

SUNSIDES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT



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

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Sunsites-Pearce Fire District Regular Meeting June 16, 2015

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert Fino.
2. **Roll Call**
 - A. **Attendance and Confirmation of Quorum.** Chairman Robert Fino, Clerk Joanna Baker, and Board Member Brian Allen were present. A quorum was present.
 - B. **Board Members Absent.** Board Member Jason Simmons.
 - C. **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest.** No Board Member declared a conflict of interest.
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance.** Interim Fire Chief Josh Steinberg led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Recognition of Guests** None at this time
5. **Consent Agenda**
 - A. **Approval of Warrant Reports** Board Member Baker made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Chairman Fino seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.
 - B. **Approval of Expense Reports** Board Member Baker made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Chairman Fino seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Approval of Minutes from the May 19, 2015 Regular Meeting.** Board Member Baker made a motion to approve the minutes; Chairman Fino seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.
7. **Call to Public.** Mr. Cletus Frei reiterated his opinion that Board Member Simmons and Board Member Allen should declare a conflict of interest due to being friends and classmates with Interim Fire Chief Steinberg. He also stated, again, that he feels the board has not spent any time reviewing the budget more in depth. Mr. Frei then went on to state that he feels Interim Fire Chief Steinberg is doing everything for himself and not a man of integrity.

After seeking permission from Chairman Fino, Interim Fire Chief Steinberg addressed Mr. Frei's criticism by stating his accusations are baseless, since he has no knowledge of how much time this board has spent on the budget. He told Mr. Frei that due to a large age gap, it's impossible for him and Board Member Allen to have been

classmates. He reminded Mr. Frei that he has always been able to come to the station with any questions, at any time. And when he has come to the station with questions, Interim Fire Chief Steinberg has always answered them to the best of his ability, and treated Mr. Frei with the upmost respect. Interim Fire Chief Steinberg stated his opposition to Mr. Frei's allegations and expressed his dedication and support to the district and employees of Sunsites-Pearce Fire.

Chairman Fino chose to respond to Mr. Cletus Frei's criticism regarding the board being unprepared for the budget. Chairman Fino stated Mr. Frei's opinion is totally inaccurate and informed Mr. Frei that he and the other board members have come prepared and have, in fact, spent a lot of time going over the details of the budget.

Mrs. Louise Lance inquired as to whether annexing the proposed area will have an impact on the ISO rating, and how many of those parcels we plan to annex are collecting taxes. She also spoke about the current ambulance rates. Mrs. Lance expressed her concern about the community being unable to withstand the tax rate increase and the ambulance rate increase.

8. Financial Reports. Mrs. Suprenant reviewed the May 2015 financial reports. See the attached financial reports.

A. Review, discuss, and possibly approve the financials for May 2015. Clerk

Baker made a motion that we approve the financial report; Board Member Allen seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

9. Fire Chief's Report The Fire Chief's Report was presented by Interim Fire Chief, Josh Steinberg. See the attached Fire Chief's Report.

10. Old Business

A. Review, discuss, and possibly modify the Out of District Fire Policy. Interim

Fire Chief Steinberg explained the current policy and billing procedure to the board. He also went over other fire districts billing rates in comparison to ours. Interim Fire Chief Steinberg answered clarifying questions from the board, and reviewed the slight modifications that would possibly be made in the future. Clerk Baker made a motion to table it until we get the modifications; Board Member Allen seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

11. New Business

A. Review, discuss, and possibly approve the Regular Meeting dates, times, and posting locations for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Interim Fire Chief Steinberg

and the board discussed the best time of day to have the meeting, the most convenient days, and the following posting locations: 1. 105 Tracy Rd, Pearce, AZ 85625 2. 107 N. Frontage Rd, Pearce, AZ 85625, and 3. 2093 N. Arabian Way, Cochise, AZ 85626. Chairman Fino made a motion to keep the dates as written, and keeping the meeting times as it is now, keeping the new posting location and continue to post at the produce wagon as a courtesy; Clerk Baker seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

