

ORACLE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, January 6, 2014 / Approved February 4, 2014

Meeting was officially called to order at 6:03pm, Monday, January 6, 2013 at 1475 W. American Ave., Oracle, AZ.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chairman Bristow, Clerk McMurry, OFDBMs Doran and Navarro.

Members Absent: OFDBs Brown

Staff Present: Operations Fire Chief Southard , Admin. Chief Acosta

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.

Chairman Bristow presented the minutes from the December 2nd Board meeting and asked if anyone had any questions or comments. There were none. OFDBM Doran made a motion to accept the December minutes as presented. Clerk McMurry seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

3. CALL TO PUBLIC.

No response.

4. CHIEF'S REPORT – Attached

Also attached: December 2013 Financial and Call Load Reports.

In addition to the Staff Report, Chief Southard reported that there had been a structure fire earlier in the day, and that, despite it being a Monday morning, we ended up with 7 Reserves responding, in addition to our 2 person crew (Fire Chief and Admin. Chief also responded). San Manuel Fire sent a truck staffed with 3 firefighters in response to our Mutual Aid request.

There was also a discussion of the First Responder Appreciation Banquet invitation to all OFD Staff, Board and Volunteers , to be held at the Elks Lodge in San Manuel on January 25th. It was noted that due to budget cuts, all but the Firefighter of the Year, Brent Frost, and his family, will have to pay for the dinner themselves.

Financial Reports for December 2013 were provided by Admin. Chief Acosta, as well as an amended Cash Flow report for November.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CHANGING THE SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRE BOARD PUBLIC MEETING THAT IS CURRENTLY HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OFDBM Doran made a motion to discuss this matter. OFDBM Navarro seconded. Doran requested the meeting day be changed to either Tuesdays or Wednesdays, as he has conflicts with Mondays, and, in addition, it is Fire Chief Southard's day off. Discussion ensued and no present Board members had a conflict with Tuesdays, nor were there any conflicts with other organizations who use the Board room.

OFDBM Doran made a motion for a vote to move the public Board meetings from the first Monday of each month, to the first Tuesday of each Month. Chairman Bristow called for a vote. All were in favor. Motion passed.

6. OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING SPECIALIZED COMMUNITY SERVICES SUCH AS HOME ALONE UNITS, LOCK BOXES, INVALID (PUBLIC) ASSISTS CALLS, LIFTING ASSISTANCE, WELFARE CHECKS, VEHICLE LOCKOUT CALLS, DESERT PEST REMOVAL (INCLUDING BEES) AND OTHER NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES.

Fire Chief Southard read through this list of "Other" services provided to our District residents. OFDBM Doran expressed concern about the liability of performing vehicle lockouts (entry into a locked vehicle via a window). Both Chair Bristow and OFDBM Navarro stated that as long as these calls do not interfere with 911 calls, that they do not see any problem with continuing. Fire Chief Southard explained that we do not offer these services outside of our Fire District and that sometimes we have to postpone arrival or leave early to these "Other" services, in order to prioritize true emergencies. The Chief stated that he wanted the Board to know that we do more than just fires, and that with the departure of the TRIAD leader, OFD may have to take on a more hands-on role in the purchasing, installation and maintenance of the Home Alone Units.

7. FIRE BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS.

Chairman Bristow requested this topic be added to the agenda, as it was not on the December agenda. Discussion ensued as to whether it would be better to hold elections in December, at the same time as swearing in new Board members, or in January, once all Board members have been officially sworn in. A copy of the newly adopted By-Laws for the OFD Board were read, in which it states that Officer elections shall take place in December, however, it was noted that these By-Laws can be amended. OFDBM Navarro questioned how the Pinal County Board of Supervisors run their Board elections, and thought they rotate the positions. Chairman Bristow suggested holding elections the first meeting in January, but having wording to rotate the positions yearly. There was also a suggestion to combine the swearing in of new Board members on December 1st, with the regular December Board meeting.

It was then noted that OFDBM Brown should be present for the final decision. **This item will be tabled until next month.**

8. ADJOURNMENT.

OFDBM Doran made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. This was seconded by OFDBM Navarro. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 7:12pm. **Next regular board meeting: Tuesday, February 4th, 2014 at 6pm.**

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Tina Acosta - Administrative Chief

Footnote: The recorder malfunctioned during the meeting. Consequently, there is not a recording of this meeting.