



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Elected Officials of Rio Rico Medical & Fire District
held on March 31, 2021, Station #3, 822 Pendleton Dr., Rio Rico, AZ

To comply with Governor's social distancing guidelines,
this meeting was closed to the public and held remotely.

1. Call meeting to order
 - Meeting is being recorded
 - Meeting called to order by Frank Bejarano at 5:35 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Call to the Public
 - None
4. Roll call for board members
 - Present remotely: Brad Beach, Frank Bejarano, Michael Carlson, Dean Davis and Dora Urias
5. Approval of minutes for the District Meeting held on February 24, 2021
 - Motion to approve the minutes of the District Meeting held on February 24, 2021 made by Dora Urias, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion passed with ayes by Brad Beach, Frank Bejarano, Dean Davis and Dora Urias
 - Michael Carlson did not vote as he was not present at the February 24, 2021 meeting
6. Approval of minutes for the Special District Meeting held on March 17, 2021
 - Motion to approve the minutes of the Special District Meeting held on March 17, 2021 made by Dora Urias, second by Dean Davis
 - Motion passed with ayes by Brad Beach, Frank Bejarano, Dean Davis and Dora Urias
 - Michael Carlson did not vote as he was not present at the March 17, 2021 meeting
7. Fire Chief's Reports and Staff Reports:
 - a. Call Summary
 - Total calls: 273 911s 81 IFTs 115 Fires 6 Others 71
 - b. Operational Reports
 - i. Equipment, vehicle, station
 - Engine 523 is back in service; in additiona to frame repair, all electrical issues and alternator have been fixed and the truck passed the pump test.
 - ii. Training
 - EMS trainings utilizing on-line platforms
 - Minimum Company Trainings – Captains breaking down quarterly trainings with individual shift/station trainings scheduled for Tuesdays
 - EVOC Driver Training for new hires and refresher training for current employees
 - Looking at hiring a training coordinator to assist the Captains and Deputy Chief Johnson in focusing on District training
 - Fire Officer Leadership program continuing Tuesdays and Thursdays via Zoom. 13 Students from RRMFD, TFD and NFD participating; Firefighters Fielder, Hernandez, Manjarrez and Sanchez participating from RRMFD
 - Firefighters Cortinas, Cruz, Hodgeson and Saavedra currently taking Technical Rescue Training, Ropes I, II and III
 - Wild Land Pack Test has begun for members qualifying for WL assignment as well as all personnel

- iii. Personnel
 - EMT Candidate Recruits will graduate in Mid-April. RRMFD has 7 participants (one did not show and two failed out)
 - Captain Ibarra and Firefighter Ringston have applied to test for acceptance into the Pima Paramedic Program beginning in May
 - Recruit class of 12 diverse individuals -10 EMTs and 2 Paramedics – all ages, some with experience, some with no experience; all eager to learn!
 - Mike Vohland recognized for his Board service
 - Labor Management team had nothing to report
 - Brad Beach asked how Wildland assignments worked. Chief Amezaga stated it is not mandatory (unless there is a local emergency) rotation. Team of volunteers pooled and used as needed for the long term assignments
- iv. COVID-19 Update
 - No Administrative or Operational personnel out sick
 - Approximately 76% of personnel have been vaccinated
 - Covid transports continue to decrease
 - Vaccination modules provided by our base hospital are mandatory for all EMTs and Paramedics
 - Assisting with vaccinations
 - Additional vaccination POD opening in Rio Rico
- c. Fire Marshal
 - i. Inspections and Plans
 - 250 NFIRS reports uploaded for February – COVID positive info pending for January and February
 - Participated in 7 webinars/trainings
 - 2 Burn permits requested-one approved; one denied. Red flag days - red flags flown on flag poles at each station
 - 4 Inspections completed
 - 6 Fire Calls (One illegal burn extinguished) and one powerline hazard. Frank Bejarano suggested posting a notice to contact RRMFD for a permit to burn
 - ii. Community Events
 - Participated in the annual “Love of Reading” week – books read virtually and videos made
 - Community food distribution at the Community Center with the assistance of RRMFD, RR Community Center, SCCSD #35 and the RR Rotary. Donations to fill boxes by Nickel’s Diner, Villa’s Market, Andy Jackson and local produce warehouses. RRMFD volunteers: Angel Valencia, Baxter Robbins, Ana Holman & Maribel Pesqueira
 - NSFD pick up truck being utilized for the Fire Marshal vehicle – logoed with NSFD and RRMFD
- 8. Administrative Report:
 - a. Presentation of monthly Financial Reports up to February 28th, 2021
 - Monthly financial reports for February 28, 2021 presented by Ana Holman
 - Billing and income coming back to a normality
 - Michael Carlson asked about the average time from billing to collection. Ruth Hardwick stated normally 6 weeks, electronically 3 weeks
- 9. Old Business:
 - a. Update on the NSFD IGA transition
 - DC Johnson – station is staffed; 4 calls within district; crews enjoying the break – organized, painted and cleaned station. Two rooms previously used as offices converted to dorm rooms; rooms will be wired for radio dispatch. Nicknamed Station 4
 - b. Update, discussion and possible action to approve the RRMFD revised 2018 International Fire Code and Amendments with committee recommendations (Updates need approval by the Arizona State Fire Marshal’s office)
 - Committee of Dean Davis, George Cluff and Chief Amezaga discussed concerns and made recommendations

