



Rio Verde Fire District
17619 E. Rio Verde Drive
Rio Verde, AZ 85263
Phone: (480) 471-2304
Fax: (480) 471-1821

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

September 23, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. CALL TO ORDER.....	2
II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS	2
III. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING	2
IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC.....	2
V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.....	3
VI. CLERK’S REPORT	3
VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS	3
VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS.....	4
IX. DISCUSSION ON WILDLAND DEPLOYMENT.....	4
X. CHIEF’S REPORT	5
XI. DEPUTY CHIEF’S REPORT	6
XII. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT	6
XIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT	6
XIV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS	7
XV. BOARD COMMENTS	7
XVI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS	7
XVII. ADJOURNMENT	7



Rio Verde Fire District
17619 E. Rio Verde Drive
Rio Verde, AZ 85263
Phone: (480) 471-2304

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

September 23, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, September 23, 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 (via telephone), George Kattermann, Nancy Sewell (via telephone), and Pete Sturman

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Scott Krushak, Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee, Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh, Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs, and Administrative Assistant Tatum Heinrich, Rio Verde Fire District

II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

All commissioners were present, Commissioners Finney and Sewell by telephone.

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 Verde River website.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 26, 2024 – General Session

Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board approve the August 26, 2024, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

VI. CLERK'S REPORT

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, October 28, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday, November 18, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Monday, December 16, 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.

Commissioner Bowin may be traveling during the November meeting; he has agreed to inform Administrative Manager Jacobe of his status. In the event that he is not able to attend either in person or via telephone, the district will still have a quorum.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Sewell reported on the August 2024 financials:

Financial Report	
Revenue	\$35,277.59
Expenses	\$387,337.68
Other Income (Expense)	\$523,991.32
Net Income (Loss)	\$171,931.23
Transfers to (from) Capital Fund	\$500,000.00
Adjusted Net Income	(\$328,068.77)
Monthly Budgeted Net Income (Loss)	(\$360,411.78)
YTD Actual Net Income (Loss)	\$345,284.48
Borrowing from Capital Fund	\$1,000,000.00
YTD Adjusted Net Income	(\$654,715.52)
YTD Budgeted Net Income	(\$744,408.76)
General Fund Operating Cash	\$311,163.94
Capital Fund Cash	\$462,226.66
Capital Fund Advances to General Fund	\$1,000,000.00
Capital Fund Equity	\$1,462,226.66
YTD Funds Borrowed from Capital Fund	\$1,000,000.00

YTD Funds Repaid to Capital Fund	0.00
Funds Owed to Capital Fund	\$1,000,000.00
Total Bond Fund Authorization*	\$5,101,858.64
Total Expenditures to Date	\$5,146,992.48
Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned)	\$47,801.67
Current Month Expenditures	-0-
Remaining Bond Equity	\$65.26

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

Tax Resolutions P&L

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs identified and questioned a figure of (\$5,607.32) in Fire District Assistance Tax. She and Chief Krushak began researching that with the Maricopa County Treasurer’s Office. The Treasurer’s Office responded that it had made an error in calculation and mapping; that error will be corrected sometime in the month of October. If that doesn’t occur, Supervisor Thomas Galvin will “nudge” the treasurer to correct it.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the August 2024 Financial Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the August 2024 Monthly Transaction Report as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sewell moved that the Board accept the August 2024 bank reconciliations as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowin and passed unanimously.

Another \$250,000 will be moved from the capital account to the general account in the course of this month. Tax revenue will begin appearing in the next couple months.

VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported the following:

Fourteen (14) surveys (out of 27) were returned, all claiming “Outstanding” service with positive attributes and comments. People reported that the district firefighters were extremely professional yet personal, comforting, and were sure that they will respond quickly.

IX. DISCUSSION ON WILDLAND DEPLOYMENT

In previous years when reimbursement for wildland deployment was extremely slow, the Board agreed to deploy only to surrounding states and to place a wildland spending cap on that deployment. Since that time, changes in funding and reimbursement have occurred, making reimbursement for wildland expenses a more rapid response.

