



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

**January 29, 2024**

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

January 29, 2024

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, January 29, 2024, 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, Dennis Meyers, and Nancy Sewell

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Scott Krushak and Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs, Rio Verde Fire District; Vicki Beseke, VerdeCares

### II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

All commissioners were present.

### 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

Commissioner Dennis Meyers noted that there was nothing new to report.

## V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

## VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 18, 2023 – General Session

**Commissioner Bowin moved to approve the December 18, 2023, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.**

## VII. RESOURCE SPECIALISTS PROGRAM

Chief Krushak informed the Board that the Resource Specialists Program had been active for over 20 years, responding to residents' post-911 calls. An audit of the program was recently undertaken.

It was noted that there was a redundancy in the Resource Specialists Program with VerdeCares activities. Vicki Beseke was present to discuss the VerdeCares program with staff and Board members. The services they are equipped to provide include those of the current services of the Resource Specialists Program of RVFD but go beyond with capabilities or continued follow-up and assistance as needed after an acute response/event. It was discussed that folding our program into theirs would afford a broader and more integrated approach to resident care, and that operating the two programs separately no longer made sense.

The Board would like to publicly commend the Resource Specialists Program and each of its volunteers for their committed service at a future Board meeting or dinner.

**Commissioner Bowin moved that the district transfer the community care services presently provided by Rio Verde Fire District's Resource Specialists to VerdeCares, Inc., effective January 29, 2024. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.**

## VIII. FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FY 2023/2024

Chief Krushak requested permission to apply for the AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) for portable radios to replace soon-to-be-outdated radios currently being used. The award of the grant would be \$175,000 to \$200,000, with a 5% match from the district.

**Commissioner Meyers moved that the district make the application for the AFG. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.**

## IX. DFFM 2023 SB 1720 FIRE DISTRICT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

This is a grant program based on SB 1720 to address critical infrastructure needs within fire districts in the state of Arizona, geared toward wildland firefighting. The district would use

these grant monies to replace the current Type 3 wildland engine (white brush truck) in the amount of \$400,000 - \$500,000.

Since the grant cap is \$400,000, it would cost the district approximately \$100,000 for the engine (listed in the capital plan) if the grant were to be awarded. Bids were received from Skeeter Emergency Vehicles and Pierce Manufacturing.

**Commissioner Sewell moved that the district apply for the 2023 SB 1720 Fire District Assistance Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyers and passed unanimously.**

**X. CONTRACT WITH PROFESSIONAL CREDIT FOR AMBULANCE COLLECTIONS**

There is a significant number of ambulance collections from outside the Verdes communities that our current billing agency is not equipped to pursue beyond the first attempt. Staff has proposed further action be taken on these by a collection agency. A collection service agreement from Professional Credit Service was reviewed and discussed. The district does not turn any current resident of the Verdes communities over to collection.

**Commissioner Sewell moved that the district approve the contract with Professional Credit. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously. Scott Krushak will sign the contract.**

**XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Commissioner Sewell reported on the December 2023 financials:

Financial Report	
Revenue	\$376,358.68
Expenses	\$422,829.94
Other Income (Expense)	\$16,364.69
Net Income (Loss)	(\$30,106.57)
Transfers to (from) Capital Fund	0.00
Adjusted Net Income	(\$30,106.57)
Monthly Budgeted Net Income (Loss)	(\$33,352.03)
YTD Actual Net Income (Loss)	\$1,700,694.02
Borrowing from Capital Fund	\$1,250,000.00
YTD Adjusted Net Income	\$450,694.02
YTD Budgeted Net Income	\$720,827.68
General Fund Operating Cash	\$1,612,747.19
Capital Fund Cash	\$504,492.58

Capital Fund Advances to General Fund	\$1,250,000.00
Capital Fund Equity	\$1,754,492.58
Total Bond Fund Authorization*	\$5,101,858.64
Total Expenditures to Date	\$5,146,992.48
Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned)	\$47,799.68
Current Month Expenditures	-0-
Remaining Bond Equity	\$63.41

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

A new item will be placed on upcoming agendas for the purpose of discussing personnel costs.

Two-hundred fifty-thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) will be transferred from the general fund back to the capital fund.

Commissioner Dennis Meyers had to leave the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

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

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

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

## **XII. CLERK’S AND EMS REPORT**

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported that due to the administrative assistant’s illness, the EMS information will be delayed until next month.

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, February 26, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday March 25, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday, April 22, 2024, 9 a.m.

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

NOTE: The Monday, May 20, 2024, RVFD Board meeting date was changed to Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

### **XIII. CHIEF'S REPORT**

#### Legislative Update

Nine hundred (900) bills have currently been filed, nothing specifically relating to the district.

#### Verde River Golf Tournament

The Verde River fundraising golf tournament, held on December 4, 2023, raised approximately \$47,360 net for the district. Additionally, a wine event will be held next month (per Bob Peel) which should bring in approximately \$10,000 - \$12,000.

#### Qasimyar vs. Maricopa County

A notice from the Maricopa County Tax Assessor was received regarding a class action judgement (Qasimyar vs. Maricopa County). The judgement indicated that incorrect taxes had been collected for Class 3 homes (primary residences) that were converted to Class 4 homes (non-primary or rental property) between 2015 and 2021. This could continue into 2022 and 2023. They are anticipating preparation of one million resolutions for those tax years, with only twenty-thousand resolutions normally processed in a year. Each district was said to expect a change in their 2024/2025 taxes, either under or over their current receipts.

#### Strategic Plan Update

A successful strategic planning meeting was held during the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>. Community residents communicated with staff and Board members on matters of concern. Another meeting will be held in the near future, and a strategic plan should be available sometime in the month of April.

### **XIV. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT (PROVIDED BY CHIEF KRUSHAK)**

#### Certification

The district will be training personnel to be certified in "Incident Command." This grant was received for \$180,000, and costs will be listed as "Reimbursable Overtime."

#### Calls for Service

Fountain Hills is creating their own fire district, thus the RVFD has been experiencing more call volume than normal due to a mutual aid agreement.

## Academy

There are two individuals who are spending their next 14 weeks at the fire academy. After their graduation, they will replace the two retiring individuals. This will result, again, in the minimum staffing of ten, with no reserve capacity.

## **XV. FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT (PROVIDED BY JENNIFER JACOBE)**

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs reported the following:

*Permits issued:*

<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Sprinklers		0	30
Propane		0	25
Others		0	0
YTD (All Types)		195	320
<b>Other Prevention Activity</b>			
Sprinkler Plan Review			
Propane Plan Review			
Tent Plan Review			
Total Inspections			31

Final inspections for Honey and Sol Bistro were completed (sprinkler, alarm, and kitchen hood), and the Maricopa County Certificate of Occupancy should be issued in January.

Shea has closed 895 homes to date and is gearing to build more in 2024. Their 2023 goal was 48 sales, and 80 were sold. Their goals for 2024 are 70 sales, 70 starts, and 101 closings.

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

### Wildland Expense Update

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs advised there was no change to the wildland report - the \$15,600.49 billed for the Diamond fire has been reimbursed. The additional \$78 was an administrative cost.

## **XVII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## **XVIII. BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no further Board comments.

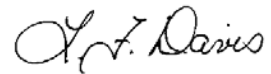
**XIX. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS**

There were no further chairperson comments.

**XX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board adjourn at 10:52 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis

My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)