



Rio Verde Fire District  
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**MINUTES OF THE  
RIO VERDE FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS GENERAL SESSION**

**April 24, 2023**

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## MINUTES OF THE RIO VERDE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS GENERAL SESSION

April 24, 2023

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, April 24, 2023, General Session of the Board of Directors was called to order by Chairperson George Kattermann at 9:00 a.m. in the RVFD Fire Station #442 Community Room, located at 17619 E. Rio Verde Dr., Rio Verde, AZ 85263.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Marty Bowin, Jeanne Finney, George Kattermann, and Nancy Sewell

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Dennis Meyers

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Scott Krushak, Deputy Chief Chris Stewart, Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe, and Administrative Assistant Tatum Heinrich, Rio Verde Fire District

### II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

All commissioners were present, apart from Dennis Meyers.

### III. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

The District's Certificate of Posting was presented, certifying that the meeting's agenda had been posted at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. This certificate was posted at the fire station, Rio Verde Post Office, Rio Verde Community Center, the Tonto Verde Community Center, and on the District and Trilogy websites.

### IV. RESOURCE SPECIALISTS REPORT

In the absence of Commissioner Meyers, there was no Resource Specialists Report.

## V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

## VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 27, 2023 – General Session

**Commissioner Sewell moved to approve the March 27, 2023, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed with a vote of 3-0-1, Commissioner Bowin abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.**

## VII. CLERK’S REPORT

### Future Meetings

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, May 22, 2023 – 9 a.m. (Commissioner Bowin will attend by telephone.)
- Monday, June 26, 2023 – 9 a.m.
- Monday, July 24, 2023 – 9 a.m. (Commissioner Bowin will be absent.)

All meetings will be held in the Community Room at F/S #442, 17619 E. Rio Verde Drive, Rio Verde, AZ 85263).

## VIII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Sewell reported on the March 2023 financials:

Financial Report	
Revenue	\$319,565.98
Expenses	\$361,588.40
Other Income (Expense)	\$7,981.00
Net Income (Loss)	(\$34,041.42)
Transfers to (from) Capital Fund	-0-
Adjusted Net Income	(\$34,041.42)
Monthly Budgeted Net Income (Loss)	(\$24,598.73)
YTD Actual Net Income (Loss)	\$386,970.96
Borrowing from Capital Fund	-0-
YTD Adjusted Net Income	\$386,970.96
YTD Budgeted Net Income	\$319,035.67
General Fund Operating Cash	\$286,472.02
Capital Fund Cash	\$1,772,792.85

Capital Fund Advances to General Fund	-0-
Capital Fund Equity	\$1,772,792.85
Total Bond Fund Authorization*	\$5,101,858.64
Total Expenditures to Date	\$4,956,107.47
Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned)	\$46,958.25
Current Month Expenditures	\$90,885.01
Remaining Bond Equity	\$1,824.41

\*The “Total Bond Fund Authorization” includes the \$5,000,000 bond, plus the cost of issuance.

**Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the March 2023 Financial Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the March 2023 Monthly Transaction Report. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the March 2023 bank reconciliations as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously.**

**IX. WORKERS COMPENSATION RENEWAL – CINDY ELBERT INSURANCE**

The Workers Compensation Renewal discussion was deferred until the May meeting.

**X. DISCUSSION OF BUDGET WORKSHEET FY 2023/2024**

Discussion was held on the following:

- Increase in staffing costs due to the hiring of additional personnel (six) as of July 1,
- Additional expense involved in having two stations,
- COLA negotiation options/benefits,
- Maintenance cost of the district’s vehicles,
- Additional funding streams (SAFER and fundraisers)
- Adjustment for brush truck bill to be paid.

Further detail on the adjustments to the Capital Plan and COLA will be delivered to the Board at its May meeting.

**XI. EMS REPORT**

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported that there were 19 surveys received in the month of March, 17 claiming “Outstanding” service, one claiming “Good” service, and one “No Response.” Only positive comments were provided, and a check for \$25 for the district was received from one care recipient.

## **XII. CHIEF'S REPORT**

### Legislative Report

Chief Scott Krushak noted the following:

- Legislative Scorecard: Sixteen hundred thirty-two bills were introduced - 156 passed, 93 were signed, and 63 vetoed (a record for vetoes).
- Senate House Bill 2803 continued to move forward, a \$150 million appropriation bill for the Department of Fire and Forestry Management for grants for local fire departments/districts to obtain equipment and station upgrades. The passing of this bill may hinge on the State budget.
- A bill had been introduced to reduce the commercial property tax. Currently, assessed value is between 16% and 17%.

### Hiring

Recruit interviews have been conducted, and the hiring process generated 49 applicants for six positions. Forty-two individuals were interviewed.

