



Drexel Heights Fire District

5950 S. Cardinal Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85746

Regular Board Meeting Minutes June 25, 2021

I. Call to Order

II.

Board Chair Bynum called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Roll Call

Board Members present: Gary Bynum, James Bertrand, Laura Dailey, Douglas Fink and Charles Mendonca. With five Board Members attending, a quorum is established.

Staff Members present: Douglas Chappell, District Administrator & Fire Chief; Laurie Dunham, Finance Manager.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Move to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 28, 2021 by Ms. Dailey, second by Mr. Mendonca, motion approved. (5-0)

VI. Call to the Public – Comments and Questions

None

VII. Report from the Fire Chief

Chief Chappell submitted a written report which is hereby made a part of these minutes. Chief Chappell noted that the process concerning Eagles Nest is nearing a conclusion and closing should take place in early July.

VIII. Pending Business

A. Discussion and possible action to approve the checks issued listing and monthly financial report for the period ending May 31, 2021.

Move to approve the checks issued listing and monthly financial report for the period ending May 31, 2021 by Mr. Bynum, second by Mr., Bertrand, motion approved. (5-0)

B. Public Hearing – Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

Move to open the public hearing for the purpose of taking public comments concerning the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022 by Mr. Bynum, second by Mr. Bertrand, motion approved. (5-0)

Chief Chappell introduced the FY 2022 Budget overview. Chief Chappell noted that there have been only minor adjustments since the draft was first introduced to the Board in March.

Chief Chappell provided the following as part of his comments:

This Public Hearing is being conducted as required by Statute. The proposed budget along with the notice of the Public Hearing was posted at all District Fire Stations, Prince Administration Center, and placed on the District's web site on June 3, 2021.

The proposed budget includes: An unchanged General Fund property tax rate of \$3.25 per \$100 of assessed value. The Debt Service budget reflects a tax rate of \$0.33 for the payments on bond debt. The budget anticipates the delivery of two pumpers.

This proposed budget attempts to meet the essential and basic services of the District. The District is only one of many taxing agencies that affect our residents. The District is working very hard not to increase the cost of fire protection while maintaining essential services.

The District welcomes any public comments concerning the proposed 2022 budget.

There were no public comments received.

Move to close the public hearing by Mr. Bertrand, second by Mr. Mendonca, motion approved. (5-0)

- C. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 2021 – 08 which approves a final budget for the Drexel Heights Fire District for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022, with \$15,969,185.00 in total estimated revenues and \$15,247,484.00 in estimated total expenditures. Any and all District revenues and expenditures may be discussed, as well as the anticipated tax rate. Chief Chappell noted that the Board had reviewed the proposed budget at its meetings of March 26, 2021, April 23, 2021, May 28, 2021 and earlier today; and that at the meeting of May 28, 2021, the Board authorized the publishing of a tentative budget and a notice of a public hearing concerning the proposed budget, as required by State statute. Chief Chappell indicated that the proposed budget maintains services without increasing the primary tax rate, and it acknowledges the likelihood of a continuing slow growth for the Tucson region for the 2022 fiscal year. Chief Chappell reported that the proposed budget provides for a minimal increase in salaries for all employees and funds from the Capital Reserve Budget for purchase of one ambulance. Chief Chappell noted that the budget maintains tax rate of \$3.2500 for the General Fund, with revenues of \$11,611,835.00 and expenses of \$11,611,835.00; the Valley Emergency Communications Center Budget with revenues of \$1,399,600.00 and expenditures of

\$1,367,282.00; the Debt Service Fund with a tax rate of \$0.33 and revenue of \$902,000.00 and expenses of \$794,900.00; Capital Bond Fund revenue of \$1,401,000.00 and expenses of \$1,158,567.00 and the Capital Reserve Fund with revenue of \$654,750.00 and expenses of \$314,900. Chief Chappell reported that the total FY 2022 Budget anticipates a fund balance in the Capital Bond Fund, Debt Service Fund, Valley Emergency Communications Center budget and Capital Reserve Fund for future expense.

Ms. Dailey asked for clarification on the starting Step for Firefighter, Chief Chappell indicated 22 and Ms. Dailey asked about the current Division Chief. Chief Chappell reported that the position will be filled with one of the four Battalion Chiefs and that Battalion will be a detailed position.

Move to adopt Resolution 2021 – 08 which approves a final budget for the Drexel Heights Fire District for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022, with \$15,969,185.00 in total estimated revenues and \$15,247,484.00 in total estimated expenditures by Mr. Bertrand, second by Mr. Bynum, motion approved. (5-0)

- D. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 2021 – 11 which authorizes the adoption of a revised Board Policy Section 206.16 concerning the District’s Public Safety Personnel Pension System funding. Chief Chappell reported that Arizona Revised Statutes §38-863.01 requires PSPRS employers to adopt a funding policy each year before July 1, and the policy being considered meets the statute’s requirements and is consistent with District past and current practice.

