



Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District

16126 Pierce Ferry Road

P.O. Box 611

Phone (928) 767-3300 Dolan Springs, Arizona 86441 FAX (928) 767-3301

MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE LAKE MOHAVE RANCHOS FIRE DISTRICT JANUARY 20, 2015

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting being taped – Administrator John Flynn called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Administrator John Flynn led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Administrator John Flynn approved the minutes from the December 15, 2014 meeting.
4. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE – (for advice and discussion only)**

A. **Report on the financial condition of LMRFD; financial recovery plan;**

John Flynn began the meeting, with about 12 residents from Dolan Springs and Meadview present, by introducing himself and Chief Patrick Moore. He briefly explained his function as Administrator, acting as the Fire Board for the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District, and Chief Moore's as Fire Chief for Northern Arizona Consolidated Fire District working under contract for the LMRFD.

John Flynn reported that he and Chief Moore had attended the Mohave County Board of Supervisor's (B.O.S.) meeting earlier in the morning. He reported that as of December 31, 2014, the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District was out of debt and showing a positive balance of \$26,093.61 with the County. He stated that the LMRFD will not sustain that position until the second half of taxes are collected in April-May of 2015. The County will continue to serve as the LMRFD's operating "Line of Credit" until that time. Mr. Flynn reported that the original Recovery Plan presented by himself and Chief Moore to the Board of Supervisors in February of 2013, projected a 2 year period to turn the District around and get it fully functional. That goal has been achieved.

John Flynn clarified that he works for the County B.O.S. while acting in the LMRFD's best interests. He reported that options discussed at the Board of Supervisor's meeting for the LMRFD going forward were two:

1. Consolidate/Merge into an adjacent fire district
2. Call for Special Election to seat a new Board who would hire a Fire Chief.

Mr. Flynn reported that he asked the Board of Supervisor's for the pros and cons of each option, a cost/benefit analysis of each and the process for consolidation. He will distribute the information gained to all interested parties. He stated that we will be back on the B.O.S. agenda in February for a decision on which option the LMRFD takes. He reported that Special Elections are held 4 times a year, with May 19 being the next available date. He stated there are lots of things to do in the meantime. If unable to meet that deadline, the LMRFD would need to wait until the next available date, which is uncertain at this time.

Mr. Flynn stated that in conversations with Board of Supervisor members, it was made clear to him that if the LMRFD chooses to call for a Special Election, seat their own Board, etc., in lieu of consolidation, the County absolutely will not step in to help if the District goes insolvent again. He also stressed that the District needs an operating Line of Credit somewhere, and will not survive without it.

B. **Fire Chief's Report on Operational Matters:**

Fire Chief Patrick Moore reported that the LMRFD is down 2 full-time employees, with a 3rd one resigning the end of January. He will continue to staff with POC's to fill gaps, while advertising to fill the full time positions. Application deadline for the current hiring outreach is January 28.

Chief Moore reported that the radios upgrade is still in the licensing process. Once that is complete, the receiver and repeater upgrades will be started.

Chief Moore reported that ongoing issues with the LMRFD website email service had been successfully addressed.

5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**



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A. Consideration of District Boundary Changes to include parcels of real property in accordance with A.R.S. § 48-262.1.

Administrator John Flynn was presented with requests from taxpayers in the Meadview area to be annexed into the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District. He reviewed information for the following parcels and as the Mohave County Board of Supervisors appointed District Administrator, serving in the capacity of the LMRFD Board of Directors with all the powers of the Governing Board as authorized by law, having asked for objections and receiving none, approved the following Resolutions authorizing annexation into the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District:

NONE

6. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

A public body may make an open call to the public during a public meeting, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions, to allow individuals to address the public body on any issue within the jurisdiction of the public body. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the public body, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the public body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.

In reply to a question from the Public, asking if after consolidation another person would be added at Station 43 in Meadview, Chief Moore responded that the \$400,000 or so taxes generated in the Meadview area is not sufficient to put 3 more people on full time. One person for each shift would mean 3 additional people to be hired. If Paramedics, at roughly \$40,000/yr plus \$25,000 attendant expenses, the additional cost would be \$195,000/ yr. The tax revenue doesn't support it.

When queried about the possibility of using volunteers, Chief Moore responded that volunteers must meet the same requirements as full time employees, for physical agility, passing a drug test, background checks, etc., for insurability purposes. To do otherwise would be a huge risk and potential liability for the District. He reminded that the District currently has 2 and soon 3 unfilled positions because of a shortage of applicants who can pass the tests. If one is found, he/she would be pursued as a full time employee rather than as a volunteer.

A member of the public asked if the LMRFD, if consolidated with NACFD, would be expected to run on its own tax revenue and get its own Line of Credit for the in between tax periods. Chief Moore explained that the NACFD no longer uses the County warrant system, but rather keeps a balance to operate on so they do not need to borrow money. He used the illustration that a Dollar with \$.10 owing in interest is only worth \$.90. He stated that he prefers to keep a positive balance earning interest. He said that although the LMRFD isn't in that position yet, if consolidated with the NACFD it probably would not need to borrow for the slow times as NACFD has already saved the capital as part of their strategic plan to make their Dollar worth a Dollar.

7. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS for the agenda of the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District's next scheduled meeting and or a special meeting called by the administrator for the purpose of carrying out its powers and duties: **NONE**

8. ADJOURNMENT: Administrator John Flynn Adjourned the meeting at 2:11 P.M.
Adjourned to Executive session per A.R.S. 38-431.03A: NONE

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 1:30 P.M. at Station #41 located in Dolan Springs at 16126 Pierce Ferry Road, Dolan Springs, AZ 86441

Respectfully submitted by: John Flynn, Administrator