

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT
72401 HATCH ROAD, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277**

MAY 28, 2014

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Moore called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m., 72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, California. Those responding to roll call were Directors Bo Bourikas, Chancey Chambers, Suzi Horn, Sam Moore, and Roger Shinaver. Also present were Fire Chief Jim Thompson, Financial Consultant Cindy Byerrum, and District Secretary Cindy Fowlkes.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

Ed Vallerand, of Twentynine Palms, clarified an article he wrote in The Desert Trail. Mr. Vallerand also spoke to Agenda Item #1 and cautioned that semantics can lead to legal woes if not clarified.

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Fire Protection Fees and Charges

Chief Thompson provided the Board with substantiated reasons for not collecting fees for fire inspection and emergency response calls, as the cost to recover the monies collected does not offset the expenses. Chief Thompson provided historical background for the adoption of Resolution 491 (establishing a schedule of fees and charges) and informed the Board that the Resolution was rescinded by way of a motion a few months later.

Chief Thompson recommends seeking clarification from legal counsel regarding the charging for emergency medical calls. If the charges are permissible, Chief Thompson recommends residents and non-residents alike be charged the same fee amount and propose the hiring of a collection agency to collect the fees.

After discussion, the Board agreed to bring back the item next month.

2. First Draft of Proposed Budget for Fiscal 2014/2015

Chief Thompson went through the proposed budget noting it did not include an increase in tax revenues and touched upon a few significant line items.

- CALPERS contributions are down slightly due to the MOU requiring employees to contribute 2.25% to the retirement plan and increase in medical premiums for employee paid dependent costs.
- Workers Compensation has increased slightly though the department suffered no claims.
- Professional Services increased to cover costs for the Lew Edwards Group, financial consultant, and possible fee study.
- Apparatus Maintenance has been broken out allowing labor costs to be tracked and billed to a specific apparatus.

3. Consent Calendar

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 23, 2014 and Minutes of the Special Meeting held on April 30, 2014
- Audit List

Director Chambers moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Director Horn and approved unanimously by Directors Bourikas, Chambers, Horn, Moore, and Shinaver.

4. Items Removed From the Consent Calendar for Discussion or Separate Action
None

5. Department Reports

5.1 Finance Report

Ms. Cindy Byerrum, Financial Consultant, reported salaries will fluctuate depending on the number of pay periods in a month. The budget is tracking as expected.

5.2 Fire Chief's Report

Chief Thompson reported the Department responded to 174 calls for assistance during April. There were four structure fires during the month with one resulting in an increased response time of approximately 10 minutes due to the closure of the Lear Fire Station. An annual ladder test was performed by an outside company. Staff checked 12,000 f.t. of hose for deficiencies. At last night's City Council meeting, Council did not vote in favor of a joint meeting. The Chief was presented with questions from the City late this afternoon regarding the nature of the meeting request.

The Board agreed that President Moore will contact Mayor Mintz and share the Board's concerns regarding the questions received from the City.

6. Future Agenda Items and Staff Tasks/Directors' Comments and Reports

Director Horn commented that she may not be in attendance at the June Board Meeting.

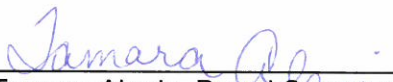
7. Adjournment

On motion by Director Chambers, seconded by Director Horn and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Kerron E. Moore, President
Board of Directors

Attest:


Tamara Alaniz, Board Secretary
Twentynine Palms Water District

APPROVED JUN 25 2014