

APPROVED MINUTES 042523

**MINUTES
SUN CITY FIRE DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023
9:30 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tim Wilmes

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Tim Wilmes, Stephen Arnold, Phil LaBarbera, Phil Griswold, David VanderNaalt
(via Zoom at 9:45 a.m.)

Members Absent: None

Staff: Acting Fire Chief Rob Schmitz, Deputy Chief Jason Casey, Fire Marshal Jim Fox,
Assistant Fire Marshal Kenny Kovac, Finance Director Gabe Buldra, EMS
Division Chief Kyle Henson, USCFFA Vice President Kevin Brown, Office
Manager Lisa Neubert

INVOCATION

I. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

A. Board member Phil Griswold made a motion to approve the consent agenda item which was the Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes for February 28, 2023. Board member Tim Wilmes seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda item. (M: Phil Griswold/S: Tim Wilmes; Ayes: Tim Wilmes, Stephen Arnold, Phil La Barbera, Phil Griswold. Nays: None)

II. CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. There were no community appreciation letters.

B. Chief Schmitz reported that Engineer Eric Archer was promoted to Captain on February 6, 2023.

C. Chief Schmitz recognized the following employees for years of service: Firefighter Kyle Netzel for 7 years of service and Keena McBee for 4 years of service.

D. There were no retirements.

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III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Budget and Finance

- 1. Finance Director Gabe Buldra presented the financial and bank reconciliation report for the month of February 2023. Board member Phil LaBarbera made a motion to accept the February 2023 financial report. Board member Stephen Arnold seconded the motion. The board voted to accept the finance report for the month of February 2023. (M: Phil LaBarbera; S: Steve Arnold; Vote – Aye: Stephen Arnold, Phil LaBarbera, David VanderNaalt, Phil Griswold. Nay: None. Abstain: Tim Wilmes).**
- 2. Finance Director Gabe Buldra reported that \$5 million of the \$6.3 million pension contingency funds held by the Maricopa County Treasurer’s Office has been moved to Charles Schwab.**

B. Legal and Insurance

- 1. Chief Schmitz presented the third amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Fire and Medical Services between the cities of Glendale and Peoria, and the Sun City Fire District. This agreement allows the District to be reimbursed for all calls they run at the Tohono O’odham Nation’s Desert Diamond Casino property. Board member Stephen Arnold made a motion to approve the third amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Fire and Medical Services between the cities of Glendale and Peoria, and the Sun City Fire District. Board member Phil Griswold seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the third amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Fire and Medical Services between the cities of Glendale and Peoria, and the Sun City Fire District. (M: Stephen Arnold/S: Phil Griswold; Ayes: Stephen Arnold, Phil LaBarbera, David VanderNaalt, Phil Griswold. Nays: None. Abstain: Tim Wilmes)**
- 2. Board member Stephen Arnold presented the consideration of employment contracts as a means to curb attrition of new hires going to other departments. Chief Schmitz stated that he knows of two cities, Tolleson and El Mirage, that use employment contracts. He is not sure what their employment contracts entail but he does not believe that these contracts can force the employee to pay back training academy wages. Chief Schmitz is going to check with each city to see what their employment contracts cover. Board Chairman Tim Wilmes directed Chief Schmitz to consult with the district’s attorney to if see employment contracts are allowed and what monies can be recovered if an employee terminates before the time specified in the contract.**
- 3. There were no PSPRS or Prop 207 updates, but Chairman Wilmes reported that there is a property tax revision bill (SB1263) that is currently in legislature to eliminate all property taxes.**

C. Fire Department Operations

- 1. The report for fire department operations was given for February 2023, which included an overview of the incident counts, types, and response times.**

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D. Emergency Medical Services / Ambulance Operations

- 1. The ambulance operations report was presented for the month of February 2023. The report included the incident counts, types, and transports.**
- 2. Chief Kyle Henson gave the following updates on the Emergency Medical Services/Ambulance Operations division:**
 - i. The Lucas Device and Stair Chair trials will be completed by April 1st.**
 - ii. Continuing to review new EPCR platforms, Image Trend and Zoll.**
 - iii. Looking at new inventory system – Operative IQ.**
 - iv. Completed 1st quarter CE's Triage and New Protocol updates.**

E. Resource Management

- 1. Chief Schmitz reported the following for fleet/apparatus:**
 - a. Sutphen has completed all repairs and testing on L131 and is making arrangements to deliver it back to Sun City. It should be in the district by the end of March.**
 - b. Fire mechanic Izacc Ramos is preparing to perform pump tests on all our units over the next few months. We're rebuilding/replacing some of the equipment we own to be able to perform this process in-house at FS131. This will be more cost effective by saving us on fuel and out-of-service time.**
 - c. E133 has been out of service since late February due to a shortage of engine and transmission parts. Cummins projects having a turbo actuator and NOX sensor available next week and will send a field tech to us to complete repairs. W.W. Williams also estimates they'll have parts available for us next week to complete a transmission recall issue and will also be sending a field tech to us.**
 - d. LT131 has been taken out of service multiple times this year due to its primary light bar malfunctioning. The system still utilizes traditional strobes and power packs, which have been obsolete for seven years. Fire Mechanic Ramos has been limping the system along and was able to utilize spare parts in storage to build an LED system. We are confident this process repaired the issue until the new LT arrives in late 2024.**
 - e. Golden Shores FD provided me with a picture of the 2012 Spartan that we sold to them. They continue to be grateful for the truck and are happy with the transaction.**

