



TIMBER MESA FIRE AND MEDICAL DISTRICT

The regular session of the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District was convened May 27, 2020 at approximately 3:00 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** Board Chair Paul Wyatt called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS** – Chair Paul Wyatt, Clerk Dennis Hughes, Member Ed Lindquist, Member Amy Kay and Member Lynn Browne-Wagner were present.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Regular Session of April 27, 2020

Member Lynn Browne-Wagner motioned to approve the Regular Session minutes from April 27, 2020 as written, and Clerk Dennis Hughes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

5. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**
None
6. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A. Fire Board Report – none.
 - B. Fire Chief's Report – Report included in the packet. Clerk Denis Hughes commented on the Citizens Advisory Committee.
 - C. Operations, Medical Services and Training Report – Report included in the packet.
 - D. Logistic, Support Services and Fleet Maintenance report – Report included in the packet.
 - E. Prevention and Community Risk Reduction report – Report included in the packet. Burn permits are continuing to be issued as there are currently no restrictions in the Fire District's boundaries.
7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Thank you note from community member
July 2020 AFDA/AFCA conference has been canceled
8. **BUSINESS**
 - A. **Discussion and Possible Action: April 2020 Financial Report**
Gabe Buldra, Principal for James Vincent Group, referred the Board to the April 2020 Financial Report in the packets. Mr. Buldra discussed the Key Points of the report, which included Revenues and Expenditures for the month of April. The revenue for the month of April was \$1,631.557 which was

\$253,603 under budget. The expenses for the month of April total \$834,306 which was under budget by \$1,222. Mr. Buldra pointed out that a lease payment was made in April and Managerial was over budget due to legal expenses. Year-to-date revenues are \$10,046,829 which is under budget by \$485,209. Year-to-date expenses are \$9,334,726 which is over budget by \$29,919. Clerk Dennis Hughes stated that the District is slightly over budget but would like to commend Chief and Staff for holding the line on the budget given that there have been additional expenses due to COVID-19.

Member Amy Kay moved to approve the financial reports for the month of April 2020 as presented, and Member Lynn Browne-Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Discussion and possible Action: Report from Board Clerk concerning phone conversation with City of Show Low Mayor Seymore re: intergovernmental agreement and airport services

Clerk Dennis Hughes has nothing to report as the IGA will be discussed.

C. Discussion and possible Action: Report from Board Member Lynn Browne-Wagner concerning paramedic training programs at Northland Pioneer College

Member Lynn Browne-Wagner had nothing to report at this time.

D. Discussion and Possible Action: Fire District's formal opposition to Arrowhead Mobile Healthcare (Show Low EMS) application to the Arizona Department of Health Services to increase ambulance transportation rates by 41%

The floor was turned over to Chief Savage. He referred the Board to SLEMS application that was submitted to the Department of Health Services to increase their rates by 41%. He stated that the increase in rates are absurd and not good for the citizens of the community. Citizens are not aware of the application nor do they have the means to intervene in this complex matter. The White Mountain Firefighters Association sent a letter to the newspaper regarding the application for a rate increase. Discussion ensued regarding other ways to inform the public. Chief Savage stated that he had consulted with the Board Chair in regard to contacting Mr. Pat McGroder III (one of the attorneys in the original CON case) for his legal services. Mr. McGroder has agreed to take the case on a pro bono basis. Chair Paul Wyatt asked if a hearing date has been set. Chief Savage stated that there is not a date set yet. Clerk Dennis Hughes asked if SLEMS had acquired property. Chief Savage stated yes and gave the location. Discussion ensued regarding the denial to intervene and the next step of filing a special order. Clerk Dennis Hughes asked about the timing of hearing and Chief Savage responded that the Director of Health Services would have to agree on a date.