Move to adopt Resolution 2021 – 11 which authorizes the adoption of a Board Policy Section 206.16 by Mr. Bynum, second by Mr. Bertrand, motion approved. (5-0)

- E. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 2021 – 12 which authorizes the execution of a Subscriber Services Agreement for dispatch related services with Arivaca Fire District on behalf of the Valley Emergency Communications Center. Chief Chappell reported that the VECC provides dispatch services for the Arivaca Fire District, and the current agreement expires on June 30, 2021. Chief Chappell noted that Arivaca Fire District has returned the agreement for consideration.

Mr. Fink verified that we only provided dispatch related services under this agreement. Chief Chappell indicated that dispatch only is correct.

Move to adopt Resolution 2021 – 12 which authorizes the execution of a Subscriber Services Agreement for dispatch related services with Arivaca Fire District on behalf of the Valley Emergency Communications Center by Mr. Bertrand, second by Ms. Dailey, motion approved. (5-0)

- F. Discussion and possible action to authorize the execution of a Subscriber Services Agreement for dispatch related services with Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department on behalf of the Valley Emergency Communications Center. Chief Chappell noted that the VECC provides dispatch services for the Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department, and the current

agreement expires on June 30, 2021. Chief Chappell reported that Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department has returned the agreement for consideration.

Move to authorize the execution of a Subscriber Services Agreement for dispatch related services with Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department on behalf of the Valley Emergency Communications Center by Mr. Bynum, second by Mr. Bertrand, motion approved. (5-0)

- G. Discussion and possible action to direct the Fire Chief to cast an election ballot in the Arizona Fire District Association election. Chief Chappell indicated that the AFDA election for Chairperson will take place electronically between June 4, 2021 and July 5, 2021, and that the lone candidate for Chair is current Vice Chair Patrick Moore.

Move to instruct the Fire Chief to cast the District's ballot in the AFDA election for Patrick Moore for Chairperson by Mr. Bertrand, second by Mr. Bynum, motion approved. (5-0)

- H. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 2021 – 13 which declares August as “Drowning Impact Awareness Month” in the District. Chief Chappell reported that the Fire Safety Team had requested that the District adopt this Resolution in recognition of the importance of the issue and to spread awareness of the impact of drowning and how it can be prevented.

Ms. Dailey asked if there were a reduction in occurrences in 2020 due to COVID. Chief Chappell indicated that if there was data he had not seen it.

Move to adopt Resolution 2021 – 13 which declares August as “Drowning Impact Awareness Month” in the District by Mr. Bertrand, second by Mr. Fink, motion approved. (5-0)

- I. Discussion and possible action to declare the two 2004 Modtech trailers surplus and authorize the Fire Chief to dispose of the units in a manner that is in the best interest of the District. Chief Chappell noted that with the reconstruction of Fire Station 401, the former classroom trailers (5058301 & 5068302) are no longer needed and no longer serve a purpose for the District; and that he is seeking the authorization to dispose of the units, which have been removed from service.

Move to declare the two 2004 Modtech trailers surplus and authorize the Fire Chief to dispose of the units in a manner that is in the best interest of the District by Mr. Bertrand, second by Ms. Dailey, motion approved. (5-0)

- J. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 2021 – 14 which establishes the District's opposition to the Jurisdictional Water Rate Disparity which the City of Tucson is planning to implement. Chief Chappell indicated that the City of Tucson is currently considering adopting a Water Rate Disparity plan which will assess higher water rates for customers who are not within the corporate limits of the City; and that if the City implements the plan both the Fire District and the majority of its residents would be adversely affected.

Move to adopt Resolution 2021 – 14 which establishes the District’s opposition to the Jurisdictional Water Rate Disparity plan currently being considered by the City of Tucson by Mr. Bertrand, second by Mr. Mendonca, motion approved. (5-0)

IX. Future Agenda Items

Chief Chappell introduced Ms. Rose Robles who was recently hired to fill the vacant Administrative Support Specialist position.

No Board members had agenda items.

X. Adjournment

Move to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Bynum, second by Mr. Bertrand, motion approved. (5-0) Mr. Bynum adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

Submitted by: _____
James Bertrand, Clerk of the Board

Next Scheduled Meeting: Friday, July 23, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
5950 S. Cardinal, Tucson, AZ (Board Room)