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2. Chief Schmitz reported the following for buildings/facilities:

- a. Core Construction has been working with us in good faith, well beyond our warranty, to address issues at FS133. Last week they completed drywall repairs to the upstairs laundry room/boiler room and downstairs EMS office following a drain-line break within the wall. It required being sealed off, asbestos testing, air sampling, plumbing repairs, and drywall repair.**
- b. FS133 has been having ongoing issues with water pressure and hot water in the upstairs living quarters. After having difficulty finding a vendor that would service the equipment, we eventually found a knowledgeable company who identified that the system was plumbed incorrectly during the build; the level of our hard water is prematurely destroying the equipment, a water treatment device should've been installed with the equipment, and one of the pumps is oversized creating early wear on the plumbing in combination with the hard water. We're awaiting quotes to have the issues remedied.**
- c. FS133 has also had some roof leaks that can be attributed to the swamp coolers. We met with JMAC this week and identified that the units have shifted, causing gaps in the duct work beneath it. The units are also showing premature wear due to the hard water.**
- d. Diamond Iron Fence has been working with us on the automatic gates at Admin. The system continues to short out due to moisture. The vendor is advising us we'll need to reseal the loops and those sections of the fenced parking lot to correct the issue permanently.**
- e. Phoenix FD Tech Services has completed all station alerting updates at FS131 & FS132.**

F. Training/Professional Development

1. Chief Schmitz gave the following report for the training division:

- a. During quarter 1, our Sun City Ladder companies participated in Heavy Lift Training through the West Side Training Consortium group. All Ladders from the west side gathered to participate in lifting semitrucks and trucks that require more than one ladder to complete. They also had some instructions on electric semitrucks. It was great Ladder specific training.**
- b. During March our Fire units completed the initial Rescue Task Force training instructed by Surprise Fire. This training was a combination of new EMS equipment and triage protocols, and the new to Sun City Rescue Task Force protocols.**

G. Administrative/Special Projects

- 1. Chief Schmitz reported that the data collection for the study should be completed by April and ESCI is projecting an on-site visit in May.**

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H. Public Education/Community Outreach

- 1. Assistant Fire Marshal Kenny Kovac acknowledged the following volunteers for their years of service: Inspectors Dennis Albert and Greg Eisert for 4 years of service.**
- 2. Prevention volunteer hours summary.**
 - a. The summary of prevention hours for volunteers was presented for February 2023. The total number of volunteer hours was 113 hours.**
- 3. Community relations program report.**
 - a. The report for the Community Outreach program was given for February 2023. There was a total of 161 citizens served for February. Installations of lock boxes are scheduled through the end of March 2023.**
- 4. There were no community events for the month of February 2023.**
- 5. The volunteer inspection summary report was given for the month of February. There was a total of 79 inspections completed.**

I. Fire Prevention

- 1. The construction inspection summary report was given for the month of February 2023. There was a total of 22 inspections completed.**
- 2. Permits issued and revenue report.**
 - a. The permit and revenue reports were presented for February 2023. There were eighteen permits with a revenue of \$35,838.20.**
- 3. Fire investigation reports.**
 - a. The fire investigation report was given for February 2023. There were two formal fire investigations performed.**
- 4. Large community projects.**
 - a. An update was given on the large community projects within the Sun City District. There are currently seven large community projects in Sun City.**
- 5. There was an update on the ongoing projects in Youngtown. There are currently five large community projects in Youngtown.**

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Board member Phil Griswold requested that a committee be formed to make recommendations regarding news articles and information for the district community. Chairman Tim Wilmes appointed board members Phil Griswold and Stephen Arnold to the committee along with a uniformed staff member to be appointed by Chief Schmitz.**

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Chairman Wilmes asked that the committee report back in 3 to 4 months with a list of the top five items needed and the approximate cost.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. There was no executive session.

VI. NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. There was no new business.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Bob Lucas introduced himself as the new fire department liaison for the Sun City Posse.

B. Rusty Bradshaw, Independent reporter, announced that he has written a new book entitled "Battle for Stephanie" and will be having a book signing on April 7, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the Condominium Owners Association. Chief Schmitz thanked Mr. Bradshaw for his recent article on firefighter mental health.

C. Kevin Brown, USCFFA Vice President, reported on recent union events. He also stated that labor does not support employment contracts and would like to have an opportunity to discuss it with the board.

VIII. NEXT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

A. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on March 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sun City Fire Department Community Room located at 18602 N. 99th Avenue Sun City, AZ.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Board member Phil LaBarbera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 a.m. Board member Steve Arnold seconded the motion. The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 a.m. (M: Phil LaBarbera/S: Steve Arnold; Vote – Aye: Tim Wilmes, Stephen Arnold, Phil La Barbera, Phil Griswold. David VanderNaalt. Nay: None)

FOR THE BOARD

Stephen Arnold
Clerk of the Board

SA/lbn