



BEAVER DAM/LITTLEFIELD FIRE DISTRICT
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Minutes A.R.S. §38-403.01

The Fire Board of the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District Governing Board held a special meeting, open to the public on April 29, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District, Fire Station No 3 located at 489 East Elbow Canyon Rd., Scenic, AZ 86432 for discussion of the possible annexation of 2 parcels into the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District and public comment.

Minutes of April 29, 2014

1. **Call to order:** By Board Chairman Reber at 6:00 P.M on April 29, 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 were Fire Chief Hunt, Battalion Chief Ojeda and Captain Jackson

3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Given By Chief Hunt

4. **Call to the Public for comment and non-agenda items:** No remarks for non-agenda items.

5. **Old Business:** Discussion and possible action RE: Boundary Change/Annexation impact statement for the areas described as all/part of Sections 15 and 21, located in Township 39 North, Range 16 west of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona which is more particularly described in the Beaver Dam/Littlefield District Boundary Change Impact Statement #1 and #2.

Patsy Ruybal asked to speak first. She mentioned that you'll see her name at the bottom of the Impact Statements. She also said that she did not start the request for annexation but was a carryover from the previous committee. She was sort of volunteered to do this and also stated that she has no property in the annexation areas. She mentioned that she wanted to get it out because of the phone calls and e-mails she's been getting, more or less blaming her. She wanted to get it out in the open.

Board Chairman Reber also spoke, He mentioned that we were here to listen to the people concerning the annexation and that we were not here to railroad anybody into this. He reiterated that this just a hearing concerning the annexation and get their input on the matter.

Mr. Caldwell asked to speak. The problem he has is with the amount of money to annex us in. Is this what I'm hearing right? Your asking \$325.00 for every \$100,000 dollars. So if your house is \$200,000 then it's an extra \$650.00 per year. For what?

Chief Hunt – if you don't mind I'll try and answer this. I understand there's two sides to everything. This is an all exclusive offering you protection in the district. First is the ISO rating. I'm sure that you've properly checked into this, is that correct? Right now you're unprotected and your ISO rating is a 10. If you go into this your ISO would be a 9 or a 7. I know that it appeals to a lot of people.

Another thing that appeals to a lot of people is that if we respond out of district, we have to bill for those fires. One thing is you have a house fire, car fire or other, it can run and cause other damage. It can cost you in the 10's of thousands of dollars for that one fire. I know it's a onetime thing and you're sort of living on that edge.

I heard that you have a fire hydrant near your house. If that's true you would go from a 10 to a 7 for your ISO rating. If you don't come in, you're still a 10 and unprotected, even with a fire hydrant.

Mr. Caldwell – We're paying \$1,600 in taxes and we would be paying another \$650.00 on top of that. How is that economical for anybody on a budget? You've got to look at that too. I know a lot of people who are retired and they won't be able to come up with another \$350.00 per year.

Discussion continued on the annexation on who was in the district and who is not. There was a discussion on a tax that showed fire district assist fund. Wanted to know what it was.

Battalion Chief Ojeda – That is actually a state tax that is imposed on Arizona residents, that if you're in an accident you don't get charged for equipment to respond. There are some districts that did opt out of it and if you get into an accident you can get charged \$1,000 - \$2,000 just for them to respond.

Discussion continued on how you get this costs for the fire district. Governing board set the rate.

Captain Jackson – The County actually sets the maximum rate that we can charge and the 3.25 rate is the maximum. Captain Jackson proceeded in detail how the rates are set and is determined by the proposed budget and the anticipated revenue. Captain Jackson continued on what the mill levy was and how it got to where it is now. Basically we had to go there to keep the doors open. We've got aging equipment that needs replacing, training and the like.

Discussion continued on how the fire district helped with the last annexation, the residents said that they were not against the district, but the amount that it's going to cost them.

Board Chairman Reber – The fire department and even the board can't go out and solicit to have you come into the fire district, it has to come from the people themselves. However the more people the come into the district we can spread out the costs burden over a larger group and possibility bring down the mill levy.

