Station Building at Ruger Ranch.
 - Discussion/possible action Repeater Station at Ruger Ranch.
- B. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 11-17-2021, at 4:00 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Judy Garner adjourned the meeting at 5:49 PM.

Submitted by: Frazier Mayer, Scribe