

TIMBER MESA FIRE AND MEDICAL DISTRICT

The regular session of the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District was convened October 22, 2018 at approximately 6:00 pm at the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District Administration Building, located at 3561 East Deuce of Clubs, Show Low, AZ 85901.

BOARD MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Amy Kay called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS** – Board Chair Amy Kay, Board Clerk Ed Lindquist, Member Dennis Hughes and Member Paul Wyatt were present, and Member Lynn Browne-Wagner telephonically.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Special Session of October 3, 2018
Member Dennis Hughes made a motion to approve the special session minutes from the October 3, 2018, and Clerk Ed Lindquist seconded the motion with the change. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.
5. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**
6. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A. Fire Board Report
Member Dennis Hughes stated he appreciated all those who showed up for the meeting, and is looking forward to hearing from them.
 - B. Fire Chief's Report
Chief Savage reported that he had been asked to apply to be a member of the Governor's review committee for the Arizona Public Safety Award of Valor, and has been selected. He will sit as the fire service representative on that committee.
 - C. Operations, Medical Service and Training Report
Member Dennis Hughes expressed appreciation for the TMFMD participation in the MDA at Walmart and Safeway in Pinetop.
 - D. Logistics, Support Services and Fleet Maintenance Report
 - E. Prevention and Community Risk Reduction Report
7. **ANNOUCEMENTS**

8. BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Possible Action: September 2018 financial report

Gabe Buldra, Finance Director for TMFMD, James Vincent Group, stated that there will be a final determination on the CAF financial report. He also stated that the audit was performed in September and everything went smooth with no findings. Beach Fleischman will present the audit report at the November 2018 Board Meeting.

Mr. Buldra referred the Board Members to the September 2018 Financial Report in their packets. He discussed key points of the report, which included revenues and expenditures.

Chair Amy Kay made a motion to approve the financial reports for the month of September 2018 as presented, and Member Dennis Hughes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

B. Public Hearing – Pursuant to A.R.S. 48-822 (C) (4) the Governing Board of the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District shall consider the comments of the Navajo County Board of Supervisors, hear those person who appear for or against the proposed consolidation of the White Mountain Lake Fire District into the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District, and determine whether the consolidation will promote the public health, comfort, convenience, necessity or welfare.

Chair Amy Kay called the public hearing to order at 6:18 PM.

Those who gave input to the Board concerning the proposed consolidation with White Mountain Lake Fire District:

John Beeler-He has read the Feasibility Study and been to White Mountain Lake Fire district to ask the opinions of some of the residents. His concerns are: water supply, fire wise safety, dirt roads, apparatus, and the WMLFD building. Mr. Beeler is against the consolidation.

Carole Miller-She is a past member of the WMFD Fire Board and is in support of the consolidation, she feels this would be an improvement for the WMLFD with less cost to the taxpayers.

Rose Thomas-She stated that EMS service is a high priority and that TMFMD would bring improved services.

Alex Shaffer-She stated that WMLFD depend on medical services and checking of the fire hydrants to make sure they work. She, as a resident and a Board Member support this action of consolidation.

Lyn Misener-She supports the consolidation, as 80% of their calls are medical calls, and WMLFD needs TMFMD services.

Lee Johns-She stated that WMLFD rely on the fire department to be nearby for medical calls. She supports the consolidation, and hopes there will be enough coverage at all times.

Tony Cass-He feels the consolidation is a great asset to the WMLFD community and that medical services are very important. He stated that the WMLFD has done a job thus far and he is very proud of the firefighters there.

Roy Loeffler-There have been ups and downs at the WMLFD and he thanked TMFMD for backing them up in time of need. There are great personnel at WMLFD however the district needs help. Please take it!

William Yenawine-He is a resident of Timberland Acres in Linden. He has had some concerns with some of the issues he's read in the newspaper. He recommended that TMFMD know what they are getting into and how to deal with those issues.

He neither supports nor is against the consolidation.

Chair Amy Kay asked for a show of hands that were in support of the consolidation and the majority were in favor.

John Flynn, White Mountain Lake Administrator, stated there have been issues and those issues are resolved. He stated that all the WMLFD employees have been invited to stay with TMFMD. Through the Budget process and study, it proved that WMLFD would run in a deficit. With consolidation, he stated that services would improve with 24 hour service and improved response time. There will be a Captain and Driver qualified firefighter (Paramedic and an EMT/FF) on duty 24/7 with an ambulance. That will make a difference in saving lives. Member Dennis Hughes asked Mr. Flynn to describe the process of consolidation. Mr. Hughes stated they were a public service board and his decision would be that of the most good to the community.

Mr. Flynn described the process of consolidation.

Member Paul Wyatt appreciates Mr. Flynn's efforts. He is aware of the infrastructure. As for the consolidated tax rate, he asked if it was viable. Mr. Flynn stated it is very close, as there is a lower assessed evaluation in WMLFD. Member Paul Wyatt would not like to see the TMFMD tax rate go up with this consolidation. He also asked Chief Chevalier about how many years of use does the apparatus have left. Chief Chevalier stated the 2007 Type 3 is in pretty good condition, and should have another 10 years. The water tenders are getting old, and there are some staff vehicles that may need to be in surplus because there is no need for them. He asked Chief Savage what upgrades will need to be made in the next several years, and what plans are being made. Chief Savage stated this was in the Feasibility Study and a Type 1 ambulance will be a necessity and will be put at WMLFD but will deplete reserve ambulances in the District. This ambulance is planned for in the Strategic Plan/replacement plan for TMFMD with or without consolidation. Mr. Wyatt asked if the revenues from WMLFD would support that. Chief Savage stated the revenues with ongoing operations from WMFMD will support that without hurting the District. Mr. Wyatt stated he would like to help the residents of WMLFD.