B. Review, discuss, and possibly approve adopting the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget. Chairman Fino stated that the board has gone over the budget

several times. Clerk Baker added that we need a budget because all those items

and calls shown on the Fire Chief's Report cost money. Chairman Fino made a motion to approve the adopting of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget; Board Member Allen seconded the motion. Board members had further discussion, regarding the impact of the tax increase on homeowners. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

C. Review, discuss, and possibly approve hiring or appointing a Fire Chief and associated contract options.

Chairman Fino noted that Interim Fire Chief Steinberg was the only one who submitted a resume, and is very experienced with over two years of being the Interim Fire Chief. Clerk Baker agreed and stated she corresponded with the previous administrator, Mr. Tom Schelling, whose opinion was that Sunsites-Pearce Fire District wouldn't be here without Josh Steinberg. Board Member Allen added that he spoke with many of Mr. Steinberg's peers and other fire chief's, and they all spoke very highly of him and his qualifications. Chairman Fino made a motion to hire our Chief Josh Steinberg as our Fire Chief and use his current contract as a temporary contract until we can move to executive session to discuss further the contract with our attorney; Clerk Baker seconded the motion. Vote: all in favor, motion carried. The board members then welcomed and congratulated Chief Steinberg.

D. Review and discuss the letters of interest received for the vacant Fire Board position.

Chairman Fino noted that he had been in communication with three people, and encouraged them to submit a letter of interest, but no one has at that time.

E. Review, discuss, and possibly approve taking formal action to retrieve Sunsites-Pearce Fire District documents, records, and all associated issued items from Brian McClain.

After discussion, Chief Steinberg explained that the attorney advised the board to send a certified letter requesting Mr. McClain return the property, and continue from that point. Chairman Fino made a motion to move forward with the letter; there was further discussion, regarding the amount of time to allow. Chairman Fino then made an amended motion to draft a letter to Mr. McClain requesting the return of the items that belong to the district, within one week; Clerk Baker seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

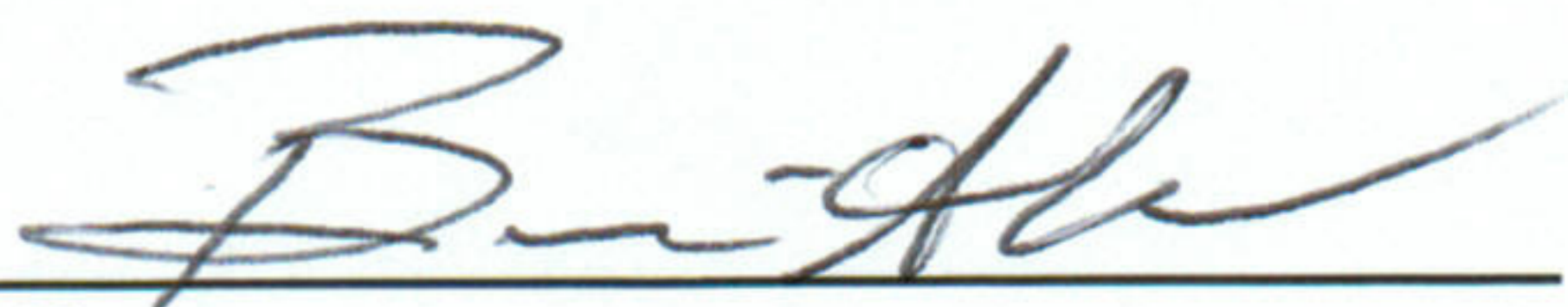
12. Requests from board members for future agenda items.

Chairman Fino requested that staff look into the annexation affecting the ISO rating and how many of those parcels are actually paying taxes.

13. Adjournment.

Chairman Fino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.; Clerk Baker seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Kelsi Suprenant

X 
Board Clerk
July 28, 2015