

Mayer Fire District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:30 PM
Mayer Fire Administration

1 Call to order

Chairman Thurman called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M.

2 Pledge of allegiance

3 Roll Call of members

Present were Chairman Thurman, Clerk Tang, Member Junkins, Member Lundeen. Member Baca was 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.

5 Chief's Report:

a) Monthly and year-to-date financials

Chief Smith reviewed his monthly report with the Board.

There were 180 calls in March, down from prior months. Cordes Lakes continues to be the busiest area. Seventy to eighty percent of the calls are EMS in nature.

b) Current event report

A semi-truck caught on fire on I-17 today which spread to the wildland. They were able to get it put out.

There have been a couple of wildland fires down south, Tucson area, resulting in a loss of structures.

It was reported from a fly-over that there is an overabundance of grass in our region.

The new rescue is in service. It has an auto-load system for the gurney, so no one has to do any lifting. This will be the blueprint for future rescues with commercial brakes and a much bigger chassis. It is expected to last a lot longer and have a lower maintenance cost.

We had graduation for the Fire Academy class yesterday. The State certifications will come in about a month.

Nozzle Forward training was completed for all shifts. It is a class for hose management techniques.

The TRT (Technical Rescue Training) Academy started this week. It is a 200-hour course. We provide some of the instructors, and in return we get three seats in the class free of charge. The class will be completed in May.

We had 3 candidates complete and pass Engineer testing; one from Mayer, two from Bagdad.

Senator Kelly's office has asked for follow up information which means they are working the grant for a new fire station in Crown King.

We have applied for a \$1.5 million grant from the Congressionally directed spending, meaning we would receive around \$800,000 and be required to match that amount.

There is State legislation putting together \$150 million that will go through the State Forester's office to fund grants for building or refurbishing fire stations or buying apparatus. One third of that is earmarked for rural fire districts. If the legislation is passed, we will put in for a new engine and for about \$700,000 to allow us to match the federal funds from the Congressionally directed spending grant application, if awarded.

The lease agreement for the parcel in Crown King came through so we can move forward with the new fire station.

A young driver trainee accidentally drove her car through the front door of the Circle K store in Mayer this morning.

We are looking at re-vamping the websites to one central location landing page where the specific district can be selected from there.

We are doing mail-in annexations. There are about 40 parcels on the back side of Mayer that have never been in the district as well as many in the south side toward Poland Junction. There are about 180 total parcels that will receive a mailer from Mayer Fire District explaining the benefits and asking if they would like to be annexed into the district.

We will send a second notice after about two months to those that did not reply. And then we will go door-to-door.

Clerk Tang added a comment that the crews did a phenomenal job on their response to a structure fire that he was able to witness first-hand in his neighborhood.

Chief Smith added that if anyone has a voice over internet phone system, and you are near a highway, your 911 call

will be directed to DPS and not Mayer Fire Dispatch. It can waste time and be very frustrating. He advised everyone to be sure they put into their account the physical address belonging to the phone.

Chairman Thurman thanked Captain Alanis for attending the Cordes Lakes Community Association to speak on Firewise in his absence.

Captain Alanis stated that Firefighter Aalden Young gave the presentation as part of his public speaking task and he represented the district well.

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

Captain Jake Alanis, Mayer Chapter VP (Vice President) spoke.

Things have been great. The chief is taking care of us.

Captain Alanis promotes to Battalion Chief in July which will take him out of his Union vice president position. He thanked Chief Smith and the Board for their support during his six years as Chapter VP.

The pancake breakfast for the Firefighter Angel Foundation went well.

The Board thanked Captain Alanis for his service as Chapter VP and congratulated him on his promotion.

7 *Consent Agenda*

Member Lundeen motioned to accept the consent agenda items a-h. Clerk Tang seconded the motion. The vote was Aye-4, No-0. All present voting Aye. Motion carried.

8 *Emergency beacon lights*

Member Lundeen spoke. ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) backed out on installing the proposed lights pro-bono.

Chairman Thurman stated that if we get the engineering done, we can petition the ADOT board to add this to their projects.

Chief Smith suggested modifying the existing signs. Member Lundeen replied that it may require us to go back through the permitting process to change a sign. But that may be easier to do in order to add solar panels and flashing lights to the existing signage.

Member Lundeen will pursue the suggestions and report back at the next board meeting.

9 *Department credit cards through Bank of the West*

Chief Smith referred to a list of current credit cards and their limits. He stated we have two new mechanics and a lot of credit accounts set up. But there are items that the mechanics have to get. Chief Smith has been giving his credit card over the phone to vendors so that the purchases can be made. There is available credit with the bank to add a credit card for the mechanics and still be within the established credit limit.

Chief Smith asked the board for approval of a new department credit card with a credit limit of \$10,000 for the mechanics.

There was discussion on transaction limits and monthly limits.

Member Junkins asked if we could include a second department card at this time, one for Jake Alanis, due to his promotion. He will also be using it for wildland assignments.

Member Lundeen motioned to approve one department credit card for the mechanics and one department credit card for BC Alanis, each with a credit limit of \$10,000. Member Junkins seconded the motion.

The vote was Aye-4, No-0. All present voting Aye. Motion carried.

10 *Board member electronic devices*

Member Tuan suggests having an electronic device for each board member to separate board information and activities from individual information and activities. In the case of a subpoena, the assigned device would be available without the board member's personal device.

Mayer Fire District Attorney Doug Fant agreed from a cyber security perspective it is a good idea. If everybody has the same instrument, it's easier to protect them.

Chief Smith added that we have a government account through Verizon, and it is not terribly expensive to get the devices. He estimated the cost to be about \$1,500 per year.

Member Junkins asked if the tablets would replace the paper board binders for each meeting. Chief Smith replied that they would.

Liability involving electronic devices was discussed.

Clerk Tuan motioned for Mayer Fire District to provide optional electronic devices for each board member available through Verizon under the current government contract pricing. Member Jenkins seconded the

motion. The vote was Aye-4, No-0. All present voting Aye. Motion carried.

11 *Purchase of a used fleet vehicle not to exceed \$12,000*

Chief Smith stated that we are short one multi-use vehicle. He had found a company that rehabs police vehicles for resale and thinks this would be a way to acquire a vehicle for this purpose.

Clerk Tuan motioned to purchase a used fleet vehicle not to exceed \$12,000. Member Junkins seconded the motion. The vote was Aye-4, No-0. All present voting Aye. Motion carried.

12 *Preliminary County budget*

Chief Smith explained the preliminary budget proposal. He asked the board to review it before the next meeting. He pointed out that labor costs have increased due to raises approved by the board, as well as minimum wage increases this year and the next two years.

He also pointed to the 8.8% increase in net assessed value for next year.

Fuel costs have increased.

Next month the board will approve a preliminary budget to submit to the County.

The June meeting will need to include an open public meeting to discuss the budget, and the regular meeting after.

Then the budget will be adopted by the board at the regular board meeting.

No action taken.

13 *Future Agenda items*

Preliminary budget/FDAT

Emergency beacon signs

Electronic devices

14 *Future meeting dates.*

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 17, 2023 at 4:30 P.M.

15 *Adjournment.*

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

Chairman Thurman called the meeting adjourned at 5:48 P.M.



Clerk Tang Date 4.17.23