

BLUE RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BLUE RIDGE FIRE STATION, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Chairperson Alma Seward.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Ms. Seward asked all present to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**
Members present were Alma Seward, Cindy Perelli, Shannon Scott, and Pete Fenton. Monty Blosser attended by phone. Chief Paine was also present.
4. **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
Ms. Seward requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the Agenda as written. Mr. Blosser seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1) Discussion and possible action to approve and / or modify the recommendations of the Wage and Benefits Committee.

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Wage and Benefit Committee. Mr. Blosser seconded the motion.

During the discussion Mr. Scott suggested that the Board take the Recommendations out or order, with the priority being the payment, by the District, of \$7,306.66 to the BRFD Alternate Pension and Benefit Plan for the annual contribution to the Plan on behalf of the Volunteers enrolled. He also requested that Chief Paine provide information on the plan as previously requested.

Chief Paine provided a slide presentation on the Alternate Pension and Benefit Plan (457b government plan) and how it works. The slide presentation provided information on the original Resolution that created the Plan, and highlighted different aspects of the Plan and how employee contributions are made and handled by the Plan.

Chairperson Seward asked for another motion to approve the bulleted items individually. Mr. Scott made a motion to approve individual items. Mr. Fenton seconded the motion.

No vote was taken on this item.

- Discussion and possible action to fund the payment of an amount equal to the Insurance Premium Sur-tax (believed to be \$7,306.06) to the Blue Ridge Fire District Alternative Pension and Benefit Plan.

A motion was made by Shannon Scott to approve a distribution of \$7,306.66 to fund the Volunteer contributions to the Plan. Mr. Fenton seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

After some discussion Ms. Perelli made a motion to create a new Account in Quick Books, called the BRFD Pension Plan (Alternate Pension and Benefit Plan), and move PSPRS budgeted funds to the new Account to cover the expenditure. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 48 hours of sick time allowance during the year with a maximum accumulation of 96 hours in two years. This is a required benefit mandated by legislative action.

Mr. Fenton made a motion to approve 48 hours of sick time, with a maximum allowable of 96 hours in two years. Ms. Perelli seconded the motion.

During the discussion, Mr. Scott asked a question about the State mandate on this item and Chief Paine suggested continuing with his slide presentation to address the question. Upon further discussion, the motion was amended: The 48 hours of sick time will be in addition to the current Vacation/PTO benefit.

The amendment passed by unanimous vote.

The amended motion [or “motion as amended”] passed by unanimous vote.

- An increase in PTO (Personal Time Off) by 2 Days after 5 years’ service, leaving in place the entry level PTO of 10 days, and leaving an increases after the 5 years’ service level to future budget consideration.

A motion was asked for and made by Mr. Scott to approve and increase in PTO by 2 days for employees who have 5 years of service or greater. Ms. Perelli seconded the motion.

After some discussion, it was decided to amend the motion as follows: Mr. Scott amended the motion to implement an increase in PT at the discretion of the Chief, but is limited to funds available. Mr. Fenton seconded the amendment.

The amendment was approved by unanimous vote.

The motion, as amended, was approved by unanimous vote.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

The public is invited to speak on any area of concern. The Board of the Blue Ridge Fire District cannot discuss or act on items presented during the Public participation portion of the agenda pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H). Individual Board members may ask questions of the public, but are prohibited from discussing or considering the item(s) among themselves until the item(s) are officially placed on an agenda for a future meeting. Individuals are limited to a five (5) minute presentation.

FF Olivia Leon thanked the Board for all its efforts and asked the Board if they received the employees wish list, which was confirmed. She also commented on other comments made by the Board. Mr. Scott replied to some of her comments for clarification. She also stated

that she has gotten almost 50 % of signatures for the CCP 3 & 7 petitions ~~for coming into~~ joining the Blue Ridge Fire District.

Kathy Fenton of Starlight Pines wished to comment, and wanted to know why the Board was reluctant to take the recommendations of their Committee on employee benefits. Mr. Scott responded to her comments for clarification.

FF Brandon Sewell thanked the Board Members and the Fire Department for all their effort. He also commented on the Wage and Benefits Committee and the effort that went in to their recommendations and mentioned other Fire Department comparisons.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Scott made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Fenton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Chairperson Seward adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Cynthia Perelli, Clerk of the BRFD Board

Date: 9/29/2017



Cynthia Perelli, Clerk of the BRFD Board

Date: 10/20/2017

Minutes Approved: