



Yucca Fire District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE YUCCA FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board of the Yucca Fire District met in regular session on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.** The meeting was held at the Yucca Fire Station #1 located at 12349 Frontage Road, Yucca, AZ 96438. The Board may vote to go into executive session on any agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) (3) for legal advice with the District's attorney on matters as set forth in the agenda item. Board members or other participants may attend by telephonic conference. The following topics and any variables thereto, will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items are set for possible action.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER.

- Chairman Knowles called the meeting to order at approximately 8:06 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.

- Clerk Kayla Carr, Director Jim Fox and Chairman Richard Knowles were present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Item 6A was taken out of order.

6. POSSIBLE VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. The Board of Directors may vote to go into Executive Session for legal advice pursuant to §A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and to direct legal counsel pursuant to §A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(4) on the matters of the feasibility study for consolidation with Golden Valley Fire District and resolution requesting consolidation.
 - Clerk Carr motioned to enter executive session pursuant to §A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and to direct legal counsel pursuant to §A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(4) regarding the feasibility study and consolidation with Golden Valley Fire District.

Executive Session began approximately 8:09 a.m.

Public Session reconvened approximately 8:30 a.m.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023
 - Clerk Carr motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Director Fox 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

5. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- A. September and October 2023 Operational Report. (Chief Cunningham)
 - Chief Cunningham reported the call summary for September and October was 6 calls. During the days the district was not staffed we had 4 fire calls. Golden Valley Fire responded to 3 calls and Desert Hills Fire responded to 1 call. During our staffed days we had 1 EMS call, 1 fire call.
- B. Fire Chief's Report. *The governing body may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on this matter unless the specific matter is described in detail. Therefore, action taken as a result of the Chief's 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.R.S. 38-431.02. K)*
 - Volunteer Report

- Volunteer training is happening again since the volunteers are back for the winter, we only have two volunteers, but they have been very active.
- District Properties
 - The water leak in the front office area was a clogged drain from the HVAC unit.
- Equipment
 - Firefighters have reported that scene lighting is needed on the apparatus. Staff will get this ordered.
 - We participated in the Veterans Day Parade and received a nice thank you note from the veterans.
- Thank you's
 - We have received a donation of \$100 from an anonymous donor.

6. BUSINESS. *Public wishing to speak on agenda items must complete a speaker card and present to the Board Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.*

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding: Review feasibility study and possible consolidation with Golden Valley Fire District; approval of resolution regarding same. (Cunningham)
- Chief Cunningham spoke about the feasibility study, this consolidation is more about convenience and service for the Yucca area than about savings. Clerk Carr asked if the staffing would change for Yucca. The Chief replied that we will be treating Yucca as a fire station for Golden Valley Fire District. When it is one district, we need to treat all the areas the same, the budget will dictate staffing. An example is the Northern Arizona Fire District merger, they merged a lot of smaller districts, and they don't staff all the areas. They can't staff them because there is not enough money to staff them. Golden Valley has entered into an IGA to service the Chloride area. As for Yucca, Golden Valley is responding now to calls. Expect for medical calls because this area is covered by AMR, they have the Certificate of Necessary (CON) for this area. Desert Hills Fire also responds to Yucca. This does not fall under mutual aid when the fire district is not staffed. Neither fire district has asked for compensation from Yucca for the services. We will try to staff Yucca as much as we can once the consolidation is complete. The staffing now is done with part time firefighters, I put out the calendar for the whole month and all the days are available. The firefighters sign up for the days that they can work, I need two firefighters to staff a day. The part time firefighters in Yucca that also work for Golden Valley will not be able to work part time after the consolidation. I am not going to promise that full staffing is going to happen immediately. The hiring process takes a long time and applicants are few. Chairman Knowles stated that it sounds like we are not going backwards from where we are now. I understand that staffing is based on money. The intention would be to have this fully staffed sometime in the future. This would come from gaining revenues from annexations and commercial contracts. The Chief answered, correct. I think the board would like some insurance that we are not going to go backwards. Granted Golden Valley is responding at no charge, and the response time is 20 minutes. Comptroller Kindelberger added that when the consolidation is complete any part time employee of Yucca that does not current work for Golden Valley would have to apply as a new employee with Golden Valley Fire. Clerk Carr stated that this resolution is just asking for the consolidation. Knowles stated that Yucca could pull out of the consolidation at any point of the process. The question was raised about the difference between a merger and a consolidation. In a merger the districts would be rebranded (new name) and the two boards would become one. Three board members would need to resign, one from Yucca and two from Golden Valley or vice versa. In a consolidation, the Golden Valley Fire name would remain, and the Yucca Board would go away. The Chairman asked how the board feels about that. Director Fox stated that he just wants to know that Yucca will have representation from this area. Knowles stated that there will be an election in November 2024 with three openings on the board and any Yucca citizen can run for the