Clerk Dennis Hughes moved that we authorize the Fire Chief to continue the District's intervention and opposition to the SLEMS rate increase, and Member Lynn Browne-Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

E. Discussion and Possible Action: Resolution #2020-0527 authorizing the Fire District's participation in the Arizona Fire District's Workers Compensation Pool

The floor was turned over to Chief Savage. He referred the Board to documents included in the packet. He gave information on the work that has been done to form a fire districts worker compensation pool. 7710 Insurance is the current provider for Timber Mesa Fire and has been a decent company to work with. He referred to the Presumptive Cancer Bill that 7710 Insurance said if passed would increase rates significantly. The bill died as a result of the legislature closing because of COVID but would be back next year. The Fire Districts Workers Compensation Pool is a way to contain costs and do what is best for employees. The Pool is owned, operated and governed by Arizona Fire Districts and would be professionally managed by Ashton Tiffany. With a move to the AZ Fire Districts Workers Compensation

Pool, Timber Mesa Fire would be provided with better service and stability. This item has been included in the tentative budget for consideration. Clerk Dennis Hughes asked if there would be an initial impact to employees. Chief Savage responded he didn't believe there would be any impact to employees. He explained that the Pool would be self-funded and capitalized in the first 4 years. Mr. Buldra stated that James Vincent Group has been involved with the discussion of the workers compensation pool and 7710 Insurance. He stated that with the Pool there is the potential for long-term sustainability and with a commercial workers compensation carrier there will be fluctuations. He stated that there are risks involved with self-funding but that the benefits out way the risks. Local Chapter Vice President Taber Heisler was asked if there were any concerns to employees. He said the employees would like to see long-term sustainability and liked that the Pool would be managed by Arizona Fire Districts and that the profits would be rolled back into the Pool.

Member Lynn Browne-Wagner moved that we approve resolution #2020-0527 to participate in the Arizona Fire Districts Workers Compensation Pool (Securis insurance Pool, Inc) and authorize the Fire Chief to execute all documents necessary thereto, and Member Ed Lindquist seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

- F. Discussion and possible Action: Tentative Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Fire District Budget**
Chief Savage referred the Board to the draft budget in the packet. This includes the revenue for Airport Services. The highlights include the increase to the District's contribution to financial reserves, maximized non-tax revenues, provide 3% merit increase to eligible employees, maintained employee benefits, change to AZ Fire Districts Workers Compensation Pool, funding for Opticom traffic preemption system, additional employees to staff Rescue 14, provide oversight of administrative services and meet the workload demands in Fire Prevention and Fleet, and increased the District's contribution to financial reserves to \$1M. We have been very responsible in budgeting and finances and continue to provide excellent service at a responsible rate to the citizens.

Clerk Dennis Hughes moved that we tentatively approve the fiscal year 2020-21 Fire District budget in the amount of \$13,088,506 and direct staff to post the budget as required by law for final approval at our next meeting in June, and Member Amy Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

- G. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Show Low**

Chief Savage reminded the Board that the District has been in negotiations with the City of Show Low for about 15 months regarding the IGA. The issue has been the cost for services at the Airport. The District and the City of Show Low have come to terms that are agreeable. Page 4 of the agreement outlines the phased in approach to cost recovery. Chair Paul Wyatt asked what changes stick out with the updated agreement. Mr. Whittington provided a redlined version to the Board. Chief Savage reviewed the changes with the Board. Clerk Dennis Hughes asked about the renewal of the IGA. Mr. Whittington explained the out clause of the agreement. Member Ed Lindquist commended Chief Savage and Staff for working with the City on the agreement.

Member Lynn Browne-Wanger moved that we approve the revised IGA with the City of Show Low with the amendments as verbally presented by Chief Savage, and Member Ed Lindquist seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

- H. Discussion and Possible Action: Authorization to offer employment to four firefighters**

Chief Savage stated that there are four firefighters on the eligibility list for hire. Three positions have been budgeted in the 2020/2021 tentative budget. He explained the reason for hiring the 4th firefighter

is due to several firefighters on injury and military leave, FMLA leave and the staffing of Rescue 14. The Overtime line item is currently over budget and with the hiring of 4 firefighters that would off-set or reduce the overtime. Member Ed Lindquist commented that it is difficult to keep Reserve firefighters engaged.

Member Lynn Browne-Wanger moved that we authorize the Fire Chief to immediately extend employment offers to the remaining four firefighters on the full-time eligibility list, and Member Ed Lindquist seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

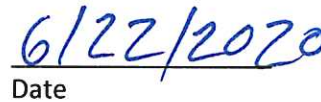
9. New Agenda Items:

Northland Pioneer College Paramedic Program

10. Adjournment

Thereafter, Chair Paul Wyatt declared the public session adjourned at approximately 3:49 pm.


Board Clerk


Date