



Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District

16126 Pierce Ferry Road

P.O. Box 611

Phone (928) 767-3300 Dolan Springs, Arizona 86441 FAX (928) 767-3301

MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE LAKE MOHAVE RANCHOS FIRE DISTRICT FEBRUARY 25, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting taped – Bobby Porzio called the meeting to order at 1:35p.m., with Administrator John Flynn in attendance via speaker phone. (Traffic delayed his arrival by 2 hrs) approximately 30 persons present.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Bobby Porzio led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Administrator John Flynn approved the minutes from the January 15, 2016 meeting.
4. **Report on the financial condition of LMRFD; fiscal 2015-16 budget:** Ellen Reh-Bower, Office/Admin for the LMRFD, at John Flynn’s direction, read data from the LMRFD financial reports for the month of January, 2016 as follows: Total cash on hand \$259,746.43; The budget is where it should be for this period; John Flynn added that around a quarter million \$ on hand should be enough to get us to the next taxing period when second half of property taxes come in; He said expenditures are in line with where they should be for the year, meaning the District is operating efficiently; He added that the LMRFD is expending slightly more in payroll due to shortage of personnel and overtime going to those still working. Mr. Flynn reminded all that the financials are posted to the website (WWW.LMRFD.ORG), and anyone with questions can ask at the next monthly meeting.
5. **Fire Chief’s Report on Operational Matters:** Fire Chief Patrick Moore not present.
6. **Consideration of District boundary changes to include parcels of real property in accordance with A.R.S. §48-262.1.** Annexed into the LMRFD by Administrator John Flynn, at the owner’s request, the following: *NONE*
7. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

A public body may make an open call to the public during a public meeting, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions, to allow individuals to address the public body on any issue within the jurisdiction of the public body. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the public body, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the public body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.

BOBBY PORZIO, Meadview; *Informed the group of an election to seat 5 members to the LMRFD Board, May 17; He stated that there are 8 people running for the 5 open positions, 4 of whom were present at the meeting. He asked those present to identify themselves. They did so as: Eric Terrill, David Anthony, Mike Karash, and Charlotte Kiffer.*

TOM LITTLE, Meadview; *How many days was the station dark this month? Bobby Porzio replied that he did not know for sure. He reported that the schedule is filled, with no openings, for next month.*

UNIDENTIFIED, Meadview; *Asked where the money comes from that pays the personnel; Bobby Porzio answered, “taxes”. Person asked why taxes are paid and still don’t have personnel? Bobby answered, “Not enough money, and it will be up to the new Board and Fire Chief to make the Fire District run on the money it takes in.”*

TONY DEMAIO, LMRFD Firefighter/Paramedic; *Stated that the Board establishes the financial parameters under which the Fire Chief must operate, and it is up to the Board to rein him in if he exceeds those parameters.*

ERIC TERRILL, Dolan Springs; *added that it is up to the taxpayers to come to the meetings and ask questions, to serve as oversight for the Board.*

UNIDENTIFIED, Meadview; *Asked how the financial situation can get better, and what staffing looks like when the LMRFD will, after severance of contract with NACFD April 1, have to assume overhead costs formerly shared with them? Bobby Porzio asked Ellen Reh-Bower for input. Ellen answered that for her own peace of mind she had done some “looking forward” and is confident that there are sufficient funds to continue in the direction we are going, as long as that direction IS continued. She stated that John Flynn will be helping to prepare the budget for the next fiscal year that the new Board will be working with, and is sure he will continue with the current level of funding and staffing. She added*



Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District

16126 Pierce Ferry Road

P.O. Box 611

Phone (928) 767-3300 Dolan Springs, Arizona 86441 FAX (928) 767-3301

that the problem right now is not the lack of funds, it is the lack of people. The LMRFD has lost 4 full time personnel over the last few months and is having difficulty replacing them. A combination of factors; location, work conditions, and pay/benefits, factor into that difficulty.

SUPERVISOR JEAN BISHOP; Explained how income for the District fluctuates during the year, with 2 main influxes when property taxes are paid. She explained that during the slow times most Fire Districts rely upon a line of credit from a bank. She stated that Mr. Flynn is working on obtaining a line of credit, and without it, the LMRFD would not be able to pay its employees or bills during the time before the next tax money comes in.

ADMINISTRATOR JOHN FLYNN; Agreed with everything Supervisor Bishop stated, adding that the revolving line of credit is **critical** for the LMRFD. He stated that the bank has the LMRFD audit and that the L.O.C. process is underway. He said it is difficult because the District was insolvent for several years, making it a higher risk.

CHARLOTTE KIFFER, Dolan Springs; Asked Mr. Flynn about the applications for new staff that he mentioned at the last meeting. He replied that NACFD was doing the testing, and that of 4 who applied, 2 chose not to be tested. If the remaining 2 pass the testing, they will be put to work.

WALT KIFFER, Dolan Springs; Asked, "What kind of testing?" Mr. Flynn replied, "Physical agility, drug test, background check, etc."

TONY DEMAIO, LMRFD Firefighter/Paramedic; Expanded on the process, stating that an applicant takes a written test, physical agility test, then oral boards. If they pass those, they go on to background check, drug screens, etc. Takes from a few weeks to a month or 2 to complete the process.

BOBBY PORZIO, Meadview; Stated that the LMRFD is currently expending approximately \$150,000/yr. for the services of NACFD and Mr. Flynn. The LMRFD will no longer be paying NACFD after April 1, or Mr. Flynn after approximately July 1. Out of that savings, a Fire Chief and Administrative Staff need to be hired, and a staff vehicle for the Fire Chief purchased.

