



Rio Verde Fire District  
17619 E. Rio Verde Drive  
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**MINUTES OF THE  
RIO VERDE FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS GENERAL SESSION**

**February 26, 2024**

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

February 26, 2024

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, February 26, 2024, General Session of the Board of Directors was called to order by Chairperson George Kattermann at 9:15 a.m. in the Executive Meeting Room at Trilogy, 28509 NW Verde River Way, 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, Fire Marshal Chris Cavanaugh (via telephone), Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe, and Administrative Assistant Tatum Heinrich, Rio Verde Fire District

### 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. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

## V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 29, 2024 – General Session

**Commissioner Sewell moved to approve the January 29, 2024, General Session minutes as submitted. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.**

## VI. CLERK'S REPORT

The following meeting dates were listed:

- Monday, March 25, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 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.

## VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Sewell reported on the January 2024 financials:

Revenue	\$175,963.90
Expenses	\$342,728.75
Other Income (Expense)	(\$169,387.08)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$336,151.93)
Transfers to (from) Capital Fund	(\$250,000.00)
Adjusted Net Income	(\$86,151.93)
Monthly Budgeted Net Income (Loss)	(\$330,507.48)
YTD Actual Net Income (Loss)	\$1,364,542.09
Borrowing from Capital Fund	\$1,000,000.00
YTD Adjusted Net Income	\$364,542.09
YTD Budgeted Net Income	\$390,320.20
General Fund Operating Cash	\$1,265,143.91
Capital Fund Cash	\$667,628.80
Capital Fund Advances to General Fund	\$1,000,000.00
Capital Fund Equity	\$1,667,628.80
Total Bond Fund Authorization*	\$5,101,858.64
Total Expenditures to Date	\$5,146,992.48
Total Interest to Date (Interest Earned)	\$47,800.04

Current Month Expenditures	-0-
Remaining Bond Equity	\$63.77

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

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

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

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

**VIII. COMMISSIONER OVERSEEING EMS**

Commissioner Clerk Jeanne Finney reported the following:

December 2023: Ten (10) (out of 33) surveys were returned, 8 claiming “Outstanding” service, 2 claiming “Good” service. There were no negative comments.

January 2024: Six (6) (out of 28) surveys were returned, all claiming “Outstanding” service. There were no negative comments.

**IX. END-OF-YEAR PROJECTION AND BUDGET STATUS**

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobe reviewed the actual and projected figures for this fiscal year. A final year-end figure of (\$218,570.54) is anticipated. Chief Scott Krushak indicated that capital funds would be used to compensate for that negative. Those specific capital funds were originally slated for radios; currently, staff is borrowing radios (and will continue to do so).

It was noted that an AFT grant previously applied for could bring in approximately \$180,000 to aid in balancing that negative year-end figure.

Chief Krushak explained that the district was currently in a transitional phase where overtime is concerned. By the end of the calendar year, overtime costs should be at a minimum, as new hires will have completed fire academy training, and a full roster of firefighters will be available for staffing.

Krushak commended Jacobe for her work on the projection.

## **X. CHIEF'S REPORT**

### Legislative Update

There are very few bills that could affect the fire district.

- 1) The discontinuation of the Arizona State Division of Forestry is a movement at the state level to remove the state forester, as the State does not feel it is cost effective for them.
- 2) Another bill deals with PTSD coverage under Workers' Compensation for firefighters and police officers.
- 3) HB2330 deals with formation of fire districts by a different process for counties that have less than 500,000 people.
- 4) HB 2418 (Fire District Advisory Board) – There is a bill to provide a fire district oversight board at the state level for assistance in governance and operations of fire districts.

### 2024 Tax Levy Worksheet

Our levy limit for 2024/2025 will be \$4,829,957, about a 14.3% increase from last year.

### 2024/2025 Budget Timeline

Now that the tax levy has been received, staff can move forward on this coming year's budget timeline. It will be presented to the Board at their meeting on April 24, 2024.

### Qasimyar vs. Maricopa County

A notice from the Maricopa County Tax Assessor was received regarding a class action judgement (Qasimyar vs. Maricopa County) for incorrect tax collection from 2009 – 2024. This relates to the transition of homes from rentals to permanent residences. The County made an adjustment for tax year 2022 of \$22,175 (income). An adjustment might be made for 2023 prior to the end of our budget year. Chief Krushak will receive more clarity on this and report to the Board.

### Wine Glass Class

A wine glass class was hosted recently in Trilogy by Troon resident George Riedel. One-hundred-twenty people were present, and the proceeds of \$13,000 went to the fire district. Mr. and Mrs. George Reidel accepted staff's invitation to have dinner at the fire district.

**XI. DEPUTY CHIEF’S REPORT (PROVIDED BY CHIEF KRUSHAK)**

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. There is also a change in the call type and demographic. Chief Krushak and Deputy Chief Stewart will reach out to the fire chief in Fountain Hills and discuss what they see as an unsustainable plan.

Academy

The two individuals who are at the fire academy are doing very well. They should complete their academy work in approximately two months.

**XII. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT (PROVIDED BY JENNIFER JACOBE FOR CHRIS CAVANAUGH – TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES)**

Administrative Manager Jennifer Jacobs reported the following:

*Permits issued:*

Sprinklers	10	12
Propane	9	14
Others	0	0
YTD (All Types)	19	26
Sprinkler Plan Review		
Propane Plan Review		9
Tent Plan Review		
Total Inspections		45

Permit revenues would most likely drop by 10%, putting the district down about 40% from a couple years ago.

**XIII. 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.

## Board Election

Jacobe noted that Commissioners Finney, Meyers, and Kattermann are up for re-election this year. She will provide them with the documents needed to move forward.

## **XIV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Commissioner Finney 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.**

## **XV. BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sewell noted that the article in the *Fountain Hills Times Independent* about the VerdeCares program was very nicely written.

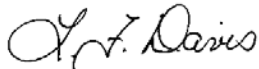
## **XVI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS**

There were no further chairperson comments.

## **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Bowin moved that the Board adjourn at 10:08 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Finney and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Floyd Davis  
My Personal Secretary (From Voice Recording)