



BLUE RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF PUBLIC BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BLUE RIDGE FIRE STATION SATURDAY AUGUST 21, 2021

- 1) Call to Order –Chairman Shannon Scott called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.
 - 2) Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Scott led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.
 - 3) Roll Call of Board Members: Larry Lambert, Judy Varns, Cindy Perelli, and Shannon Scott and Jack Beale.
 - 4) Review and adoption of agenda:
Chairman Scott asked for a motion to adopt the Agenda. Mr. Lambert made a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented and Mr. Beale seconded the motion. There was no discussion and Chairman Scott asked for a vote. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
 - 5) Announcements: The next Board Meeting will be held September 18, 2021 at 10AM.
 - 6) Reports and Correspondence:
 - a) Chairman’s Report: There was no report.
 - b) Chief’s Report –
 - Personnel: Total number of personnel is 36. 15 volunteers, 15 paid reserve, 2 full time, and 1 part-time admin. Brandon Lees graduated from the SAFER program and is now a paid reserve FF/EMT. Congratulations to Bryan!!
 - Apparatus Report: all vehicles in service
 - Incident Report: Total call volume for July was 30; 19 EMS, 0 Fire, 5 MVC, 6 Service calls.
 - Training Report: 270 hours of training during the month of July, including fire knots, rope rescue, stokes basket and big wheel rescue, team building, patient packaging, pediatrics protocols, and special needs treatment. Chief Paine attended the AZFCA conference in Glendale.
- Updates:
- Coconino County COVID update - 285 new cases.
 - Legislative Updates-NGCFCA (Northern Gila County Fire Chiefs Association) – met with Brenda Barton and Steve Christianson.
 - Met with County District Attorney via ZOOM, also spoke to Attorney Mark Byrnes regarding subscription service. He will get back to me with information.
 - Install of HVAC scheduled for next week
 - Have had several checks come from the State for \$2,000. Finally tracked this down to State Fire Marshal. Previously 100% of funds had been diverted solely to PSPRS to offset employer costs now that has been changed to half to the Districts and half to PSPRS.
 - Fuel reduction grant has been closed out in Starlight Pines.
 - Update on Rescue 8 program to retrofit with new chaise.

- Joined with Gila County who is working with a company from the Valley to access a large pool of potential applicants to fill all levels of fire fighter staffing. This would provide a larger pool of applicants than we currently don't have access to. More to come on this.
 - Begun work on BRFD Policy review with LEXIPOL. Have set a dead line of January 1st to have all reviews complete and handed off to the Board. Chairman Scott stated that he would like to review all changes to Policies.
 - BRFD Auxiliary Sale is Saturday September 4th.
- c) Other Reports:
1. Mogollon Ranch Committee Report: Mr. Lambert stated that everything is currently on hold. Possibilities was improvement of the forest service road to Mogollon but this was recognized as not cost effective. Other issues are current construction costs.
- 7) Call to the Public
- Mrs. Olivia Hanson-Leon of CCP 3&7 wished to speak to the Board. She asked the Board if they were aware of her recent medical retirement. Chairman Scott said the they were all aware the she was applying for a medical retirement through PSPRS. She then wanted to make the Board aware of a fire fighter tradition. "Upon retirement the fire fighter is awarded their helmet." She then stated the she was not invited to the Appreciation Dinner where she felt she should have received her helmet. (After this some comments were not clear on recording). She stated that "Chief Paine stands by the fact that he terminated her and that she was also advised by an attorney to sue the fire department for wrongful termination". (Again, some comments were not clear). She felt that she "had served the community with pride and honor and there was no way that could be taken away from" her.
- She then stated that "BRFD was a great fire department with great staff." She then commented that "she didn't understand why she was uninvited to the Appreciation dinner". Chairman Scott stated that the Board cannot respond to questions from members of the Public during this part of the meeting. However, he commented that the Board knew of her termination, that it was a staffing issue and Chief's responsibility. He has the authority to handle these issues in the appropriate manner. Mrs. Hanson-Leon stated "that the Board is in charge and thought the they should be able to do something about this". Chairman Scott stated that Mrs. Hanson-Leon's 5 minutes to speak were up. However, he chose to explain how the Board functions. "The Board does not get involved in personnel issue / operations. You need to discuss the issue with the Chief and come to some resolution."
- 8) Old Business: - None
- 9) New Business
- a) APPROVAL OF MINUTES- Discussion and possible action to approve minutes from the Board Meetings held July 17, 2021
Chairman Scott asked for a motion. Ms. Perelli made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with a modification noted on copies provided for Board to review. Mr. Beale seconded the motion. Chairman Scott stated that the modification to the minutes was to state clearly that the funds for the HVAC unit was not budget for and that funds to cover this expense would be taken from other budget items and reimbursed from other sources as discussed by Chairman Scott and Chief Paine. There was no further discussion and Chairman Scott asked for a vote. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
 - b) APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT: Discussion and possible action to approve the Financial Report for July 2021
Chairman Scott asked for a motion. Mr. Lambert made a motion to discuss and possible approve the July 2021 Financial Report and Ms. Varns seconded the motion. There was no discussion and Chairman Scott asked Mrs. Wise to read the Financial Report summary to those present. Chairman Scott then asked for a vote. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- c) Discussion and action to name a District Board Member to act as the Board representative and sit as a member of the PSPRS Local Board, Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-847.

