

**PINEWOOD FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
APRIL 16, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman - Richard Drinen Clerk of the Board - Len Friedlund Ben Click, Member
Barbara Timberman, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill DeGroot, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Welsch Office Manager - Kim Ball Captain - Steve Oberly
Josh Doak Bennie Pospishel Jon Arnold
Terri Perry

VOLUNTEERS PRESENT:

Chris Stoltze

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Sue Drinen Carl Nelson

Meeting opened at 5:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. A quorum was affirmed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for March 19, 2013 were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Office Manager Ball told the board that we received 2 very nice cards, which she gave to the board to read.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. FEBRUARY EXPENDITURE:

We are 75% thru the budget year and expenses are in line with the budget. No questions from the board on the financials.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT – Kim Ball

A. Ambulance Billing Report: FEBRUARY

In March we charged out \$8,991.49. Ambulance income was \$3,618.53 with a year to date figure of \$114,300.59. Resident subsidy was \$2,431.56 with a year to date figure of \$25,588.80. Aging report for March was \$22,304.51.

Highlands still owes us \$3,395.95, with reimbursements totaling \$56,372.70 year to date. State Land still owes us \$34,580.83, with a year to date paid amount of \$83,172.36. We have not received anything from collections this month.

B. MONTHLY RUN LOG COMPARISON REPORT: FEBRUARY

In March we had 19 medical calls, 1 Fire call and 17 Special Duty calls. Our March monthly total was 37, with 6 people seen in the med room bringing our total to 43. We did 7 transports and transported 8 patients. Inside district calls totaled 27 or 73% and outside district calls totaled 10 or 27%.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

A. Response Exception Reports:

- 1. Fire**
- 2. EMS**
- 3. Rescue**

"We've had a couple of articles in the Daily Sun this last month; the first incident was about a MVA into rock wall with DOA, the other incident was a semi trailer fire on the freeway."

"I want to ask the board if I can have Captain Oberly give you a report of the repair of Engine 81 and I will finish my report when he is finished. Chairman Drinen stated that would be acceptable."

Captain Oberly gave a brief report on the status of Engine 81. He explained that the engine went into W.W. Williams, who is our mechanic a couple of days after the slid off. The mechanics have had it a couple of months now, it has been returned several times but it still has a braking issue which causes it to pull severely to the left. The engine cannot be put into service with the issue that it has, we have sent it back to W.W. Williams twice now to get the problem resolved. The mechanics were given another week to fix this issue. If they can't fix it we will send it to Summit Fire, W.W. Williams should have it back to us by Friday.

Chief stated "We will probably not be using W.W. Williams as our mechanics anymore we will probably contract with Summit Fire for the maintenance of our vehicles."

Chairman Drinen asked "How much have we spent on the repairs so far?"

Captain Oberly replied "We are currently at about \$10,800.00 and we anticipate that there will be additional labor cost added to the bill."

Board member Timberman asked "Don't the mechanics test drive the vehicle before they bring it back?"

Captain Oberly explained "They only have 1 mechanic with a CDL and I don't think that they take it out on the freeway to test drive it."

Chief explained "The mechanics are not emergency vehicle drivers; they are not used driving this type of vehicle. We are used to hard braking and hard acceleration."

Board member Click stated "They shouldn't be charging us if it isn't fixed."

Captain Oberly stated "They have sent us no additional charges; I think they know what kind of a position they are in and are trying to make it right. I can sense that they know that we have found them lacking."

Board member Friedlund asked "Do we have any testing specs?"

Chief stated "Yes we have specs for it, but this is so obvious that they don't need specs to find it."

Chairman Drinen stated "We need to get some dirt and fill the yard in where the truck slid off before they come back and get upset."

Captain Oberly replied "I have been trying to get a hold of the home owner but they have not called us back. We are planning on filling in the area where the truck slid off."

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Chief stated "Here are your copies of the budget; it is set up just as it has been for the last 4 years. The first page shows the comparison of last year and the up coming year. The county has devalued us again this year which means we will have to increase the mill rate again this year."

"In years past the county would send out their evaluation figures and I could do a budget using those figures. Last year on June 30th the county called and asked me where I got the figures for our budget. I told them that they were based on the amounts the county had sent me in February. They told me that the figures were wrong and we would have to increase our millage rate to make our projected tax income come in at the correct amount. The county said you have to wait until June 30th to set your budget." John explained to them that we cannot do that because we have to post our budget in May for 30 days and then approve the budget in June so the county will have our budget by the first week in July. "So last year we had the county correct the mill rate to bring in the correct amount of tax income."

Chief stated "This year our assessment went down again. Our taxable assessed value for this year is \$529,618.00 which is \$125,641.00 less than last year. As you know we can not go over the millage rate of \$3.25 by law."

Chief went on to say "We reduced the tax burden to the tax payers by \$95,672.00 for the coming year. The reason we didn't increase it to last years tax income is because I don't know what the county is going to come back with come June 30th."