The hiring of six additional firefighters provides the district with a ten-person staffing with a one-to-one relief rate. Retirement, sick time, or extended leave coverage are not yet entered into this calculation.

It was noted that there was a diverse group of applicants, representative of the general community. Two females applied but later rescinded their applications.

Time delays (six to eight weeks) for new hires are experienced due to background check backlogs. Any firefighters hired to fulltime from the reserves do not need background checks and can begin support work immediately (before required academy training).

There is a hiring surge in the fire safety field – many openings but not enough qualified candidates.

### Recruit Class

Phoenix Fire Academy will provide recruit training for the first two of the six chosen candidates, starting May 15. The other four chosen candidates will commence training on September 5.

### XIII. DEPUTY CHIEF’S REPORT

#### Vehicle Status

- Both ambulances (new and current) are now at Hughes Fire for immediate equipment transfer. After the new ambulance is inspected, it will go into service.
- The older ambulance will be sold on consignment with Firetrucks Unlimited (national apparatus dealer) for approximately \$80,000. This ambulance is worth more than originally considered, as It is currently difficult to purchase fire engine chassis, and building new fire engines takes approximately two years.
- The “Dollar Ambulance” is the reserve ambulance and has been used efficiently for many years. It will continue to serve as the district’s reserve ambulance.
- Engine #441 is currently at fleet with rocks in the pump. These rocks appear to be from hydrants that have not been properly flushed.
- The entire wildland fleet (UTVs and trailers) is operational.
- The old Gator will be sold with its trailer at approximately \$3,500. There is a big market for old John Deer Gators.

#### Philanthropy

Bob Peel, resident of Trilogy, provided a tour of F/S #442 for benefactors. Peel is also organizing this year’s December golf tournament (fundraiser), hoping to raise enough to cover the cost of the new UTVs with the proceeds. This year Peel will use Verde River Trilogy’s site for the tournament/dinner/etc.

A donation will be received from the RVCRC (Rio Verde Community Relations Committee), most likely for \$3,500.

#### Activity Report

Deputy Chief Chris Stewart presented the March Deputy Chief’s Report:

Call Type	Response Time
Emergency Response Time (Avg)	E441 – 4:31
	E442 – 7:19
<b>Total Average</b>	<b>5:01</b>
Non-Emergency Response Time (Avg)	E441 – 5:20
	E442 – 4:04
<b>Total Average</b>	<b>5:11</b>

Call Type	# Occurrences	
	2022	2023

Total EMS Calls	35	37
Total Transports	26	31
Total Non-emergency Response Calls	61	29
Fire-related Calls	5	8
Total Responses	101	74
Community Contacts	25	34

There may be a problem with data collection when calculating the response times. This should be rectified prior to the next Board meeting.

Mountain rescue training had been completed (from Phoenix Fire) this past week. System familiarization and response were studied, benchmarks to meet, and a visit was made to the landing zone at Tom’s Thumb (with helicopter familiarization).

A grant was submitted to the 100-Club (worth roughly \$7,000) for two fire blankets to be used on electrical vehicle fires. These are multi-use blankets and could be used up to 30 times. The blankets do not extinguish the entire fire, but they prevent the extension into wildland spaces or from garages into houses.

Electrical vehicle safety was discussed – never leave an e-vehicle to charge when the charge is full, and do not charge e-bikes in your house due to fire danger.

On April 11 staff participated in a Maricopa County Emergency Wildland exercise with all public safety partners – MCSO and County Emergency Management. This training facilitates teamwork in establishing a meeting point with command post and managing communication and potential evacuations.

**XIV. FIRE MARSHAL REPORT**

In the absence of Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh, Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs reported on the following:

*Permits issued:*

March	2023	2022
Sprinklers	1	26
Propane	0	21
Others	0	2
YTD (All Types)	28	76
Other Prevention Activity (March)		
Sprinkler Plan Review		1
Total Inspections		69

Shea Trilogy has closed 792 out of a total of 1215 planned homes.

One staff member was sent to Arson Training in Prescott, receiving an Arson I certification.

#### **XV. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER'S REPORT**

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe noted no change on wildland billing, still \$180,001.11 invoiced and received.

Jacobe also indicated that she is a notary again after a lapse of renewal.

#### **XVI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **XVII. BOARD COMMENTS**

A Toll Brothers meeting was discussed by Commissioners Kattermann, Bowin, and Sewell. Traffic changes and emergency crash gates will be implemented during construction. We will need to keep an eye on traffic and construction ingress/egress as it may affect us.

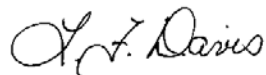
#### **XVIII. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS**

There is no further information on the subject of a potential cell tower.

#### **XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board adjourn at 10:42 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis  
My Personal Secretary  
(From Voice Recording)