board. Knowles asked the attorney if we can request that one or two board members from Yucca stay on the board until the next election. Attorney Whittington replied that the Arizona Statutes states that the Golden Valley board would sit until the next election. Knowles stated that this resolution requests that we move forward with a consolidation, we could change to a merger, not that I'm recommending that, but it is an option. Chairman asked the attorney to suggest a motion. Attorney Whittington suggested the motion of; Approve resolution #11-2023-01 calling for Golden Valley Fire District to consider a consolidation and consider calling for a public hearing in conjunction therewith. If you like that motion you may just motion, so moved.

- Clerk Carr motioned so moved. Director Fox 2nd. Discussion: Board had no discussion. Call for the vote; all in favor, motion carried.
- The attorney asked the chairman to allow any public present to speak. Citizen Karen Lampkin stated that there is already backlash that we are not a full-time fire department and homeowners' insurance policies are being canceled because we no longer have a full-time fire department. Chief Cunningham stated that you will still have a full-time fire department, it will just be Golden Valley and not Yucca, so nothing changes. Lampkin: They changed their parameters from 10 miles to 7 miles from a full-time fire department. The Chief stated that each insurance company makes their own rules. Even if it was volunteer stated it is still a station and that has not changed. Clerk Carr noted that we used to be Yucca Volunteer Fire Department, so I don't think we fell within the parameters of a full-time fire department. Lampkin: The insurance company considered it full time because we had a full time chief. Knowles: Insurance companies across the country are canceling people. This is just a way to cut their costs. Maybe a letter from our Chief describing what services Yucca Fire has and maybe that will be enough for the insurance company to reconsider.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of the September and October 2023 financial reports. (Administration)

- Comptroller Kindelberger stated the September and October income was \$84,994.11, expenses \$34,454.81. Bank balances ending October 31, 2023, warrant account \$257,414.23; payroll account \$8,187.32; retirement and pension account \$3,030.85. Total cash on hand \$286,632.40.
- Clerk Carr motioned the Board approve the financial reports as presented. Director Fox 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Discussion and possible action regarding: Discuss residential and commercial service contracts. (Knowles)

- Chairman Knowles stated that he has been talking to the fire chief about contracting with commercial properties outside of the district to draw in more funds. The new fuel station north of the district was annexed into the district. We talked about extending the radius to commercial properties. The Chief stated in Golden Valley we make sure that the property is accessible before offering to annex or enter into a service contract. A lot of these commercial businesses are self-insured and would rather not be in the fire district due to the cost. Our commercial contacts in Golden Valley are at about 70% of the tax if they were in the district. Some of our commercial contracts also donate each year to the district. Chairman Knowles noted that personal property is not going to be taxed any more so commercial properties will be paying less. I think a contract is the way to go. The chief stated that he has been in contact with the Proving Grounds since he took the chief's position. I don't know if we will ever get a contract with the Proving Grounds. They are self-insured, they do have a contract with AMR, but they have no fire protection. There is not a guarantee that they will ever want to contract with Yucca Fire. Knowles asked the Chief how many calls we do there. The Chief stated that since I've been the fire chief there was only one call that Chief Martin handled and at the time of that call, we did not have a fee schedule in place. Knowles

felt that a 5-mile radius would be enough to pick up any truck stops that may come in the future. The Chief agreed that any new commercial growth will be along the I-40.

- Chairman Knowles motioned to institute a radius of five miles outside the district boundaries for commercial contracts with the fire district. Director Fox 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

7. CALL TO THE PUBLIC. *Consideration and discussion of comments and complaints from the public. Those wishing to address the Yucca Fire District Board need not request permission in advance. The Fire District Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on any item raised in the call to the public, unless the item is specifically noticed for discussion or legal action. However, individual Board members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct that staff review the matter or that the matter be placed on a future agenda. The Fire District Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public that is not on the Agenda due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law.*

- None

8. ADJOURNMENT.

- Clerk Carr motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Fox 2nd. All in favor, motion carried. Chairman Knowles adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

MINUTES prepared by: Mindy Kindelberger

Date: 11/21/2023

By: 
Board Clerk, Kayla Carr

Approved: 01/16/2024