

ORACLE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday April 5, 2014 – (Approved May 6, 2014)

Meeting was officially called to order at 8:13am, Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 1475 W. American Ave., Oracle, AZ.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chairman Navarro, Clerk Brown, OFDBMs Bristow and McMurry. Members Absent: OFDBM Doran
Staff Present: Admin. Chief Acosta

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. CALL TO PUBLIC.

No public.

3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Chairman Navarro explained we had discussed having one more budget meeting prior to advertising the draft budget, and to allow OFD Clerk Brown and OFDBM Bristow to participate in this discussion.

The main point is that by increasing the tax rate to 3.14 (from 2.65), with the current property valuations, the tax levy will be \$602,963, which is lower than all years going back to 2007/2008, with the exception of last year when the property valuations plummeted.

The Board decided the key word for the proposal is service. We need to be able to justify all expenses. Chief already created a list of things that were done or purchased by year, but this needs to be a bit more detailed. If it's an item purchased or something built, **there needs to be a benefit to the public linked to the cost.** Same with personnel. **We should have the number of full time and part time hired per year, with an explanation of whether they were staffing the station overnight.** Additionally, **the decreased response times should be shown annually.**

We need to be prepared to answer the question: what do the firefighters do when they're not on a fire?

In order to justify promotions, Tina will create a spreadsheet comparing pay scales for other fire districts. We need to be prepared to explain that if we leave the wages as low as they have been, that we'll lose our seasoned and experience firefighters to the higher paying fire districts (and all the funds that paid for their training) and consequently lose our level of service.

Capitol Expense grants through the Department of Agriculture, as mentioned at the Special Districts meeting in March, were brought up by OFDBM Bristow, as a means of erecting the building that is in the parking lot.

Board members agreed to advertise the FY 2014/2015 draft budget in the San Manuel Miner on April 9th, to meet the 30 day requirement for public review, prior to the official public budget meeting on Saturday May 10, 2014 at 9am

4. ADJOURNMENT.

OFDBM Bristow made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. This was seconded by OFD Clerk Brown. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 10:17am.

Next regular board meeting: Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 6pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Tina Acosta – Administrative Chief
Reviewed by OFD Board Clerk Ellie Brown:

Footnote: The recorder is malfunctioning. Consequently, there is not a recording of this meeting.