Discussion continued on that all of the snowbirds are gone and have no say in this matter. It was pointed out that they are not, they received the letters and after the petitions get going, they will get another letter asking them if they want to come into the district. There probably will be more meetings as this goes on.

A comment was made that if you're going to tax vacant land at the same rate as the ones that have a home on it, it will probably will inhibit the building up of the area. Mohave County has such restrictions on everything that it actually cost the one store to shut down.

There was a resident that spoke against the annexation and asked that he be allowed to read a statement he prepared by him and his wife. He was allowed to read it. Another questions was raised as to who sets the money you use for the year? Are you a county commissioner? Please explain that.

Board Member Adriance – We do, were elected by the people

Resident – What happens if you don't have enough money, do you go out and ask for volunteer donations?

Board Member Adriance – We tell the chief he has to cut his budget. In the worst case scenario we would have to close the doors.

Board Chairman Reber – When this crunch started hitting, and he's really proud of with what they went through to cut the budget, I can't believe some of the things they are doing to cut some of costs for us. They've gone to doing the majority of the mechanical work, before it was being done using the county shops and by doing so they saved a ton of money. We're not here to rip anyone off.

Chief Hunt – Yes, we try to share the load, we have a response area and we have the district. If we share that load we can keep the doors open and keep the apparatus up to date. He also continued with the life span of the different types of apparatus and when they need to be replaced. There are also a number of other items that are time sensitive, such as turn-out gear and the breathing equipment.

A resident raised a question that was off the annexation hearing but was allowed to proceed about the dispatching. She mentioned a couple she knew dialed 911 while here in the area. Instead of getting the local dispatch center she got a dispatch center in Idaho because of her cell number. She also said we never came.

Chief Hunt mentioned that we've been actually dispatched to California before. He continued on how far the dispatched system has come within the last 5 years. Right now the district is dispatched by a dispatch center vs being dispatched from a home. He also mentioned that we're continuing to upgrade our communications system.

Another resident mentioned that if we could drop it down to a \$1.50 he'd have no problem. He said a piece of the pie is better than nothing.

Board Member Adriance – I live in Desert Springs and I pay \$3.25 on my property. In order for you to come in at \$1.50 we would have to lower it district wide. I'd love that because my taxes would go down. He went on to say we can only change it during certain times and that is during the budget cycle. During that cycle we can look at it and say that maybe we can drop it.

Board Chairman Reber – you have to realize that we can't have different rates in the district, one rate for an area and a different rate for another area.

Discussion continued on why we were trying to annex in and why we didn't up the rates to stay in the black. It was explained that we did and we're not trying to annex. It was again explained that we can't but it was some residents in the proposed areas that wanted to. We're here to listen to you.

It was also mentioned how that rates can change from year to year depending on the budget and also mentioned that the annexation process has been going on for approximately 7 years by the residents of Scenic.

Captain Jackson again spoke how the budget works and how the levy is set. He also mentioned and told the residents that even if you do decide to annex you probably won't see a decrease in the levy for maybe 2 years. It was mentioned that as stewards of their money we can't keep it. We can't have a budget of say \$500,000 and collect \$600,000, the county would just sweep it and you've lost your money and it didn't help us either.

There was additional discussion on the benefits and upgrades that's been made, especially in the Scenic area to provide better protection and faster response times. The majority of responding personnel do live in the Scenic area.

There was a comment from a resident that wanted to thank the board and fire department for the meeting, and she appreciated it and all the information that was given.

The board was reminded that they have to approve/disapprove to allow the petitioning to go forward.

Board Member Maughan made a motion to allow the petitioning to go forward, with Board Member Adriance seconding it. Motion carried to allow the petitioning portion to go forward.

6. **Adjournment:** Board Member Gene made a motion to adjourn with Board Chairman Reber Seconding Motion passed to adjourn at 7:55 P.M on April 29, 2014

Reviewed and approved by:

Dan R. Reber

Dan Reber
Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District
Governing Board Chairman

5-7-14

Date