PAT KELLEY-STAAAB, Meadview; Asked who will serve as LMRFD management after April 1, until the new Board hires a Fire Chief? John Flynn stated that he will make sure we have someone in the interim; he said he is running an ad 5 days a week with the Arizona Fire Service, for a Fire Chief and Firefighter/EMS, full time and part time for the LMRFD. Mr. Flynn said it has been running 3-4 weeks.

CHARLOTTE KIFFER, Dolan Springs; Asked how many applications Mr. Flynn had received for Fire Chief. He answered, "None, from the ad; one, internal."

UNIDENTIFIED, Meadview; Asked how much a Fire Chief makes? Bobby Porzio answered, "Six figures in some places." He added that it will be up to the new Board to determine the salary.

UNIDENTIFIED, Meadview; Asked if budget is realistic in amounts paid to attract and retain personnel, the question was asked what Clark County pays FF/Paramedic; replies from the audience ranged from \$100,000 - \$120,000/yr., plus benefits. LMRFD currently paying approximately \$65,000, benefits included. Bobby Porzio added, we cannot afford to match what other places are paying; we can only pay according to what we take in.

SUPERVISOR JEAN BISHOP; Explained that part of the problem attracting personnel is the instability of the District.

BOBBY PORZIO added, that there are potential employees waiting in the wings to see who gets elected to the Fire Board and who the Fire Chief is. Having spoken to them directly, he said, they will not be coming back if certain criteria are not met. He stressed the importance of electing Fire Board members who understand the issues and who can work together with each other and with the Fire Chief.

UNIDENTIFIED, Meadview; Asked if the LMRFD could function as a training ground for Clark County personnel. Tony DeMaio stated that being in a different state requires additional licensing, etc. He added that the sharing of personnel already is done between LMRFD, Kingman, Golden Valley, Bullhead, Lake Havasu City, etc., and that more of that will be happening as all of those places are finding their budgets decreasing and their employees subsequently looking for other places to work part time to make up the difference.



Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District

16126 Pierce Ferry Road

P.O. Box 611

Phone (928) 767-3300 Dolan Springs, Arizona 86441 FAX (928) 767-3301

UNIDENTIFIED, Meadview; Asked why joining the Fire District is not mandatory. Bobby Porzio explained how the District was set up in 1970 which allowed properties to be annexed in piecemeal. He added that John Flynn has worked to make individual annexation easier. He said since mid-2014 30 people have annexed in, with a total tax revenue to the District of approximately \$4800.

UNIDENTIFIED; Asked how long until Meadview has an ambulance. Bobby Porzio answered that Meadview has an ambulance, currently in the shop for repairs. He stated that two EMS personnel are required in order to transport. He added that with at least one EMT on duty a patient can be stabilized. A helicopter is called if the situation is life threatening.

DEE ?, Meadview; Asked if any Board candidates are from Meadview; Bobby Porzio answered yes, of 8 candidates, Steve Berg and Mike Karash are.

UNIDENTIFIED; Asked about the election process; John Flynn replied that the polls will be open at standard places, with LMRFD Board candidates listed. People may go to poll to vote, or receive early voting ballot. He answered "yes" to question of whether absentee ballots will be available.

BOBBY PORZIO, Meadview; Asked if Mr. Flynn had any information on the proposed lifting of the 3.25% tax cap. Mr. Flynn replied that it probably will not pass this year.

JEFF ?, Meadview; Asked about separating the EMS from Fire service, handing the EMS portion over to AMR.

CHUCK WAALKENS, AMR; stated that attempts to negotiate such an arrangement were begun, but are in limbo until a full Board is in place to negotiate with. He added that the LMRFD could opt to release their C.O.N., and enter into a secondary C.O.N., removing their EMS budget, leaving AMR to cover the C.O.N. AMR would place one ambulance with Paramedic stationed in Dolan Springs, and none in Meadview, as call volume does not warrant 2 ambulances in the LMRFD. With the secondary C.O.N., LMRFD could still "have an ambulance standing by with 2 EMT's ready to jump in for second calls to make primary contact and begin transport, meeting ALS along the way", according to Mr. Waalkens,

JOHN FLYNN; regarding the LMRFD C.O.N.; stated that the Department of Health Services will not amend the LMRFD C.O.N. to make it smaller; Additionally, he stated there is not enough transport activity in the LMRFD to offset the cost for AMR to put a Paramedic ambulance here; Also, he said that the ambulance service alone does not support the staffing we have, but the combination of the ambulance revenue and tax revenue allows us to have 2 in Dolan and 1 in Meadview. He stated that the reason the LMRFD has the C.O.N., is because it was carved out of River Medical's old C.O.N. who gave it to the LMRFD because there wasn't enough activity to warrant an ambulance being placed here. The LMRFD took it over so that the communities of Dolan Springs & Meadview would have ambulance service.

SUZANN NEWELL, Meadview; Asked how the Board members would be apportioned; Bobby Porzio answered, by number of votes, not respective to which community they are from.

UNIDENTIFIED; Asked if there will be opportunities to meet the Board candidates before the election. Bobby Porzio answered that there will be several "meet the candidates" opportunities.

8. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS for the agenda of the Lake Mohave Ranchos Fire District's next scheduled meeting and or a special meeting called by the administrator for the purpose of carrying out its powers and duties:

A. NONE

9. ADJOURNMENT: Administrator John Flynn Adjourned the meeting at 2:30 P.M. (Community Discussion of various issues continued)

Adjourned to Executive session per A.R.S. 38-431.03A: NONE

Date and time of next meeting MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016, AT 1:30 at the **LMRFD Station #41 located at 16126 Pierce Ferry Road, Dolan Springs, AZ**

Respectfully submitted by: John Flynn, Administrator