

BLUE RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016
BLUE RIDGE FIRE STATION
MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairman Richard Eng.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Board members present: Richard Eng, Alma Seward, Nick Gemrose, Jerry Smith. Absent: Monty Blosser (joins the meeting at 10:19 a.m.).
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Eng led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Moved by Jerry Smith, seconded by Nick Gemrose, to adopt agenda. **Motion passes: 4-0.**
5. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Moved by Nick Gemrose, seconded by Jerry Smith, to approve minutes of both the regular monthly public Board meeting and the Executive Session held on December 19, 2015. **Motion passes: 4-0.**
6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - A. **Reminder of future meeting date & time changes:** Thurs., Feb. 18, 10:00 a.m.
Thurs., Mar. 17, 10:00 a.m.
7. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - A. **Fire Board Chairman's Report:** Chairman Eng reported on the PSPRS update presented at the AFDA Conference in Laughlin on the 15th by AFDA Pres. Brian Jeffries, who spoke on the history of PSPRS. Legislation (SP 1609) is in progress but no action yet reported. DROP Program to be discontinued; Tier program to be implemented. Chairman Eng also reported that Pine/Strawberry Fire District has written a resolution concerning the \$3.25 tax cap, and that competition is arising to Copperpoint Mutual for underwriting Worker's Comp. insurance which will hopefully moderate the rates.
 - B. **Fire Chief's Report:** Chief Banning presented the report for December/January (12-19-2015 to 2-21-2016), copy attached for the record. Chairman Eng requested that a Board member be present at the next meeting of the parties involved concerning the restructuring the "Life Alert" program to be administered by BRFD as a joint community effort.
 - C. **Committee or Other Reports:** None.
8. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None.
9. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Discussion and possible action to replace 2 cardiac monitors:** Chief Banning presented detailed spreadsheets outlining vendor costs and specifications received from the bid placed last month. In addition, Ms. Rachel Schramka from Zoll was present to answer questions on the Zoll products and bid prices. After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to consider the Zoll bid first, and appointed member Jerry Smith to work with Chief Banning as a committee to further investigate prices and available options and to report back to the Board for our February meeting.
 - B. **Discussion and possible action on BRFD financial planning:** This item specifically concerns replacement of reserve account transfers, and is awaiting disbursement of County funds for action. The matter will be addressed specifically under Item 10A–BRFD Financial Report–at the February meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Financial Report for December 2015 – Review and Action required:** Jerry Smith read the report for period ending 12-31-15 as presented. **Moved** by Monty Blosser, seconded by Nick Gemrose to accept the Financial Report as read. **Motion passes: 5-0.**
- B. Discussion and possible action of changing Board officers:** It was agreed that remaining board members will work closely with Board Chair Richard Eng to maintain continuity and stable board leadership throughout the transition of members and officers during this election cycle.
- C. Discussion and possible action concerning personnel positions:** It was brought to the Board's attention that several volunteer positions are currently vacant, but state law nonetheless requires the District to pay worker's comp and FICA contributions even though no salaries are being paid. To address this unnecessary cost, Chief Banning plans to review the list of volunteers for non-participating members and remove their names from the roster.

Chief Banning also reported on the disbanding of the local Dispatcher Program effective March 1, 2016. Improvements to the Flagstaff 911 dispatch system have created an operational redundancy for our local system, and Chief Banning will now look to identify new roles for dispatch volunteers to enhance BRFD Support Services. This decision was reached by mutual *consensus with the dispatch volunteers after their meeting on January 13, 2016.*

- D. Discussion and possible action on advertising/presentation of draft letter to the public:** Chairman Eng presented a draft letter to the public, outlining the need for community volunteers in all areas of service for the Fire District; namely, the upcoming 2016 elections for Board members, the ongoing need for participating volunteer firefighters/EMTs, the need for community members to serve on committees within the District, and the general need for active participation in BRFD community events to carry out the mission of our Fire District.

After extensive discussion, the Board approved, by consensus, the letter to the public for publication in the High Country Informant, and for posting in all public venues locally. In addition, Chief Banning will place advertisements for the vacant BRFD accounting/payroll services position in the Winslow, Payson, and Flagstaff newspapers.

- 11. ADJOURNMENT: Moved** by Alma Seward, seconded by Jerry Smith, to adjourn. **Motion passes: 5-0.** Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.