

ORACLE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 / Approved March 3, 2015

Meeting was officially called to order at 6:37pm, Tuesday February 3, 2015 at 1475 W. American Ave., Oracle, AZ.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Clerk McMurry (acting as Chairman), OFDBMs Bristow, and Smallhouse. Members Absent: Chairman Brown , OFDBM Navarro
Staff Present: Chief Larry Southard, Asst. Chief Robert Jennings, Admin. Chief Acosta, and on-duty firefighters.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**
2. **ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.**

OFDBM Bristow stated that he had asked Chief Acosta to make a change to the meeting time on last month's minutes, which she did, and asked the Board members if there were any other changes to the Tuesday, January 6, 2015 minutes. There were none. OFDBM Bristow made a motion to accept these minutes with the clerical changes . The motion was seconded by OFDBM Smallhouse. All were in favor. Motion passed.

3. **CALL TO PUBLIC.**

No response from public.

4. **CHIEF'S REPORT** - see end of this report.

Call Load is on our website oraclefire.org.

In addition to the Chief's report, Chief Southard announced that he found a house to rent in Oracle and will be moving back, from Eagle Crest, in March. He thanked the Board for allowing him to temporarily live out of district until he found a suitable house.

Also under Chief's report, Assistant Chief Robert Jennings reported on the average response times for 2014, which, for in-district calls is down to 3.82 minutes (compared to Tucson Fire Department at an average of 4 minutes). For out-of-district (Campo Bonito, Peppersauce Canyon, etc), it is 13.53 minutes, which is still a great time from the Oracle Fire Station.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PROCUREMENT AND DISPOSITION OF FIRE DISTRICT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.

Following a brief discussion, Clerk McMurry requested to table this item to allow Chief Southard more time to review the document from another fire district. Item will be placed on the March agenda.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPOINTING A BUDGET COMMITTEE TO HOLD BUDGET WORKSHOPS DURING MARCH AND APRIL 2015.

OFDBM Bristow suggested that we table this item until next meeting to allow other board members to be present. Chief stated that the property valuations should be received by February 15th, so he could send out an email to determine a date for March.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING POLICIES REQUIRING SIGNATURES ON WARRANTS/CHECKS.

Chief Acosta explained that it is no longer as difficult to get two signatures for checks (warrants), as OFDBM Chuck Smallhouse does not live too far from the Station and does not mind stopping in on Wednesdays to see if there are checks to sign. She requested that if Board members do not want to stop by if check signing is not needed, that they simply call to see if their signatures are still needed for that week.

8. ADJOURNMENT

OFDBM Bristow made a motion to adjourn. OFDBM Smallhouse seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday March 3, 2015 at 6:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Tina Acosta, Administrative Chief

Reviewed by OFD Board Clerk Bill McMurry

CHIEF'S REPORT: March 3rd, 2015

Financial, Budget & Account Balances Report: Documents will be presented by Admin. Chief Acosta.

A modified Monthly Financial Report showing our State Wildland Contract income and expenses is still a "work in progress." Chiefs Southard and Acosta recently met with

Golder Ranch Fire Chief Randy Karrer and his financial team in an effort to find out how they show wildland contract income on their financial documents.

Staff Report: A “Stipend” shift began on February 1st and it has been working well for having a third firefighter on duty during most nights.

Two of our Reserve Firefighters have been hired full time by other fire departments. An interview process for new Reserves was held on February 19th.

Captain Farrell has been appointed as the OFD Firefighter of the Year and he will be recognized at the March Fire Board meeting for his achievements.

Vehicle Report: All of our first line vehicles are currently in service.

Fire Station & Equip Report: All OFD equipment is currently in service. The extrication equipment had an annual service performed on February 18th.

Fire District: The proposed annexation of Copper Hills Estates is close to being ready to send out to the property owners. Chief Southard and Chief Karrer have discussed several of the details of this proposed annexation including 911 Dispatch and EMS response.

Events: We received an announcement for the annual Elks Lodge Appreciation Dinner event. It will be held on February 28th at 6:30 PM. Firefighters, Fire Board Members and Auxiliary Members are encouraged to attend. This event is to recognize and show appreciation to emergency service workers including: fire, ambulance and law enforcement.

Current Fire Conditions: Coronado National Forest has downgraded the fire danger to Moderate. Several of the agencies we work closely with are predicting an above average amount of grass fires this fire season. Large fires in heavily forested areas are also being predicted due a lack of snow accumulation including above average winter temperatures. Insect infestation is also a concern due to mild temperatures.

Wildland Fire Report: None to report.

Grant Report: The Florence Wildland crew had been working on the Pinal County Firewise Grant until they were instructed to do a fuels project on Mount Lemmon that had a very short time line. They will resume doing fuels work in Oracle on March 2nd.

Donations: None to report.

CERT/Firewise Report: A CERT meeting was held on February 10th at 4:00. Firewise and CERTs alternate months for holding their meetings and Fire Board members are always welcome to attend.

CERTs are in the planning stages for the upcoming Pinal Wildland Team Exercise. Planning is also in progress for the upcoming Oracle Oaks Festival.

Several Firewise members have been doing an outstanding job of doing property evaluations. These Firewise evaluations help the homeowner(s) understand their strengths and weaknesses and they also help Chief Southard to determine what properties qualify for grant-funded vegetation thinning work.

Training Report: Captain Farrell and Firefighter Frost attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD during the 2nd week of February.

The annual Red Card Pack Test and Wildland Refresher class was held here on Feb 21st.

The Pinal County Wildland Team will hold the annual state wide training exercise, once again in Oracle. The all-day event will be on March 21st.

Brush Dump Report: Brush is scheduled to be pushed up on February 26th.

Call Load Report: online at oraclefire.org.

Respectfully submitted by: Fire Chief, Larry Southard