

HERITAGE HILLS FIRE DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes

Heritage Hills Fire District Board Meeting
Rural/Metro Fire Department Administrative Building
490 W. Magee Road
Tucson, AZ 85704

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Attendance: Board Members Marlene Wright, Julie Hunt, Meighan Moore and Chairman Jerry Phillips were present. Rural/Metro's representatives Chris Pendleton, Heather Wood and Wendy Bond; Alan Williams, President of Old Pueblo Firefighters Union.

1. **Called To Order:** Chairman Jerry Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm, followed by Pledge to the Flag.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Board Member Hunt motioned for approval of the Minutes from December 20, 2005 with amendment. Board Member Moore 2nd the motion. Minutes were approved with amendment. The approval of the Minutes from the Tri-Board Study Session in tabled until the next meeting of the Heritage Hills Fire District.
3. **Chief's Report:** Heather Wood presented the Run Report for December. There were two calls that exceeded the six minute response time. It was noted that one call had a response time of 42 seconds due to the Fire Engine witnessing a car drive into a wall. The graph for December will be distributed at the next meeting.

The Fire Inspection Report was presented. It was noted that there have been a number of annual inspections conducted. There were no fire investigations conducted.

4. **Correspondence:**

- A) The Binder and Invoice in the amount of \$1,278 for General Liability Insurance was received from The Mahoney Group. A check in the amount of \$1,278 will be mailed.

5. **Budget Report:** Board Member Moore presented the Budget Report as of December 31, 2005. The ending Cash Balance was \$182,171.78 as of December 31, 2005.

6. Old Business:

A) AFDA Conference: Chairman Phillips, Board Member Wright and Chief Chris Pendleton attended the conference which was held in Laughlin, NV January 13-15, 2006. Chairman Phillips discussed a Communiqué the Board received from Chief Pendleton outlining the main points of the conference. It was noted that the bill outlining the changes to Title 48 has been published and will be forwarded to Tim Bee, the bill's primary sponsor. The Communiqué also stated that Northwest Fire District lost their law suit on the facilities benefit assessment (impact fees). Northwest Fire District Board has voted to appeal the decision.

Chairman Phillips and Board Member Wright attended a breakout session on Board Members' Responsibilities. The session was conducted by Bill Whittington and Donna Adversa. They stressed the importance of Open Meeting Laws and By-laws. Chairman Phillips noted the importance of broader agenda items stating that any action, discussion or consideration must be on the agenda in order to be discussed. Chairman Phillips stated that the Board needs to compile by-laws. Heather Wood advised the board that copies of by-laws might be available from other districts or AFDA may have a template for them.

Board Member Wright discussed Fire District mergers with Donna Adversa. Ms Adversa stated the importance of meeting with the County Attorney for advice.

Chairman Phillips purchased the Fire District Association Manual. The next AFDA conference will be held August 25-27, 2006 in Paradise Valley, AZ.

7. New Business:

- A. **Reports:** The Annual Report of Heritage Hills Fire District has been submitted to Pima County. The annual report is certified as required by Title 48. Chairman Phillips stated that the Pima County Tax Assessor needs to be contacted regarding assessed value. Board Member Moore stated that she had initiated the contact.

The Budget Report is due in July. Chairman Phillips requested assistance with the budget. Board Member Moore stated she would attend the discussion but would be absent from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Board Member Wright reported on her review of the AFDA Newsletter.

- B. **Fire District Merger:** The Board engaged in discussion concerning the merger of Heritage Hills Fire District, North Ranch/Linda Vista Fire District and La Canada Fire District.

Each Board Member stated their concerns:

- Board Member Wright is concerned that everyone has a voice. She is also concerned about entering into binding agreements and recommends a "Co-operative Merger". This would keep the districts separate but do a cooperative strategic plan.
- Board Member Moore stated that she was under the impression that Fire Districts must be contiguous in order to merge. Heather Wood confirmed the statement.
- Board Member Hunt would like to accomplish the merger in phases. She recommended contacting the County Attorney for advice.
- Chairman Phillips stated there is strength in numbers and that if Title 48 is rewritten there may be many Fire District Mergers. He wants to do what is in the best interest of Heritage Hills Fire District. Chairman Phillips agrees with contacting the County Attorney for advice rather than retaining the services of Scott Butler.

Board Member Moore moved to proceed in the discussion and investigation of procedures of how to do a Co-operative Tri-Board merger that would result in a resolution. Board Member Hunt 2nd the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Tentative dates of February 6th or February 13th @ 5:30 pm have been proposed by Chief Pendleton for the next Tri-Board meeting. February 6th was the date favored by Heritage Hills Fire District.

8. Call to the Public: No comment.

Announcements: The next regular Board meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2006 @ 6:00 pm at Rural Metro Fire @ 490 W. Magee Road.

Adjournment: Chairman Phillips adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Submitted By: _____ Approved By: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____