



BEAVER DAM/LITTLEFIELD FIRE DISTRICT
P. O. Box 579
Beaver Dam, Arizona 86432
Phone (928) 347-5114
www.beaverdam-littlefieldfire.org



Minutes A.R.S. §38-403.01

The Fire Board of the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District Governing Board held a meeting, open to the public on **June 19, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.** at the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District, Fire Station No 1 located at 630 North Highway 91 in Beaver Dam, Arizona for discussion of Public Business.

Minutes of June 19, 2014

1. **Call to order:** Called to order By Board Chairman Reber at 6:00 P.M. on June 19, 2014

2. **Roll call of Board Members:**

Board Chairman: Dan Reber	Present
Board Member: Doug Adriance	Present
Board Member: Gene Maughan	Present
Administrative Assistant: George Burnett	Present

Also present was Fire Chief Hunt

3. **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Given By Chief Hunt

4. **Call to the Public for comment and non-agenda items:**

No Comments were made

5. **Old Business:**

A. Review, discussion and possible action on a new Workman's Compensation Carrier.

With Captain Jackson on an emergency, Fire Chief Hunt made the presentation.

I guess you have a pretty good idea why we're here? I'm going throw a huge kink into this. Chief Hunt mentioned that workman's compensation is based on our payroll. This morning I spent a big chunk of the morning talking with Brenda (our Human Resource person) and as we got into doing with what we're doing, and we were aware of it, the way were paying our volunteers is illegal. You can't pay a volunteer more then 20 – 25% of your less paid guy (full-time).

Discussion continued on to how much we're paying our volunteers and how it's paid, its way out of line and even the person that we bring in at night and paying him is illegal. So we're going have to look at that. If we're going to be a volunteer department we can't continue doing what we're doing and we will have to look into this.

Chief Hunt mentioned she (the Human Resource person) will be making a visit here to visit with you three (the board of directors) about these things.

Discussion continued that we're going have to restructure to maintain a volunteer department, and how much we paid the volunteers. We paid them to the tune of \$80,00.00 last year which affects this (holding up the workman's compensation costs) and doing away with the part-time people. If we continue doing what we're doing then we become a paid department, then it throws a new kink into it. As being a rural volunteer department we rely a lot on the different grants that's out there for us.

Getting back to the matter at hand Chief Hunt also mentioned that as it turns out we're not the only department that SCF has dropped since it was taken over by Copper Point. They are dropping fire departments right and left. So this is what's going to happen new, the \$18,000 vs \$15,000 annually, as we restructure as to our volunteers, it could be adjusted and even reimbursed. They audit us annually and make changes accordingly. That's basically it in a nutshell and that's the kink in the system that I was talking about.

Board Member Adriance – I'm not surprised, when I came back from the AFDA Conference he mentioned it and that's when all the rumors started, were going to kill all our volunteers by not paying them anything. Well, we've got to follow the law.

Chief Hunt – you use the term volunteer, if I volunteer for the Red Cross, do I get compensated? The discussion continued on what you pay for out of pocket without any reimbursement, even if you go to a disaster.

Board Member Adriance – The bottom line is that the volunteers can't be here for the money – they can be here to line their own pockets.

Board Member Maughan – So were paying our volunteers?

Chief Hunt – Yes we are, they get x amount per callout for the first 2 hours and if the call goes over 2 hours the \$25.00 goes away and it goes to \$15.00 per hour. So if we go out on an accident, structure fire or whatever and you're into it for 3, 4, 5, even 6 hours they are paid at \$15.00 per hour. So now you know why we're paying out \$80,000 per year.

Discussion continued on what the volunteers did from the area that Chief Hunt came from. He mentioned that although they had a population of only 1500 – 1800 people they had plenty of EMT's and firefighters. He also mentioned that the majority of the volunteers would wait to collect their stipend after thanksgiving so that they could get Christmas gifts for their children.

The discussion continued on the different aspects of being a volunteer department vs a paid/part paid department and what it would mean if we didn't correct the problem, especially with what the government, the state and county could do and change the whole way we do business as a department.

The matter (workman's compensation carrier and cost for the year) came up for a vote. Board Member Adriance made a motion to accept the carrier and its proposed figure of \$18,000 with Board Chairman Reber seconding the motion. Board Member Maughan made a statement that since we don't have any other choice then we have to go with it. Motion Passed and accepted.

6. Adjournment:

Board Member Maughan made a motion to adjourn with Board Chairman Reber seconding it. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:30 P. M. on June 19, 2014.

Reviewed and approved by:

Dan R Reber

Dan Reber
Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District
Governing Board Chairman

7-2-14

Date

Ref:
SD Card #1
File #2
Rec: #7