



SUNSTITES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT

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

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Sunsites-Pearce Fire District Public Hearing and Special Meeting November 15, 2016

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Robert Fino.

2. Roll Call

- A. **Attendance and Confirmation of Quorum** - Chairperson Robert Fino, Board Member Jessica Jones and Board Member Tom Whiteman were present. Chairperson Fino confirmed that a quorum was met.
- B. **Board Members Absent** - Board Member Brian Allen, Board Member Jason Simmons were absent.
- C. **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest** - No Board Member declared a conflict of interest.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance

- Fire Chief Josh Steinberg led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Hearing on Annexation:

Open Call to the Public for hearing comments on the "District Boundary Change Impact Statement and Proposed Annexation for the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District."

- A. Consideration and discussion of comments on the "District Boundary Change Impact Statement and Proposed Annexation for the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District." Those wishing to address the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District Board need not request permission in advance. The Fire District is permitted to discuss or possibly take action on the Annexation issue in the meeting following the Public Hearing.

Following is a summary of the questions and concerns expressed by public members present at the meeting and each was responded to and discussed by board members and Fire Chief:

Dan Evans:

- (1) Can residents "opt out" of the annexation? No, ARS requires that an annexation area be contiguous. Restructuring the boundaries to eliminate properties would require the process to restart.

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- (2) Perceptions of fire suppression efforts during a fire which took place several years ago were expressed. Has the fire district improved since that time? The Fire Department at the time of the incident in question was staffed by volunteers. Since that time, all firefighters are either full-time employees or reserves. Equipment has been updated as well.
- (3) Discussion of response/arrival time. Response times are documented, and discussion ensued regarding response times.
- (4) It was stated that public members present never voted for the Board Members, yet this board will be making the decision regarding the annexation proposal. Only persons living within the district are eligible to vote for the board members.

Dave Larson:

- (5) What has changed since the proposal was last presented that would make citizens be in favor of the annexation? The annexation process was tabled in November 2016 so that the board could determine how many of the owners of land within the proposed annexation area are in favor of the annexation.

Ed Arnold:

- (6) How many calls does the District responds to annually? The District responds to approximately 650 calls each year. There were 8 structure fires so far this year.
- (7) How many firefighters are employed and how well are they trained? The District employs seven full time, and 25 reserve firefighters. All are fully certified.

Jim Brower:

- (8) How did this process begin, specifically who made the initial request which started the process? Being a matter of public record, any member of the public may come to the District's administration office and view the poll results.
- (9) Several persons in attendance claimed to have never received a notice of the meeting. The mailing list was provided to the district by the Cochise County Assessor's Office. Board members were concerned that some of the people in attendance claim to have never received the mailings.

- B. Consideration of any comments from the County Board of Supervisors.** The Board of Supervisors had no comment.

Sunsites-Pearce Fire District is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

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5. Adjournment of the Public Hearing on the “District Boundary Change Impact Statement and Proposed Annexation for the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District.”.

Chairperson Fino asked for any further comments from the public and having none, he adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the “District Boundary Change Impact Statement and Proposed Annexation for the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District;”

Authorization to circulate Petitions. Following discussion, Chairperson Fino moved to approve the impact statement and authorize the circulation of petitions. There was no second to the motion – motion failed.

Board member Jones moved that the District Boundary Change Impact Statement and proposed annexation for the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District not be approved and the process be stopped. Chairperson Fino seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor - Chairperson Robert Fino, Board Member Tom Whiteman, Board Member Jessica Jones

Opposed – none

Motion carried

7. ADJOURNMENT. Chairperson Fino moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Whiteman seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor - Chairperson Robert Fino, Board Member Tom Whiteman, Board Member Jessica Jones

Opposed – none

Motion carried

Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lillian Reed