Since our Type 3 brush truck is available, it would be cost effective to use that truck for wildfire deployment, since it helps pay for itself. Captains and operators would accompany the truck with firefighters from a different district, reducing or eliminating overtime and job stress in firefighters.

Commissioner Bowin moved that the district relax any previous motions and allow Chief Krushak to have control of deployment and distance decisions, weighing the cost impact from overtime and personnel fatigue. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sturman and passed unanimously.

X. CHIEF'S REPORT

Legislative Update

November 5, 2024, is the next general election, and all 90 of the state's legislative seats are up for election. Early voting will begin on October 9, 2024.

Firefighters Advanced Social Security Windfall Elimination Bill

Public service workers do not receive Social Security benefits, because they don't pay into Social Security. Some workers have additional employment where they DO pay into Social Security, but they have their Social Security payment reduced to 25% of that amount due to their public pension. Legislation on the Social Security Windfall Elimination Bill is being voted upon for those individuals.

District Activities

We are sending four recruits to the Phoenix Fire Academy on this date where they will train for the next three months. One additional firefighter is in the hiring process to replace the one who left the district unexpectedly. This individual will be a civilian EMS worker on the ambulance for the next three or four months until the next Phoenix Fire Academy begins another class. This will help the overtime issue.

Two firefighters were sent to paramedic training last week. They will replace the two retiring paramedic employees.

A captain's test will be given on October 14, 2024, and an engineer's test will be given on October 28, 2024, for those firefighters qualified for those positions. These are competitive processes, based on performance.

Unincorporated Maricopa County

An email from a resident who resides on the unincorporated corridor sent a letter to Supervisor Thomas Galvin asking why they pay taxes to Rural Metro but weren't in the Rio Verde Fire District. The district was cc'd on that letter. Months passed, and no reply was made to that resident from Supervisor Galvin. Another email was sent to both Galvin's office and the district requesting a response to his question. An email (composed by both Galvin and the district) was then sent to the resident explaining the statute, the Rio Verde Fire District's response parameters, and Rural Metro's ambulance subscription plan. A copy of this letter will be distributed to the Board.

Type 3 Brush Truck

The new Type 3 engine is fully licensed and operational; it was used to respond to the recent Gate Fire.

Gate Fire

The Gate Fire was located in a construction area, the third fire in that area (along southern edge of Diamond Fire.) Four or five houses under construction were protected by the many fire districts responding to the fire. The district will invoice for truck usage and personnel hours.

XI. DEPUTY CHIEF’S REPORT

Boundary Change Update

Deputy Chief Kelvin Bartee advised that paperwork for the two boundary change properties has been entered into the registers of all the state local and county governments. In approximately two months, the process will be completed, with anticipated associated revenue coming into the district in January 2026.

In anticipation of the development of the property to the east of FS #442 known as West 36, contact has been made with the property owners regarding being brought into the Rio Verde Fire District.

XII. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT

Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh reported the following for the month of August:

Permits issued:

	2024	2023
Sprinklers	11	15
Propane	9	11
Other	0	0
YTD (All Types)	109	137
2024		
Project Review	1	
Propane Review	9	
Sprinkler Review	2	
Total Inspections	33	

Nine hundred and seventy-six (976) homes have been closed by Trilogy as of the end of August.

XIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT

Wildland Expense Update

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs advised there was \$14,195.34 billed and received for the Boulder View fire on August 14, 2024. An additional \$78, an administrative cost, was also paid.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Bowin regarding Inland Marine Insurance, that insurance covers all vehicles against physical damage.

XIV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

XV. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further Board comments.

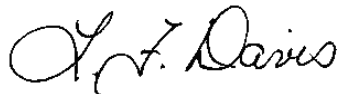
XVI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

There were no further chairperson comments.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:02 Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board adjourn. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sewell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis
My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)