



SUNSTITES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT

SERVING RESIDENTS OF THE SUNSTITES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT,
AND NEIGHBORING COCHISE COUNTY

Mailing Address: PO Box 507, 105 TRACY ROAD PEARCE, AZ 85625
PHONE: (520) 826-3645; FAX: (520) 826-3586

Sunsites-Pearce Fire District Governing Board of Directors Meeting October 16, 2012

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Fino. There were no conflicts of interest to declare.
- II. **Roll Call** – Board Members present were:
 - Robert Fino
 - Candace Roll
 - Rebel Jones
 - Bill McCarter

Absent: Tim Heine, out of town
- III. **Conflicts of Interest:** None
- IV. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Fire Chief Paul Petersen led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. **Consent Agenda and Approval of Minutes** - A discussion was had regarding the approval of the September 18, 2012 Regular Meeting and the October 1, 2012 Special Meeting.

Ms. Roll made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2012 Regular Meeting and the October 1, 2012 Special Meeting. Mr. McCarter seconded the Motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Fino noted that the Minutes were becoming a little more thorough. Mr. Jones agreed that the Minutes were more thorough, but not thorough enough. It was his request that the Minutes be verbatim due to the fact that the recorded minutes would have to be transcribed after a five-year time period and it would be efficient to only do it once. Mr. Fino indicated that his comment was duly noted. Vote for approval of the August 21, 2012 Meeting: Ms. Roll, Mr. McCarter and Mr. Fino in favor. Opposed: Mr. Jones.
- VI. **Call to the Public:**

Cletus Frei spoke regarding his concerns as to the Chief assisting Palominas Fire Department on a contractual basis, indicating it was a conflict of interest. Mr. Frei expressed his opinion as to the in-house academy would not have the same accreditation for firefighters as that of

Cochise College. Lastly, Mr. Frei inquired why the damaged equipment was not sent to Sierra Vista for a bid or repairs.

Ms. Alice Haertsch inquired as to why the Agenda was not posted on the Website. The Board Members did not respond pursuant to the Open Meeting Law but explained that her question could not be answered at this time, but would be noted and answered at the next meeting.

Mrs. Louise Lance stated her thoughts regarding Chief Petersen assisting Palominas Fire.

VII. Reports

A. Fire Chief's Report was presented by Chief Paul Petersen.

Chief Petersen also indicated to the Board that the Physical Agility Testing had been completed, and we hosted a MAG 300/400 class with a great turnout. A HAZMAT Refresher class will be coming up at the end of October. Captain Tingle has been selected to sit on the Cochise County Wildland Response Committee, a new committee setup to track the available resources throughout the County as well as to develop a response list for out of area assignments.

Communications. Written questions were received from Alice Haertsch regarding the proposed fire academy.

(i) Question 1. Is a State Certified Program drawn up and approved?

Chief Petersen explained the State requirements as to the curriculum and the credentials of the instructors. He further explained that the proposed fire academy meets or exceeds the State requirements.

(ii) Question 2. Is Chief Petersen a Certified teacher? Where did he teach classes before?

Chief Petersen explained that he is a certified instructor and a certified adjunct instructor with the State of AZ as well as his other certifications and qualifications. In addition, Chief Petersen provided his prior instruction positions and locations. A copy Chief Petersen's credentials were available to the Public at the Meeting.

(iii) Liability-should any students get hurt while training there?

Chief Petersen explained that all students would be required to have a department sponsor prior to taking the fire academy and they would be covered under their sponsoring department's worker's compensation insurance policy. All students would also be covered under the SPFD's liability insurance. All employees, volunteers and students are covered by our liability policy at all times for training purposes regardless of location.

Prior to Chief Petersen closing his report and referring the additional questions to the Board, he indicated that SPFD fell short by 4 students of the 20 required to hold the academy, therefore it is not on the Agenda this month and more than likely SPFD won't be hosting the fire academy.

Additional discussion followed.

The final two questions were addressed to the Board Members:

(iv) Did anyone on the Fireboard checkout any information from other places, such as colleges, other fire departments, the State Fire Commission? If so, what did each member on the Fireboard find out?

Mr. Fino indicated all of the above items had been discussed at prior meetings to the Board's satisfaction.

(v) Does each Member of the Board honestly think this is a money maker and that it should be approved? Did each look into costs? Liability?

Mr. Fino explained that the Board did not think it would be a moneymaker and would only be a breakeven endeavor and an educational process.

No Further Discussion was had.

B. Financial Reports – due to a medical emergency, the bookkeeper/secretary was unable to attend the meeting. Therefore the financials were reviewed by the Chief and the Board and the remaining financial information will be tabled until next month's Regular Meeting. Discussion followed.

IX. Old Business - None

X. New Business – Address and Answer Questions Posed to the Board in Prior Meetings.

A. Ambulance Billing Rates. Chief Petersen explained that AZ BEMS sets the rates and how the rates are computed and how they vary. SPFD is the third lowest rate in the County at \$912.99 as a base rate. Chief Petersen also explained the rates or charges of ambulance services pursuant to ARS 36-2239, copies of which were provided to the public.

A discussion was also had regarding the ability of an individual to refuse ambulance or medical service, response times and billing procedures.

B. Fire Hydrants. A discussion was had regarding the water company fire hydrants and the maintenance thereof. Chief Petersen indicated that the fire hydrants were the property of a private water company. There is no maintenance program between the District and the water company, but one is anticipated in the near future, whereby SPFD can inspect and make sure the hydrants are working properly. Further discussion followed.

C. Richland Station. Chief Petersen indicated that the Richland Station is operational even though nonessential power has been shut off. It currently houses 1 ambulance, E-301 and T-303. The same maintenance schedule is followed on the Richland vehicles as those housed in the Sunsites station. A discussion was had regarding staffing the Richland Station on a part time and full time basis. Mr. Jones is requesting a cost benefit analysis of call volume. Further discussion followed.

D. Fire Chief's Salary. A discussion was had regarding the Chief's Contract and Salary for the month of August. Clarification was made that three pay periods occurred in August which had been misleading.

A review of the Call to the Public provisions was had as to answer the Public's inquiries as to why their questions cannot be answered at the time asked unless the item is listed on the Agenda pursuant to the Open Meeting Law.

XI. **Adjourn** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Schultz