

Mayer Fire District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2014 6:00PM
Mayer Fire Administration

DRAFT

1 ***Call to order.***

Chairman Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2 ***Pledge of allegiance.***

3 ***Roll Call of members.***

Present were Chairman Rhodes, Clerk Wildman, Member Wesolowski and Member Williamson. Member Ashton was not present.

4 ***Presentation from Ray Maione to Mayer Fire in appreciation of assistance with the Granite Mountain 19.***

Item Tabled.

5 ***Call to the public. (The Fire Board can only respond to items on the Agenda. Comments limited to two minutes each.)***

There was no comment.

6 ***Chief's Report: a) Financials b) Event report***

a) **Financials** – Chief Brown said ambulance transports continue to be very low. For Year to Date (YTD) Revenue we are \$86,191 worse than budget. For YTD Expenses we are continuing to cut where we can and we ended up \$19,841 worse than Budget. The extra is from unexpected expenses from the first couple of months. For NET Income YTD we are \$106,000 worse than Budget but we expect the missing ambulance revenue from AHCCCS to come in over the next two months. (Although ambulance transports are way down so the revenue will continue to be down). Our total Debt / Surplus at the County and Bank of the West is \$106,570 and at Bank of the West USDA Reserve account we have \$57,551 and we continue to make the \$8700 monthly payment out of that account.

b) **Event report.** – **Arson Fire** – At the Laundromat in Spring Valley with very little damage to the building. **Arizona Fire District Conference** – was held on the 17th and 18th in Laughlin and Suzanne, Chief Brown and two Board members attended. **Arizona Ambulance Association** - is this Friday and Chief Brown will be attending in Phoenix. **Fatality** – Last Friday we had a fatality vehicle accident involving a Mayer High School student. Mayer Fire Fighter's Charities stepped up and manned the ticket booth at the fund raiser at the High School that raised about \$1000 for a spaghetti dinner and they donated another \$1000.

7 ***Consent Agenda.***

Clerk Wildman made a motion that we accept the Consent Agenda items a. through h. Member Wesolowski seconded. Before the vote Chairman Rhodes said he would abstain because he was not at the (December) meeting. The vote was Aye – three; No – zero. Abstain – one. **Motion carried.**

The Board agreed to skip to Item 10 through 13 before returning to Item 8.

8 ***The Board may vote to go into Executive Session Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03.A (4) for discussions with the District's attorney, Douglas Fant regarding possible settlement from Waterous Company.***

[moved to end of agenda]

Clerk Wildman made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03.A (4) for discussions with the District's attorney, Douglas Fant regarding possible settlement from Waterous Company. Member Williamson seconded. The vote was Aye – four; No- zero. **Motion carried.**

6:48 – The Board went into Executive Session.

7:17 – The Board returned to Public Session.

9 *Possible settlement from Waterous Company.*

Chief Brown said that after discussion in the Executive Session we will wait to hear back from the attorney.

No action taken.

10 *Acceptance of the 2012 / 2013 Audit, presented by Kay Green with Accounting Professionals, LLC.*

Kay Green presented the findings and said there were no audit findings and said their firm has issued an unqualified opinion which is the best opinion they can issue per general accepted auditing standards and government auditing standards. Kay went on to explain what work is performed and how it is done. She said because of the passing of the House Bill 2572 they will need to expand auditing procedures next year to test compliance with all the new items listed in the new bill. This will result in a small increase in auditing fees (fees have been the same for four years). Chairman Rhodes asked if they looked at Paychex (does MFD payroll) audit. Kay said they look at the reports (from Paychex) to make sure the employees are being paid what they are authorized. Clerk Wildman made a motion to accept the 2012 / 2013 Audit. Member Wesolowski seconded. The vote was Aye – four; No – zero. **Motion carried.**

11 *The Mayer International Association of Fire Fighters would like to address the Mayer Fire Board Members regarding a letter on the financial state of the department.*

Paul Coe said Steve Quintero is our Chapter Vice-President but could not be here so he would represent him by reading the letter and give some history. He said that last Tuesday we had a meeting of our Chapter and then went on to read the letter.

Mayer Fire District (Local #3066) International Association of Fire Fighters

23 January, 2014

To: The Mayer Fire District Fire Board

From: Local #3066 (Mayer Fire Chapter), International Association of Fire Fighters

Dear Sirs,

This letter is to notify the current Mayer Fire District Fire Board of concerns with the ongoing state of financial affairs, concerns which are brought forward by the unified opinion of the Mayer Fire District Chapter of the United Yavapai Firefighters (Local #3066), International Association of Fire Fighters.