- Dean Davis stated there were 3 areas of exception of which two related to sprinklers – all S1 and S2 construction improvements would require sprinklers (primarily produce warehouse additions). This created a hardship for the smaller businesses due to the expense. Committee recommended deleting this requirement and going with the standard set forth by the International Fire Code 2018 which is anything over 12,000 square feet would mandate sprinklers, less than 12,000 square feet would not require sprinklers. Recommendation is within the International Fire Code 2018. Third exception was related to fire alarms – when a fire alarm goes off the section was requiring notification in any public meeting area and bathrooms. This also created a hardship for the smaller business due to the expense. Committee determined any occupancy over 20 people would require alarm notification (strobe and sound)
- Motion to approve committee recommendations for approval by the Arizona State Fire Marshal's Office made by Michael Carlson, second by Dora Urias
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- c. Update and discussion regarding the purchase of a Type 3 fire truck
 - Chief Amezaga and Frank Granados have been meeting with Rosenbauer
 - Frank Granados sent out 5 requests for bids for the exact fire truck wanted. Received 5 bids; one for the Rosenbauer truck driven in Green Valley; price was good but worked on getting it reduced by \$10,000-\$ 15,000 and got some free lights as well. Spoke with them again after a line by line item review with some additional requests. Awaiting response. Many amenities making the truck safer and allowing crews to perform tasks in a safe manner. Purchasing for wildland but can also be used within District as a Type 1. Will be the nicest truck in Arizona. Original quotes \$450,000-\$460,000, current quote \$402,000 but may be a bit higher for additional items requested.
- d. Status update for Chief Amezaga's annual evaluation
 - Placed on agenda as a reminder for list of accomplishments for the Board members
 - Chief Amezaga will send to Board members

10. New Business:

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve February 28th, 2021 monthly financial reports
 - Motion to approve February 28, 2021 monthly financial reports as presented made by Michael Carlson, second by Dean Davis
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- b. Discussion and possible action regarding vocational classes for Fire and EMS with county schools
 - Chief Amezaga reached out to Melissa at RRHS has programs set in place for vocational type training with Universities, JTED and another types of associations. Anyone requesting Firefighter related training was being sent to Tucson. Concern for RRMFD working directly with RRHS (within TUBAC district) would require a partnership with Tubac. Funding not available with JTED; possibly could have a cadet program to get students interested with possible vocational training. If anyone knows of businesses, organizations or foundations which could possibly donate for education we could reach out. Currently working with Helmet Peak Fire for an upcoming Fire Academy for our recent hires with a 50/50 split with the employee and a reduced cost of \$1800 – Pima's cost is \$3600 for the Fire Academy and \$2400 for the EMT course. City of Nogales put on an EMT academy to help the City at a minimal cost. Will keep the avenues open for possible future options.
- c. Discussion and possible action to approve Emergency Medical Services Restocking Agreement between Banner Health and RRFd d/b/a RRMFD
 - Banner previously supplied all ALS medications; following review by Banner, associated costs will be passed along. Current cost is approximately \$200 per month
 - Motion to approve Emergency Medical services Restocking Agreement with Banner Health made by Dean Davis, second by Dora Urias
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- d. Discussion and possible action to approve Emergency Base Station Agreement between Banner-University Medical Center Tucson Campus, LLC, an Az. limited liability company, d/b/a Banner-University Medical Center Tucson Campus and RRFd d/b/a RRMFD
 - Annual renewal of contract. For licensing, a base hospital is required.
 - Motion to approve Emergency Base Station Agreement between Banner University Medical Center et al and RRFd d/b/a RRMFD made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach

- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

11. Upcoming meeting discussion:

a. Monthly Board Meeting – April 28th, 2021

- Dean Davis noted during his review of stations last week the collection bins for oil are getting very full and looking trashy. Frank Granados noted a regular pick schedule will be implemented.
- Michael Carlson suggested at the decision of Chief Amezaga and Chairman Bejarano to continue the topic of Covid inoculations once the Board members have had time to think it through and have an accurate discussion might be worthy of some further topics

12. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn made by Dean Davis, second by Dora Urias
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- Adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Dated this 7 **day of** May **, 2021.**

Rio Rico Medical & Fire District Elected Official

Brad Beach,

Clerk of the Board