Member Dennis Hughes stated, as a follow up from Member Paul Wyatt, that there are 2 fundamental issues, taking care of the citizens and the other protecting the tax rate of the existing District. TMFMD is at 2.99 and the Feasibility Study showed a reduction in the tax rate in the next 5 years with consolidation. Chief Savage stated TMFMD has been planning long term with tax rate and projected revenues. This year TMFMD has leveled off in the tax rate, and has projected a decline in the next budget year because of the recovering economy. That would be the same trend with WMLFD.

Chair Amy Kay asked Mr. Beeler if he would like to ask any questions or had any other comments. Mr. Beeler stated there are lots of problems at WMLFD and he was concerned for the taxpayers.

Clerk Ed Lindquist added that the projected tax rate from the initial merger was to be at 3.07 in the current year, and the District has tried hard to keep it under 3.00, and to still give the citizens the service they come to expect. The District has done a great job in that respect. He stated that TMFMD has the resources for the fire wise program, and could make a difference at WMLFD.

Gabe Buldra, Finance Director for TMFMD, felt it important to note that after merger the tax rate went down. He explained the process of establishing the tax rate along with the assessed evaluation.

Chair Amy Kay felt that changes have been made with TMFMD through education and the tools for those changes, as will be the same with WMLFD.

The public hearing closed at 7:18 PM.

- C. **Discussion and possible action –Pursuant to A.R.S. 48-822 (C) (8) acceptance by the Governing Board of the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District of resolutions from the City of Show Low and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside endorsing the proposed consolidation of the White Mountain Lake Fire District into the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District.**

As part of the State Statues concerning fire district consolidation it is necessary for the fire district that covers any part of a city or town to receive a resolution from that city or town endorsing the consolidation. There are two different municipalities, the City of Show Low and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, therefore it was necessary to have each of those councils adopt a resolution endorsing the consolidation. TMFMD has worked with the staff from both municipal governments and presented information (the feasibility study) to each council. Their concern was that the taxpayers currently with the TMFMD would not be injured as a result of the proposed consolidation. It was assured to them that they would not. Copies of those resolutions were in the Board packets.

Member Dennis Hughes made a motion to accept the resolutions from the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside and the City of Show Low which indicate that pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute, State Statute 48-822 (C) (8), each municipal government served by the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District endorses the proposed consolidation with the White Mountain Lake Fire District, and Clerk Ed Lindquist seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

- D. **Discussion and possible action-Pursuant to A.R.S. 48-822 (F): Resolution #2018-6, a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District approving consolidation with the White Mountain Lake Fire District by unanimous consent and determining that the consolidation would promote the public health, comfort, convenience, necessity or welfare.**

Copies of Resolution #2018-6 were in the Board Packets. This resolution was prepared by Mr. Whittington, Legal Counsel, which approves the consolidation of the White Mountain Lake Fire District into Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District. This resolution, if passed by unanimous consent of the Board would signal the Navajo County Board of Supervisors and the White Mountain Lake Fire District that Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District intend to consolidate. This would not be the last step in the process.

This resolution, once approved, would be transmitted to White Mountain Lake Fire District and the Navajo County Board of Supervisors. The County Board of Supervisors will consider this issue at their October 23, 2018 meeting and will give direction to the appointed administrator of the White Mountain Lake Fire District. If the direction is to consolidate the Districts, the administrator will proceed with a similar resolution that will then be sent back to TMFMD. The TMFMD Board will then need to convene once again to approve a resolution which declares the Districts consolidated.

Chair Amy Kay made a motion to adopt Resolution #2018-6 approving the consolidation of the White Mountain Lake Fire District into the Timber Mesa Fire And Medical District by unanimous consent pursuant to A.R.S State Statute 48-822 (F); having determined that the consolidation would promote the public health, comfort, convenience, necessity or welfare, and Member Dennis Hughes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

- E. Discussion and possible action –Consideration of purchase offer for real property located at North 41st Avenue in Show Low, Arizona (Fairway Park Center Lot 15). The Board may vote to go into executive session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (3) for legal advice, (A) (4) for instructions to legal counsel, or (A) (7) for discussions or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representative regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real property. Member Dennis Hughes made a motion to go into executive session under (A) (7) in order to review the purchase offers with the agent and direct agent on how to proceed in response to any buyer, and Clerk Ed Lindquist seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The Executive Session convened at 7:34 P.M.
The Regular Session Resumed at 8:00 P.M.

Chair Amy Kay made a motion to accept the purchase offer from Thomas T. White and Crystal White for the purchase of the property located at North 41st Avenue in Show Low, Arizona, subject to the inclusion of 38.511 language recommended by legal counsel further directing the real estate agent to proceed as otherwise instructed in executive session as it relates to the real property and Member Dennis Hughes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

9. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

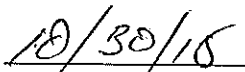
Audit update with WMLD
Approved Executive Minutes from October 3, 2018

10. ADJOURNMENT

Thereafter, Chair Amy Kay declared the public session adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.



Board Clerk



Date