Chairman Scott asked for a motion. Mr. Lambert the we discuss and take action to appoint a member of the District Board to sit as a member of the PSPRS Local Board. Mr. Beale seconded the motion. Chairman Scott stated that per the statue referenced, the District Board Chairman is responsible to fill the Chairpersons role on the Local Board or appoint a suitable replacement.

After some discussion Chairman Scott stated that he will represent the Board on the PSPRS Local Board. There we no action required by the Board.

- d) Discussion and possible approval of a goal setting format to be used by Chief Paine for his goal setting, which is required per his Employment Agreement.

Ms. Perelli made a motion for the Board to discuss and approve a goal setting format for Chief. Mr. Beale seconded the motion. There was some discussion then Chairman Scott asked for the vote. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- e) Discussion regarding the PSPRS Disability claim and an update to the Board and Chief Paine on the final decision of the PSPRS Local Board.

Chairman Scott asked for a motion. Mr. Lambert made a motion to discuss the BRFD PSPRS disability claim. Ms. Varns seconded the motion. Ms. Perelli began by giving an overview of the minutes from the Local Board meeting held on Mach 29, 2021 where the Accidental Disability had been approved by the Board. She then stated that remaining documents were completed and sent to PSPRS on May 5, 2021, at which time the application sent to the PSPRS Board for approval. BRFD has no received any notification from PSPRS providing approval of the claim. Ms. Perelli said she would follow up with them to rectify this situation. No action was required by the Board.

- f) Discussion and possible action regarding the BRFD 457b Alternate Pension and Benefit Plan.

Chairman Scott asked for a motion. Mr. Beale made a motion to discuss and take possible action on the BRFD 457b Pension Plan. Mr. Lambert seconded the motion.

There was discussion regarding the efforts to find documentation to support validity of the existing plan. Chairman Scott also said that he thought the Board should move forward with a revision to the existing plan and not waste more time trying to put past records together.

After further discussion it was decided that the Board hold a work session to provide input on final modifications to the plan and the process there after. Chairman Scott will provide a mark-up revision for their review prior to the work session. No action was required by the Board.

Mr. Bob Lashua, BRFD Assistant Chief, wanted clarification on which plan we were discussing.

Chairman Scott said that it was the alternate plan not the proto-type plan. No action was required by the Board.

- g) Discussion and update to the Board on recent purchase of new engine for BRFD.

Chairman Scott asked for a motion. Mr. Beale made a motion to discuss and get an update on the new engine being purchased for BRFD. Mr. Lambert seconded the motion.

Chief Paine provided a status update and said that he and Chad Richie were making a trip to the manufactures factory in Florida to work out the final stats on the engine in the coming weeks. Chief Paine will provide a further update at the next Board Meeting.

10) Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting

- Chief Paine will update the Board on trip to Florida to work on final specs for new engine
- PSPRS Disability Claim – update to Board and final paperwork to BRFD from PSPRS
- Draft of 5-year operations plan
- Chief's update to 10-year plan
- Update on status of Chief's Goals

11) Adjournment

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted: August 24, 2021

Cynthia Perelli
Clerk of the BRFD Board

Minutes Approved: September 18, 2021

Cynthia Perelli
Clerk of the BRFD Board