

# ORACLE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

MONDY MAY 6, 2013

APPROVED 6/17/2013

The following are the minutes of the Oracle Fire District Board meeting, held on Monday, May 6, 2013.

Present: Chairman Bud Bristow, Board members, John Doran and Manny Navarro, Bill McMurry, Interim Fire Chief Larry Southard, and various members of Certs/Firewise and of the public.

**Meeting was officially called to order at 6:05pm.**

## **#1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

(Kate Horton read obituary of Charlene McCarly–Tipps long–time active supporter of OFD.)

## **#2 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.**

Chairman Bristow called for approval of the minutes of previous three meetings in April. OFDBM Doran made a motion to approve the minutes, motion seconded. Motion was passed unanimously. Fire Chief Southard will provide minutes to Kate Horton for OFD website.

## **#3 CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Bristow gave explanation of regulations and procedures followed by board for preparing budget. Called to public for questions regarding budget. No comments.

Mike Snyder, Oracle resident, asked when new chief would be hired. Bristow answered that four candidates had been interviewed – only. No other action regarding hiring chief has been taken.

Chuck Smallhouse, Oracle resident, expressed his longtime concerns for serious fire hazard on the uncleared strip of land that extends roughly from water tank to the Creightons property line and Oracle Ridge Trail. Bristow put this item on next agenda for discussion. Chief Southard will speak to Forest Service regarding this area.

Frank Pierson asked about safety of pilots who will be assigned to fly out–dated bombers and the same bombers readiness for Oracle upcoming fire season. Chief Southard assured public that all bombers are available to Oracle at the start of the season and changes made as season progresses and needed for other fires.

**#4 CHIEF SOUTHARD'S REPORT** copy attached to minutes

**#5 BUDGET PROPOSAL** presented by Chief Southard.

Chairman Bristow states budget tenets of board: no tax increase, maintain personnel and current coverage.

Chief Southard hands out detailed budget comparing last year with projected year. Biggest change is \$50,000 less in revenue which could be offset with \$30,000 eliminated from building plans for steel building, \$10,000 AFLAC employee benefit and another \$10,000 taken from numerous accounts.

(Handouts included in minutes.)

Chairman Bristow requested a motion to adopt the proposed budget for discussion at next meeting. OFDBM Doran made a motion to adopt the proposed budget. Clerk McMurry seconded. Vote is unanimous yes.

Chairman Bristow and OFDBM Doran discussed need to reduce the OFD liability of excess vacation days held over from previous years. Proposal to revise policy manual and reduce maximum accrued PTO hours to 360 hours. Also discussed the tendency of small fire departments to have problems with employee/relatives and the need to clarify policies with a proposal of family members only being part-time.

Chairman Bristow opened to the public discussion of the budget proposal.

Concerns expressed regarding firefighters morale in face of no raises in coming year. Chief Southard assured public that firefighters are happy to have their jobs and do have adequate systems for advancing and thereby earning pay increases. Southard explained advancement system with chart (included in minutes).

**#6 VOTE TO PASS AS OUR PROPOSED BUDGET: UNANIMOUS.**

Motion to set next board meeting as June 17, 2013, 6pm. Unanimous vote.

Motion to nominate Bill McMurry as clerk. Seconded. Vote unanimous.

7:06 Motion to adjourn. Unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted. 5-10-13

Carol Mahoney