



MEETING MINUTES

The Fire Board of the Rio Rico Medical and Fire District (RRMFD) met in regular session on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Rio Rico Medical and Fire District administrative office, 822 Pendleton Drive, Rio Rico, AZ.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Meeting is being recorded
- Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Dora Urias

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

- Present: Brad Beach, Hank Thysell and Dora Urias. Michael Carlson present telephonically
- Absent: Frank Bejarano

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

5. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of minutes

i. Regular Session of April 24, 2024

- Motion to approve the minutes of the regular session of April 24, 2024 made by Brad Beach, second by Hank Thysell
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE: The governing body may propose, discuss, deliberate, or take legal action on this matter unless that specific matter is identified on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as a result of a report will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

a. Badge Pinning

- Deputy Chief Urbanski welcomed the Board and members of the public and gave a brief history of each of the full time hires, Gerardo Reveles and Alejandro Armenta.

b. Correspondence

- None

c. Fire Chief's Report

- Fire Chief power point report presented by Chief Adam Amezaga. Copy of report on file and posted on the District Website.
 - i. Emergency calls summary
 - ii. Operational
 1. Equipment, vehicle, station
 2. Training
 3. Operations

4. Personnel
- d. Fire Marshal Report
 - Fire Marshal power point report presented by Fire Marshal George Cluff. Copy of report on file and posted on the District website
- e. Fire Board Member Report
 - Hank Thysell commended District for the training they do—one of the best trained departments!
 - Brad Beach commended the District for the great job on social media
- f. Financial Report
 - i. Presentation of Financial Reports up to April 2024
 - Financial Reports presented by Ana Holman
 - Reviewed election timeline
 - AFDA/AFCA attendees will be Brad Beach and Hank Thysell

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and update re: Sale of easement rights of .07 acres per Exhibit A legal description of property adjacent to Pendleton Dr., Station 3 to Unisource (TEP)
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to sale of easement rights of .07 acres adjacent to Pendleton Dr., Station 3 to Unisource (TEP)
 - Chief Amezaga confirmed Unisource accepted our offer of \$5,000 however, in reviewing the paperwork there was a date error which needed to be corrected.
- b. Discussion, review and update re: Burn Tower Training Facility for Station 2
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the Burn Tower Training Facility for Station 2.
 - Chief Amezaga updated the Board stating we are looking for a builder; very high demand for labor at present increasing costs, have requested four quotes and hoping a local contractor will bid as one quote was for \$1 million to build a \$900,000 tower. Will keep the board updated as quotes received.
- c. Discussion, review and update re: Installation of the BlueStar Power System Industrial Outdoor Generator for Station 1.
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the installation of a BlueStar Power System Industrial Outdoor Generator for Station 1 .
 - As noted in the Fire Marshal report, pillars are in, electrician was hoping to start today but was finishing a project with Unisource and portion of crew has been out sick and plans to start this week. Bollards are in, trenching will start this week for propane line.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of financial reports for April 2024.
 - Motion to approve financial reports for April 2024 made by Brad Beach, second by Hank Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- b. Discussion and possible action re: Approval for publication of the 2024-2025 Budget Proposal as presented by the Budget Committee
 - Chief Amezaga noted the Budget Committee met, talked, battled and came up with a smart strategy
 - Ana Holman thanked the committee, Hank Thysell, Michael Carlson and Chief Amezaga, for their time and work on the budget. Current tax rate is 3.5% (maximum), next fiscal year maximum rate is 3.75%, Committee is proposing a tax increase to 3.75% to allow funding to the Capital Replacement account. Ana Holman presented the Budget Proposal.

- Michael Carlson noted 3.75% is the max as we move forward. Over the past several years there has been a great deal of reduction in the capital reserve funds and at some point we will need to purchase more equipment and as we look to next year, salary increases, inflation and everything is going to increase but our revenue is not. Need to take advantage of trying to build some sort of replacement into our capital reserve and contingency fund or we could find ourselves in dire straits next year. Commends Chief Amezaga and Ana Holman for their hard work and restructuring of budget to make it work within the parameters given-challenging at best, but accomplished. Believes we need to be more proactive with legislators educating them on the needs for smaller counties.
- Hank Thysell noted the static in the air but understood the Chief's and Ana's point of view and the Board having to protect the taxpayers and the future.
- Chief Amezaga agrees with protecting the liability of the District for now and later. Looking for the future and educating the public regarding the proposed rate. Difficult for the District to keep up with inflation while having a tax maximum.
- Brad Beach agrees it is tough to keep up with inflation and having to increase taxes.
- Motion to approve publication of the 2024-2025 budget proposal as presented by the Budget Committee made by Brad Beach, second by Hank Thysell
- Ana Holman noted the budget will be posted for 20 days for the public. Adoption will be approved at the June meeting.
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- Brad Beach and Dora Urias thanked the committee for their work on the budget

9. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

a. Next Board Meeting June 26, 2024 5:30 p.m.

- TRT Stipend approval
- Brad Beach questioned steps for prior service (police, paramedic) allowing the Chief authority to give up to ten years of service.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Dated this 26TH day of JUNE, 2024.

Rio Rico Medical & Fire District Elected Official

Hank Thysell,  Clerk of the Board