

Blue Ridge Fire District

Minutes of Public Meeting held August 22, 2022

1. **MEETING** was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairperson Bourne.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Mike Bourne	Present
Alma Seward	Present
Sylvia Meakin	Present
Laurie Hawke	Present
Judy Varns	By phone

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Bourne asked for a motion to review and adopt the Agenda. Ms. Hawke made the motion; Ms. Meakin seconded. All voted yes.

The Motion passed.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Board Meeting is Saturday, September 17, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

6. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

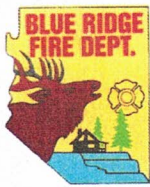
a. Chairman's Reports

- Mr. Bourne reported that things are going well at the Fire District and the community as a whole. He has received numerous comments as to the amazing job our EMS crews have provided.
- Also, the PSPRS Pension Board has two Community Member positions available in November. They are looking for a candidate from the public as there's one resignation.

b. Chief's Report

I. Personnel	14 Volunteer; 16 Paid Reserves; 3 Full Time; 2 Part Time Megan Sewell and Kyle Chambliss have been offered and have accepted full time positions for Fire Fighter/Medics and will start 9/6 and 9/8 respectively. Congratulations and welcome aboard.
II. Apparatus	All are in service
III. Call Volume	29 calls in July: 18 EMS, no fires, 3 motor vehicle collisions, 8 service calls
IV. Training	150 hours of training
V. Updates	Camp Colley's Fire Protection Agreement was approved by the City of Phoenix from July – June for \$10,113.19. We have two fire suppression agreements from property owners in Ponderosa Pines. Annual fire fighter physicals are near completion. The PSPRS Local Board has approved the two new full-time employees into the PSPRS System Chief is attending the Annual Arizona Ambulance Conference this week in Tucson.

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Finally, please look at Proposal 310 which is a temporary sales tax which will provide fire districts .01 for every \$10 estimated to generate 150 million dollars to assist fire districts. This is vital resource for fire districts to make sure they have the resources available that they need for training and services.

Ms. Hawke commented that the Board cannot advocate for or against 310 or any political activity. The District can share information only.

- 7. CALL TO THE PUBLIC** Chairperson Bourne would like to invite the four candidates for the three District Board positions available in November to attend the next meeting to introduce themselves and answer questions from the Public. He recommends, and the County Attorney agrees, that this time would take place after Adjournment. The four candidates are: Judy Varns, Brian Alexander, Casey Samsill, and Linda McDermott.

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2022

Mr. Bourne asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of July 18, 2022. Ms. Hawke made a Motion; Ms. Meakin seconded the Motion. All voted Yes

The Motion passed

- b. Approval of Financial Report for July 2022

Ms. Hawke commended the Chief for the extensive Financial Report that is clear and comprehensive.

Mr. Bourne asked for a motion to approve the Financial Report for July 2022. Ms. Meakin made a Motion. Ms. Varns seconded the Motion. All voted Yes.

The Motion passed.

- c. Discussion and possible action to review and approve policies

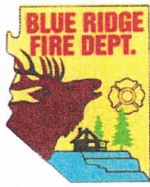
Ms. Hawke offered that the Policies are clear, understandable and make sense. Mr. Bourne has read all the Policies and agrees to their clarity. Mr. Bourne did not see the Out-of-District Response Policy. Chief Paine said there is an Out-of-District Policy in force now and will be incorporated into the Policy package under review by the Board at this time. Today, he reminded, the Board is approving the first two Sets of Policy: 100's and 200's only. Chief Paine also confirmed for Ms. Meakin that all policies have been vetted by legal and are consistent with County regulations.

Mr. Bourne asked for a Motion to review and possible action to approve the first two Sections of Policies, 100's and 200's. Ms. Seward made a Motion. Ms. Hawke seconded the Motion. All voted Yes.

The Motion passed.

- d. Discussion and possible action to approve benefits as wages for full time employees.

Chief Paine explained that this proposition came out of an offer to a potential full-time employee, as he has health care through a spouse and no need for Health Savings Plan. He asked for benefit to wage consideration.



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Lengthy discussion followed regarding Cafeteria Plans: that they must be in place at the beginning of the fiscal year and they have annual sign-up requirements. They must be in place before any benefits are altered. Also, in fairness to all full-time employees, any consideration would be made for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. In addition, federal law dictates that all full-time employees must have health insurance and should any employee opt out, they must have evidence of their coverage. Also, research and investigation of the costs can be part of the Budget Committee activity for next year. Mr. Bourne summarized that if Blue Ridge Fire District doesn't have a Cafeteria Plan in place now, the answer will have to be no. Fairness to everyone is paramount. Ms. Seward stated that she's not in favor at this time due to the financial burden to the District, potential legal issues and the complexities should be fully understood by the Board. Ms. Varns agreed that this proposition should be carefully formulated and now is not the appropriate time to change our benefits package. Finally, Ms. Hawke reminded the Chairperson that there will be administrative costs and tracking responsibilities for a new Cafeteria Plan.

Mr. Bourne asked for a Motion to discuss and possible action to approve benefits as wages for full time employees. Ms. Hawke made the Motion that we **do not** approve benefits into wages for full-time employees at this time, but that we appoint the Budget Committee to research Cafeteria Plans for July 1, 2023. Ms. Meakin seconded the Motion. All voted Yes.

The Motion passed.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING –

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Bourne asked for a Motion. Ms. Seward made the motion; Ms. Varns seconded. All voted Yes.

The Motion passed.

Adjournment at 10:40 am

Respectively submitted August 22, 2022:

Alma Seward, Clerk of the BRFD Board