

Mayer Fire District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 17, 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 Baca, Member Junkins, Member Lundeen. All 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.

Ambulance revenue is on target or above.

We should be at break even at the end of June, but we will not have excess funds to carry forward into capital reserve this year.

b) Current event report

Last month there were 211 calls for service with 101 transports, breaking a record.

There was a structure fire in Spring Valley resulting in a complete loss. Later, on the same day, there was a response for a gunshot wound. The following morning was a fairly significant traffic accident on I 17.

There were 6 wildland calls in the course of about 3 hours a few days ago.

We received the preliminary approval for the fire station grant here, and also for Williamson Valley.

Governor Katie Hobbs zeroed out 150 million dollars that had been put aside for fire service-related grants. One of the state senators was able to put back in 5 million. The governor put the money into immigrant housing and low-income housing in Phoenix.

Everyone was given an updated budget.

We should move forward with the land for the station at Cordes Junction. We are asking for four of the eight acres there.

The solar farm on the state lands has stalled according to Chairman Thurman.

There are no fire restrictions in place, at this time.

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

Nothing to report.

7 **Consent Agenda**

Member Junkins motioned to approve the consent agenda items a-h as posted.

Member Tuan seconded. The vote was Aye-5, No-0. All voting Aye. Motion carried.

8 **Emergency beacon sign**

Member Lundeen updated.

The low incident rate at the intersection makes it difficult to get approved for an unfunded project with ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation). ADOT will have their Traffic Engineering take a look at it to offer solutions and Member Lundeen was encouraged by ADOT to file the no-fee permit for the sign. There has been no call back from the permitting manager so far.

9 Preliminary 2023/2024 Budget and FDAT (Fire District Assistance Tax) figures

The preliminary budget reflects keeping the mil rate unchanged at \$3.20. Last year the maximum increased to \$3.37 and this year the maximum is \$3.50. Next year it will be a maximum of \$3.75. The preliminary budget as it stands is do-able with the plan of putting \$50,000 into capital at the end of the next fiscal year. In light of what has happened to the State funding, as mentioned earlier, Chief Smith asked the board what they thought of raising the levy rate to \$3.30 to allow us to set aside the extra for capital over the next few years as other things come along.

The TA Travel Center has been approved by the County. It will provide additional tax resources when it is open.

The Love's truck center is bringing in an additional \$25,000 annually.

The solar farm and any other new growth over the next few years will bring in more.

With the current preliminary budget, by raising the levy rate to \$3.30 it would bring in close to another \$50,000 to go toward capital.

There was more discussion on the levy rate and the question of the ability to match funds for the fire station grant.

Chief Smith explained the board can tentatively adopt the current budget with the current or a higher levy rate. It is then posted on the MFD (Mayer Fire District) website until the next meeting. Then a public meeting is to be scheduled before the next regular board meeting in June to discuss the budget and address any questions from the public.

Chief Smith estimated the tax bill to increase about \$50 for the average home in MFD if the levy was increased from \$3.20 to \$3.30. The resulting additional tax income for MFD would be about \$50,000 per year. The plan would be to put this additional tax revenue into capital each year to build capital for matching funds for a new fire station in Cordes Junction.

There was more discussion. The board agreed on the levy increase from \$3.20 to \$3.35 for this year's budget. This will be posted on the MFD website May 18, 2023.

There will be a special board meeting next month for the public hearing on the budget scheduled just before the regular board meeting.

10 Board member electronic devices

Clerk Tuan referred to the letter to the Board in the meeting packet and reviewed the importance of dedicated devices for board member use.

There was more discussion, including cost to the department.

The consensus continues to be that these devices are optional for board members.

11 Future Agenda items

Adoption of the budget

Update on land in Cordes Junction for the fire station

Update on emergency beacon signs

12 Future Meeting dates

There will be a special board meeting and public hearing on the budget Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 4:15 P.M.

The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 4:30 P.M.

13 Adjournment

Member Lundeen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Baca seconded the motion. The vote was Aye-5, No-0. All voting Aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Thurman called the meeting adjourned at 5:18 P.M.


Clerk Tuan Date Jun 21 - 23