



MEETING MINUTES

The Fire Board of the Rio Rico Medical and Fire District (RRMFD) met in regular session on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Rio Rico Medical and Fire District administrative office, 822 Pendleton Drive, Rio Rico, AZ.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Meeting is being recorded
- Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Hank Thysell

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.

- Present: Brad Beach, Michael Carlson and Hank Thysell
- Absent: Frank Bejarano and Dora Urias

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

5. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of minutes

i. Regular Session of February 28, 2024

- Motion to approve the minutes of the regular session of February 28, 2024 made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Correspondence

- Certificate of Appreciation received from Pima Community College for participation at the Santa Cruz County College Fair 2024 – Firefighters Gilbert Cota and Daniel Dominguez

MOVED TO OLD BUSINESS 7. d.

b. Fire Chief's Report

- Fire Chief power point report presented by Chief Adam Amezaga. Copy of report on file and posted on the District website
- i. Emergency calls summary
- ii. Operational
 1. Equipment, vehicle, station
 2. Training
 3. Operations
 - Michael Carlson attended the PSPRS Annual Conference in Glendale. Consistent with previous conferences covering essentials; reporting, benefits, and upcoming changes – good refresher. All sessions were presented to all attendees together except for one – Michael Carlson and Charles Bradley attended the financial session. Investments and

returns doing quite well; have exceeded target and are on track with ten year moving average. Michael Carlson noted some of the larger districts have taken out bonds to pay their unfunded liability. RRMFD's liability is very small; at 97% funded would like to try and get to 110% funded. Fire Districts are one of the few left who have a pension. PSPRS has been recognized for some of the best performing portfolios. Eva Barreda noted the reporting of contributions to PSPRS is going through a transition and RRMFD has been working closely with PSPRS in testing and submitting files through bi weekly zoom meetings

c. Fire Marshal Report

- Fire Marshal power point report presented by Fire Marshal George Cluff. Copy of report on file and posted on the District Website
- Fire Marshal Cluff noted there have been tankers parked and transferring fuel in areas without permits. Notice to stop given out by county but no enforcement has been made. Fire Marshal Cluff documenting situation should a problem arise.

d. Fire Board Member Report

- Michael Carlson discussed lunch with Chief Amezaga and Senator Gabaldon regarding issues small fire districts face. She followed up with a phone call today with a legislative liaison to make sure RRMFD is heard. Senator Gabaldon is excited to be an advocate with SCC and RRMFD and connecting with the governor's office. Will continue with legislative efforts.
- Brad Beach congratulated Maribel Pesqueira on her 15th anniversary with RRMFD and thanked her for being a dedicated employee
- Chief Amezaga informed the Board he has received the renewal for the Cooperative Agreement for Wildland. Previously signed for two years, this agreement is for five years
- Hank Thysell commented on attending the NSFD Board meeting and noted Louis Chaboya had received the required number of signatures for the Las Colinas absorption, corrected areas of boundaries and all has been completed-next step consolidation. Also noted the two NSFD fire stations are on leased property, may want to consider doing away with one station as maintenance for both properties will be an expense.

e. Financial Report

i. Presentation of Financial Reports up to February, 2024

- Financial Reports presented by Ana Holman
- Two Board seats up for election – Dora Urias and Hank Thysell. Reviewed election timeline
- Dee Soto is RRMFD's new ambulance coder! RRMFD now has three coders.
- Reviewed information regarding cyberattack with Change Healthcare from February 21, 2024. Approximately 15% of systems are back up and running, but RRMFD is still unable to submit claims to receive payments. Have submitted paper bills where available, but incoming payments are very slow.
- Michael Carlson noted we may have to potentially do calculating for shortfall for budgeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion, review and update re: Burn Tower Training Facility for Station 2

i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the Burn Tower Training Facility for Station 2.

- Met to review options; fair and consistent with what we want, total cost from purchasing to the building of the tower is still pending. Through the Senators office, there may be an outside funding source available to pay for the tower.

b. Discussion, and possible action re: Approval for proposed installation costs of the BlueStar Power

System Industrial Outdoor Generator for Station 1, currently \$29,582.86, subject to change.

- i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the installation of a BlueStar Power System Industrial Outdoor Generator for Station 1
 - Generator is in Tucson; bracket has been installed, working on connecting electric and propane. Chief Amezaga would like the Board to approve current value with a variance to continue with this project.
 - Motion to approve the proposed installation costs of the BlueStar Power System Industrial Outdoor Generator for Station 1, currently at \$29,583 and recommend a 15% variance opportunity made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- c. Discussion re: AF Grants submitted to purchase Type 1 Fire Truck. Updating Grant value to \$951,488.57; 5% match by District \$47,574.43
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion and action related to submission of AF Grants and District 5% matching expense – prior motion was to approve 5% match for total submission using \$638,000 as a value. Updating grant value and 5% match value
 - Chief Amezaga noted RRMFD did not qualify for the Type 1/Type 3, need to submit for Type 1 at \$47,574.43
 - No action required as the original motion was to approve 5% match for total submission. Original amount used for was \$638,000 but submitted amount was \$951,488.57 changing 5% match to \$47,574.43. This is to update Board with correct submission amount and 4% match.
- d. Discussion, update and possible action re: Sale of .07 acres per Exhibit A legal description of property adjacent to Pendleton Dr., Station 3 to Unisource (TEP). Mr. Doyle Hawkins will provide the Board with information on the proposed sale to TEP
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to sale of .07 acres adjacent to Pendleton Dr., Station 3 to Unisource (TEP)
 - Mr. Hawkins noted the survey work has been completed and the offer package has been submitted to Chief Amezaga. Noted the wording “sale” is incorrect; only want to secure easement rights through purchase; no ownership change; restriction of easement would be no permanent structures, no land disturbance only overhead wires no lower than 39.3 feet. Third party appraisal was done to determine price and will entertain reasonable counter offers.
 - Board members questioned:
 - set back from easement as opposed to property line. Mr. Hawkins noted he would verify but believes there would be no need to move current fencing.
 - Voltage and noise level of transmission line. Noise level should cause no disturbance.
 - Lease availability. No lease available
 - Easement does allow for ground disturbance should the future bring underground Wiring
 - Interference with radio and wireless communications. Should not be affected but Mr. Hawkins will verify.
 - No common ground reached – Unisource/TEP has the right to take legal steps (A.R.S. 12-111)
 - Chief Amezaga asked Mr. Hawkins to the meeting to answer questions but does not want action taken on this matter at this time. Mr. Hawkins noted we are at a point where time

is becoming important

- Item tabled until next meeting

RETURNED TO REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE 6. b.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of financial reports for February 2024.
 - Motion to approve financial reports for February 2024 made by Brad Beach, second by Michael Carlson
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- b. Discussion and possible action re: IRS Form 2848 Power of Attorney for Ana Holman to access and speak with the IRS.
 - Ana Holman noted a letter was received stating a form was not received. Ana attempted to contact IRS regarding receipt of form 941 who would not give any information without a POA.
 - Motion to approve for Ana Holman to access and speak with the IRS using IRS Form 2848 as the Power of Attorney document made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

9. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Next Board Meeting April 24, 2024 5:30 p.m.
 - Painting of Frank's truck – prison system now doing wrapping. Capital expenditure
 - Unisource right of easement
 - Consolidation of NSFD/RRMFD
 - Pierson High School looking for teacher for Fire Service class

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m. by Hank Thysell

Dated this 24 day of April, 2024.

Rio Rico Medical & Fire District Elected Official

Hank Thysell,  Clerk of the Board