

# ARIZONA CITY FIRE DISTRICT

## REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

August 26, 2014

1. **Call to order**

Board Chairman Diane Wright called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. at the District's hall, located at 14022 S. Sunland Gin Road, Arizona City, AZ.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Chairman Wright led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Welcome to Guests**

Board Chairman Diane Wright welcomed the members of the Fire District and guests to the August 26, 2014 Board meeting.

Board members present: Board Chairman Diane Wright, Board Clerk Betty Harding, Board member Jim Leary, Board member Bill Bailey and new Board member Donna Wyatt.

Also present: Asst. Chief Jeremy Leary, Business Manager Hazel Corbin, Randy Wittenburg and Christina Reyes.

Public Present: Jennie Carlson, Gary Gogel, Dean Craun, Rod Crawford, John Trainor, Rodney Hass and Kayne Crison (AZ City Newspaper).

4. **Oath of Office** Donna Wyatt was given the Oath of Office for New Board Members by Asst. Chief Leary

5. **Fire Chief's Report**

A. Asst. Chief Leary reported that there had been more fire calls this past month and it is becoming a problem with people stopping and taking pictures before calling 911.

B. Asst. Chief Leary reported that we had received an updated copy of the contract from Verizon and there is just one (1) thing in question. When the contract is signed, the District will start receiving rent payment.

C. Asst. Chief Leary explained why the 2012 Code fees were not on the agenda. He stated that we need to wait and see if we are going to enter into a JPA or IGA. A JPA or IGA would impact the fee schedule that the District would use.

5. **Staff reports**

Asst. Chief reviewed the July 2014 month end reports for EMS calls and EMS/Fire response times.

6. **Correspondence**

The resignation from Safety Officer Dean Craun was presented. Asst. Chief Leary presented Safety Officer Craun with a Service Plaque for years served with the District.

7. **Consent Agenda**

Board member Jim Leary made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Board Clerk Harding then seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

8. **Call to the Public**

John Trainor spoke about the need for a Full Time Chief and how the money had been budgeted for a chief.

Jeannie Carlson also stated that she felt the District needed a Full Time Chief and that she doesn't want to do any type of joint contract with another District.

9. **Old Business:**

A. Discussion and possible action re: Resuming the process of hiring a full-time Chief. Board Chairman Wright explained that now that the Budget has been approved by the County, it is time to resume the process of hiring a full-time chief. Chairman Wright stated that it was not the Board's place to run the District and the District needs a Chief to oversee the District. Board member Bailey reminded the Board that the wages for a Chief had been set as \$65,000.00 to \$80,000.00 and not \$80,000.00. Board member Wyatt asked Asst. Chief how many hours a week he put in as Acting Chief. Asst. Chief Leary stated he worked an average of 20 hours per week. Board Chairman Wright made the motion to resume the process of hiring a full-time chief. Board member Wyatt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion did not pass with the count being YES-Wright and Wyatt NO-Bailey, Harding and Leary

10. **New Business**

A. Discussion and possible action re: Adoption of revised Holiday, Vacation and Sick Leave policy. After a short discussion, Board member Bailey made a motion to approve the adoption of the Holiday, Vacation and Sick Leave policy as presented by Staff. Board Clerk Harding 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The Business Manager was directed to contact the County Attorney for information on how to handle the vacation time for Business Manager Corbin.

B. Discussion and possible action re: A Cost of Living Increase and Merit Wages After a short discussion it was decided to vote on this as two separate items. Board Clerk Harding made a motion to give a \$1.00 raise across the board. Board member Bailey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

After Asst. Chief Leary explained Merit Wages, Board member Bailey made a motion to table the Merit Raise proposal until the next Board meeting. Board member Wyatt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote. YES – Bailey, Harding, Wyatt and Leary NO-Wright

C. Discussion and possible action re: DUI Policy After a short discussion, Board Chairman

Wright made a motion to accept the DUI Policy with the changes of the word "member" to "employee". Board Clerk Harding 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Discussion and possible action re: Reserve Position. After Asst. Chief Leary explained the need for a Reserve position, Board member Bailey made a motion to accept the position of Reserve Personnel. Board Clerk Harding 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Discussion and possible action re: The Hiring of a Part-Time Chief. After a short discussion, Board Clerk Harding made the motion to hire a Part-Time Chief. Board member Leary 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion did not pass, 2-3 vote YES-Harding and Leary NO-Wright, Wyatt and Bailey.

Board Chairman Wright called for a recess at 7:42 due to a fire truck needing to be moved. The meeting resumed at 7:48.

F. Discussion and possible action re: Having Acting Chief Leary meet with Chief Amerson of the Eloy Fire District regarding an IGA for Chief Officer Assistance. Board member Bailey pulled this item from the agenda for lack of information. Chairman Wright, on behalf of the Board, directed staff to develop a list of what the District would need and want in an IGA. Staff was directed to have this list available at the next regular meeting on September 17, 2014.

**11. Next Meeting Date**

Regular Business meeting will be September 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.


**12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**

Board Chairman Wright asked that the items for Sept 17, 2014 agenda please be given to the Business Manager by Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

**13. Adjournment**

Thereafter, Chairman Diane Wright adjourned the public session at approximately 7:54p.m.

Date approved: 9-17-2014

  
Betty Harding  
Board Clerk