



MEETING MINUTES

The Fire Board of the Rio Rico Medical and Fire District (RRMFD) met in regular session on Wednesday, January 3, 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 Brad Beach
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS
 - Present: Brad Beach, Michael Carlson, Hank Thysell and Dora Urias
 - Absent: Frank Bejarano
4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC
 - None
5. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Approval of minutes
 - i. Regular Session and Executive Session of November 29, 2023
 - Motion to approve the Regular Session and Executive Session minutes of November 29, 2023 made by Michael Carlson, second by Hank Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:
 - a. Badge Pinning
 - Brief bio and introduction given by Deputy Chief Urbanski before introducing Captain Daniel Acedo who was pinned by his Jackie. Captain Acedo spoke briefly thanking all for the opportunity, their mentoring and support.
 - b. Correspondence
 - Message received through social media from rockyel9, “who ever you are that saved my sons life I love u guys”. Gilbert Cota and Luis Echeverria were the responders on this call.
 - c. 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
 4. Personnel
 - d. 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
- e. Fire Board Member Report
- Michael Carlson stated he is receiving Senator Sinema's grant report list. Also noted he had written Governor Hobbs regarding the cost imposed for smaller districts for the newly mandated GPS tracking. She responded stating he should contact his Senators. He previously had spoken with Representative Stephanie Stall Hamilton regarding the opportunity to possibly hire Mexican nationals as firefighters and was informed there is some progress being made. He is hoping to meet with her in the near future.
 - Hank Thysell attended the NSFD meeting noting all signatures have been completed and information has been submitted to the county. I will take approximately 5-6 weeks to complete process.
 - Dora Urias had contacted Chief Amezaga the first part of December as she was not feeling well and wanted to drive to the station to be checked. Chief Amezaga sent a crew to her home to check her out, they were very professional and she wanted to say thank you to the Chief and the crew, Jose Trevino and Chris Parra.
 - Ana Holman noted one of her neighbors had a medical issue and our crew stayed with him for a few hours to make sure all was well and even contacted the neighbors to ask them to check on the gentleman.
 - Brad Beach commented it has been a very productive year for RRMFD – events, trainings and community involvement. Knows it is a great deal of work and commends everyone for the commitment. Also noted his son-in-law woke up with AFIB December 26th, Brad's son, who is a paramedic, checked him and suggested he get more attention. Brad took him to Station 2, where Captain Acedo took over eventually transporting him to Holy Cross and Tucson. Treated with utmost professionalism.
- f. Financial Report
- i. Presentation of Financial Reports up to November 30, 2023
- Report presented by Ana Holman
 - Grant income adjusted per auditors to fiscal year 2023 (adjusted from 2024)
 - PSPRS actuarial report has been received – new rate is a little bit lower

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action re: Election of Chair and Clerk of the Board for one-year term
- i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the Election of Chair and Clerk of the Board for one-year term
- Brad Beach noted in years past the pattern was to rotate rolls to give everyone an opportunity. If uncomfortable with nomination, you can decline. We have an experienced Board who will assist and give support. Chief Amezaga noted rotation for Chair would fall to Dora Urias. Brad Beach stated history would be made as she would be the first female Chair of the Board.
 - Motion to appoint Dora Urias as Chair for the RRMFD Board made by Brad Beach, second by Michael Carlson
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
 - Motion to nominate Hank Thysell as Clerk for the RRMFD Board made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

- b. Discussion, review, update and possible action re: CAD and AVL mapping for tracking of ambulances
- i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to CAD and AVL mapping for tracking of ambulances.
- Chief Amezaga noted mapping for tracking was mandated by the state. He submitted request for a waiver which was granted; however, RRMFD will need to meet reporting and tracking obligations (implemented through First Due) but will have a one year waiver for the equipment.
 - Michael Carlson touched on prior discussions regarding working with other districts for possible reduction in costs of equipment. Chief Amezaga said Tubac has the equipment ordered, will set up and be the test group for our area. Chief Amezaga and Sonoita Fire are hesitant and not comfortable with the county as promises are made but not always kept and are requesting licensing for security measures (to be managed by the county). Would like to submit for a grant through the Department of Forest and Fire Management. Chief Amezaga has found a grant writer he would like to use for this project. Would like the Board to give Chief Amezaga the authority to move forward with grant opportunities.
 - Motion to give Chief the authority to move forward with any grant opportunities with Respect to CAD and AVL mapping made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of financial reports for November, 2023.
- Motion to approve financial reports of November 2023 made by Michael Carlson, second by Hank Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- b. Discussion and possible action re: Ambulance repair per proposal
- Frank Granados updated the Board regarding 2019 transit #5322 which is in need of an engine and a transmission. Quoted a year ago however no engines are now available. Mechanic can purchase a long block (engine block with all rotating assemblies) and new set of heads – cost to build motor for the long block is \$8,000, labor to put it all together is \$3,500. Engine will have a two year unlimited mileage warranty (averaging 80,000/year). New transmission is \$4,000 for a total of \$15,500. Transmission will have a three year unlimited mileage warranty. Turn around time is three weeks.
 - Michael Carlson noted during the budget meetings there was discussion regarding replacing engines and transmissions on the transits rather than replacing the transits, approximately every three years or so which would make this repair in line with what the committee talked about. This is a great opportunity to test the theory from the budget committee.
 - Hank Thysell asked if there were any value to the engine block. Frank said it possibly could however, if it were salvageable, it would have been repaired rather than replaced, tests show it has master cylinder damage.
 - Brad Beach said looking forward, it makes sense to nickel and dime the vehicles to death to get the most mileage out of them, moving forward are we looking at doing this more often. Chief Amezaga stated this would be our test – currently, a new ambulance is \$97,000 with a two year wait. Frank noted this vehicle is a gas vehicle which does not have eco boost; new units have eco boost. Will put in new budget for secondary external transmission oil coolers to help keep

transmissions cooled to last longer. Have sprinters 11 years old with 350,000 miles still on the road – testament to our maintenance program.

- Since it was part of the strategy for us, motion to approve the \$15,500 plus a variance not to exceed 15% to replace the engine and transmission for the 2019 Ford Transit #5322 made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
 - Ana Holman mentioned built into the budget, income less expenses, is \$119,000 the Board is heading toward that. Funding will come from the Capital Replacement account now and will be replaced at a later date.
 - Michael Carlson noted he has had the opportunity to go on ride-a-longs and the driving styles are very different with a patient in the vehicle. Suggested encouraging drivers to drive back the same way they drove up.
- c. Discussion, review and possible action re: Nomination/Designation of PSPRS Local Board Chairman
- Michael Carlson noted unless the Chair delegates someone, they would be the Local Board Chair for PSPRS
 - Chief Amezaga explained what PSPRS is and what the Board responsibilities were.
 - Dora Urias appointed Michael Carlson as the PSPRS Local Board Chairman for 2024

9. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Next Board Meeting January 31, 2024 5:30 p.m.
- Eva Barreda requested revisiting COVID policy wording
 - Michael Carlson requested an update on the Training Center
 - Employee Posada being held January 27, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Station 2. Board members plus one are invited to join us. Donations welcome for raffle items for employees.
 - Photographer will be at Station 2 Friday the 5th from 10-12 for pictures if available.
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m. by Dora Urias, Chair

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Rio Rico Medical & Fire District Elected Official

Hank Thysell,  Clerk of the Board