

Mayer Fire District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:30 PM
Mayer Fire Administration

1 Call to order.

Chairman Thurman called the meeting to order at 4:35 P.M.

2 Pledge of allegiance.

3 Roll Call of members.

Present were Chairman Thurman, Clerk Runyan, Member Montgomery. Member Baca and Member Junkins were not present.

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

There was no public comment.

Chairman Thurman moved to item #8 at this time, to return to items #5-#7 out of order.

5 Chief's Report:

a) Monthly and year-to-date financials

Chief Smith reviewed his monthly report with the Board.

The balance at the County is at about \$500,000.00.

We ran just over 100 calls in December. There is still a high demand for mutual aid with both Lifeline, and Daisy Mountain in Black Canyon City.

b) Current event report.

Chief Freitag of CAFMA (Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority) has submitted legislation to allow any fire department in a county with a population of less than 500,000 people to transport without a CON (Certificate of Necessity).

We had a meeting with Lifeline Ambulance and offered to run all the way up to Fain Road, if needed.

Also, Chief Smith gave DMFD (Daisy Mountain Fire District) two options regarding coverage of BCC (Black Canyon City). One is to pay MFD (Mayer Fire District) \$150,000 a year for us bring on an extra reserve each day, enable MFD to run an extra ambulance. Or the other option is to sign over the CON in BCC to MFD and it would become part of the Mayer Fire District. We would run an engine and a rescue from BCC. The station at BCC had trucks and ambulances there before DMFD took over the CON. MFD can run it at a profit, where DMFD cannot due to their staffing model.

A preliminary estimate for MFD revenue from a state sales tax to be voted on in 2022 is around \$700,000 per year. If passed in 2022, the revenue would begin in 2023. Whether it is monthly or quarterly installments is still to be determined.

MFD should see a 20% increase in revenue for the next budget year. This is due to the Love's truck stop and other new construction. If this happens, we will try to lower the mill levy rate to 2.99% from 3.25%. This will result in an increase in revenue to the district, but the taxpayers will pay less.

Beyond that, the solar farm, if approved, will have a positive affect on MFD revenue as well as the state sales tax increase, if voted for. Any annexations will help us pay our bond.

We are taking bids to re-chassis an ambulance. We should know by the next board meeting how much this is going to cost.

Chief Smith reiterated what Capt. Alanis said about the Adopt-A-Family being a fun time and worthy cause,

adding that the money to fund this comes from firefighters' donations.

No training is scheduled over the summer to enable anyone to do wildland assignments.

There are 7 attending the Captain's Academy in February.

There are 1-15 attending wildland academy.

There are 2 that will be attending Engine Boss training.

Chairman Thurman moved to item #9.

6 *Mayer Chapter of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local #3066 (the Union) report.*

Jake Alanis Local 3066 Mayer Chapter Vice President spoke.

Capt. Alanis acknowledged that the Board was to complete the performance evaluation for Chief Smith today.

The general consensus of the members is nothing but positive for Chief Smith, Chief Tunis and Chief Love. They have been nothing but great to us. Chief Smith has really gone out of his way to make us comfortable and get us everything we need to do the job that he asks us to do. That includes equipment, education, supporting us in any endeavors we would like to chase down on our own level. That is foreign to us. That's unusual for us. So, we are eating it up as quickly as we can, and everybody is enjoying it. We have been extremely successful in moving the department in a positive direction under his leadership and his guidance. As you know, we have hired a ton of our reserves. The odds of a reserve getting a full-time career at Mayer Fire had been slim to none. Please keep him around. We are happy with him, and they are doing a great job for us.

We recently completed Adopt-A-Family gift delivery in late December. We adopted 11 kids.

This is done through the schools to determine underprivileged families. Jake talks with the moms to get a list with sizes, favorite colors and activities. There were about 400 presents delivered this year. It was an amazing night. The Sheriff's office and their Bearcat S.W.A.T vehicle came with us. The kids loved it. It was very successful.

This is done in conjunction with the Firefighter Angel Foundation of Prescott Valley

Chief Smith was very supportive in this effort with all the employees, apparatus, and extra effort needed to be available and to arrange it. Another testament to the leader that he is and what he's brought to the district.

Everything else in the Union world is going well. We don't really have to ask (the Chief) for much because we are given it before we've even asked for it. Again, we would like to keep him around for as long as we can.

7 *Consent Agenda.*

Item f. tabled.

Clerk Runyan motioned to defer item f. to the next meeting and to accept consent agenda items a.-e. and g.-h. Member Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote was Aye-3, No-0. All present voting Aye. Motion carried.

8 *Presentation and vote to accept the June 30, 2021 Annual Audit presented by Jay Parke, Certified Public Accountant with Walker and Armstrong, LLP*

Mr. Parke presented the audit results, findings, and recommendations.

Starting with financials, the cash receipts/revenue is up from the prior year due to ambulance and wildland.

What's driving that is a combination of better collections from ambulance services and also wildland revenues.

Expenditures are up from prior year, as well.

Cash as a percentage of expenditures is 11%. This is a bit low. The goal is to stay above 10%.

Debt Service as a percentage of total expenditures is at 12%.

The pension liability has increased due to several retirements in 2020.

The contribution rate is at 32.55, which isn't too bad.

The report on internal controls indicates no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

The audits are caught up. There are no instances of non-compliance noted.

There were no problems with the audit. The audit went very well.

One note is that it is important to keep bank reconciliations current.

Member Montgomery motioned to accept the June 30, 2021 Annual Audit presented by Jay Parke, Certified Public Accountant with Walker and Armstrong, LLP. Member Runyan seconded the motion. The vote was Aye-3, No-0. All present voting Aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Thurman returned the discussion to item #5.

- 9 *The Board may vote to go into Executive Session for the fire Chief's performance evaluation pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.1*

Chief Smith elected to have his performance evaluation in open session. No executive session.

Member Baca joined the meeting telephonically.

- 10 *Fire Chief's performance evaluation*

Chairman Thurman read aloud each evaluation point and the responses from those who returned evaluation forms with comments from board members and firefighters.

Evaluation feedback was positive and exceptionally positive, overall.

Chief Smith thanked everyone for the evaluation feedback and pointed to Chief Love for his efforts in anything positive there was to say about Chief Smith.

Member Runyan motioned to retain Chief Smith's services and give him a round of applause. Member Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote was Aye-4, No-0. All present voting Aye. Motion carried.

- 11 *Annexation request for 8075 South Breezy Pine Road, Mayer*

Tabled

- 12 *Pension Funding Policy*

Tabled

- 13 *Future Agenda items*

May have bids on ambulance

- 14 *Future meeting dates.*

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2022 at 4:30 P.M.

- 15 *Adjournment*

Clerk Runyan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote was Aye-4, No-0. All present voting Aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Thurman called the meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

 

Clerk Runyan Date