Due to the economic recession starting in 2007, the Mayer Fire District has suffered comparably with the rest of the state and country due to reduced income from multiple sources, to include lower assessed property tax valuation, re-structured medical insurance payments for ambulance transports, and delayed Wildland contract revenue. Our pattern of budgeting to work around these obstacles has appeared at times haphazard, vague, and with unclear direction.

During multiple times during this period of economic turmoil, there has been conflict between Labor and Management (the Union and the Fire Chief), with the Fire Chief continuing a demonstrated history of being unwilling to strategically plan for both forward progress and ultimate success of the Fire District as a functional public safety entity.

Plainly spoken, we as Labor feel that the Fire District is in an economic freefall, heading into a potentially catastrophic state of financial insolvency within the next one to two budget years. The first to suffer will be the citizens who will have to cope with lack of fire protection, delayed emergency medical services; in addition to secondary effects of increased homeowner insurance rates and further reduced property value due to these shortages or losses. Aside from that, it is a foregone conclusion that the direct impact to many, if not all, Fire District employees will be immediate, detrimental, and potentially long-lasting.

We are not asking for a fixed multi-year plan that we follow to exclusion of all common sense, but rather a singular plan that emphasizes fiscal agility rather than fiscal reactivity, or worse, fiscal ignorance. The goals should be simple, and financially address the following principles: serve, survive, and evolve forward. We ask that this plan be written by the Fire Chief with accepted input from all concerned parties, and ratified by the Fire Board. We would not ask of this if it had happened satisfactorily in the last few years of this recession.

By rendering our opinion in this letter, the union wishes to neither antagonize nor seek confrontation with

management at this time, but to bring our concerns to immediate attention with regard to business conducted between the Fire Board and the Fire Chief. Our intent and desire is that more public and definitive accountability may be established with regard to current and future financial planning, and that the entrenched state of acrimony between labor and management is resolved. By submitting this letter, labor is centering its focus on the long-term welfare of the citizenry within our Fire District first and foremost, by protecting what we feel are the strategic interests of the Fire District.

We thank you, the Mayer Fire District Fire Board, for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully Yours,

Steve Quintero

Chapter Vice President

United Yavapai Firefighters

IAFF Local #3066

After reading the letter Paul went on to say the Board and Public are welcome to participate.

Chairman Rhodes asked if this has been presented to the Chief and Paul said no. Chairman Rhodes said his main concern was that it was coming to the Board first, and he didn't see how the Board could do anything without the Union and the Chief getting together and then bringing that information back to the Board. After discussion Chief Brown said he provided two documents to go under item 11. Chairman Rhodes said to clarify, Union and Staff (Chief) are going to get together and something will be on (this coming) agenda (Budget Committee).

12 *Presentation of the Mayer Fire Website.*

Chief Brown said at the Arizona Fire Districts Association conference there was a presentation concerning future requirements to have your financials posted on the Department website and there will be more requirements. He wanted to make sure everyone was aware that we have a website, Mayerfire.com, and we routinely post articles and (also) on a link we do comply and have our Budget posted.

13 *Discussion with Central Yavapai and Chino Valley Fire District's regarding cooperative working arrangements.*

Chief Brown said last year the law was passed that (Fire Districts) needed to show a five year projection and if you showed you were going into the negative you were required to begin conversations with neighboring departments for the possibility of consolidating, mergers or working agreements. We presented to the Board and showed that we will go into the negative if we continue to do things the way we have been doing them. Chino Valley is projected to go into the negative so they and MFD are required to begin conversations. He went on to talk about Chino Valley and Central Yavapai having conversations already and that he met with both the districts saying he would like to have the same conversations to continue working toward working agreements. There was further discussion.

After item 13 the Board went to item 8.

14 *Future Agenda items.*

Item 4 and Item 8 and 9 will be put on the next agenda for the regular meeting.

15 *Future meeting dates.*

The next regular Board meeting will be February 24, 2014 at 6:00P.M. The Budget (combined) meeting is scheduled for February 10th at 5:30 P.M.

16 *Adjournment.*

Chairman Rhodes called the meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Clerk Wildman

Date