Chairman Drinen asked "What if in June the county says we are going to make more income than we thought then what do we do?"

Chief stated "Then we have to have the county adjust our millage rate down and just keep the total budget amount the same."

Member Click stated "Then the bottom line would stay the same, but the millage rate would still go down?"

Chief replied "Yes, the total budget would stay the same but the millage rate would be less. As you can see our total budget amount was \$3,116,000.00 for last year and this year it is \$2,710,808.00. We are trying to keep pace with what is going on with the downswing in our taxable assessed value. We will not have as big as carry over next year but we are trying to make things happen as best we can. As you review the budget you'll see several places where items have been lowered, changed or done away with completely. The people who work here are the ones who have lowered these figures. The originally figures for salaries for the line staff have been adjusted down as of today after my meeting with the union group. They had originally asked for a 3% raise, after reviewing our financial position they have decided that they will not ask for that raise. You will see under uniforms allowance you will notice that they also have reduced their uniform allowance by \$250.00 per person including myself and the office manager. There are several other items that have been cut by the folks so that we can make our budget this year. The staff has not had a raise in 4 years but they still are willing to give up things in order to keep us on track with the budget, I am very proud of them."

Member Click asked "How are we doing with our salary schedule that the bargaining group came up with a few years ago?"

Chief "I would say that we are on par with the other departments. The other reason I asked them to do without a raise this contract year is the health care change coming up in January 2014. The new health insurance regulations state that no employee can have more than a \$2,000.00 deductible. So this will effect our health insurance premiums, we currently have a \$10,000.00 per person deductible or \$20,000.00 per family. The high deductible rate gave us a chance to save money on our premiums the past few years. With the new regulations in place we will not be able to do that any more."

Chief stated "I feel we have made the tax burden reasonable and hopefully we can carry on through the next few years."

Clerk Friedlund stated "He just came from the business alliance meeting and I apologize for being late. Several of the realtors stated that the real estate values seem to be coming up."

Chief stated "All we can do is go by the assessment that the county says we have and hope for the best in the coming years, it's up to the county to set the assessment and we have to follow it."

Member Timberman asked "Was one of these uniform allowances?"

Chief stated "We saved \$4,500.00 on the new budget by the voluntary reduction of the employees and my uniform allowance."

Member Click stated "I don't want to see us do anything that might cause us to lose any of the people that we currently have because I think we have a great group of people working for us at this time. I don't want to lose any one to another department because they have better insurance or something than we do."

Chief stated "Our folks tell me they've had other offers but they like it here."

Chairman Drinen stated "We as the fire board will have to remember when the tax amounts come back up that we need to reward our people for helping us out. This board will remember when our income is up again that our people helped us out when we needed them to and now it is our turn to help them."

Member Click stated "The department is small enough that everyone understands what is going on. They understand that some things are going to be delayed for example the building of a new station. Our people have a professionalism that is not experienced in all small or even big departments."

Chief stated "The community takes an interest in our people and it makes our people feel like they are a part of the community even though they don't live here."

Chief stated "Our taxable assessed value was \$730,000.00, when I started working here; it is now \$529,000.00, so it has gone down significantly. Most of the districts are seeing an increase this year instead of decrease in taxes."

10. PROPANE USAGE THIS FISCAL YEAR:

The office manager stated "I think we've done really well this year and they do not fill us in the summer. The next time they fill us will probably be in May and then they won't fill us again until October."

Chairman Drinen stated "Clerk Friedlund will take Bill's board packet to him and let him know the propane report is in his packet."

Member Timberman stated "The sanitary district has gone to Prescott to get their propane and they get their propane at \$1.79 and they are saving a lot of money."

Chief stated "He will see if he can find a used 1000 gallon propane tank and then we can change companies."

SUMMARIZE ACTION ITEMS:

1. Budget 2013/2014
2. Update on Engine 81
3. House Bill update

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Budget 2013/2014
2. Update on Engine 81
3. House Bill 2572 Update

CALL TO PUBLIC:

John Welsch: "I wanted to say thanks to all the folks that removed the cinders from the sidewalks. That is a huge amount of work for the half dozen people who volunteered to do the work."

Member Timberman stated "The fire wise information is going into the sanitary bills again this month so that everyone has the info."

Clerk Friedlund stated "CERTS is on the alert to man block-aids because of severe winds starting brush fires."

Chief Welsch said "Northern Arizona representative for AFDA is retiring and he asked John if he would take over his position in AFDA. With the boards approval I will send in a letter of interest and see about taking over that position."

Member Timberman stated "The auxiliary is selling T-shirts for the 40th anniversary and they would like to leave some in the office to sell."

Chief stated "Of course, we can help with that."

NEXT MEETING: May 21, 2013 at 5 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted by _____
(Clerk of the Board, Len Friedlund)