



## FORT MOJAVE MESA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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The Fort Mojave Mesa Fire District Board Regular Meeting was held at Station 92, 1920 Camp Mohave Road in Fort Mohave at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Board Clerk, Larry Morse.

### **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:**

The following members were in attendance: Larry Morse, David Brusby, and Arden Lauxman were present. Michael Bell and Catherine Lopez-Rajaniemi were absent.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Led by Larry Morse.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Derek Stephenson, Union President, addressed the board and said that the firefighters are glad Chief Pardi is back and are looking forward to putting the past behind us and moving forward. There is effective management dedicated to training and improving the labor management process. The Strategic Plan is nearly complete, we are financially stable and have a vision for moving forward.

Keith Parker spoke and informed the Board that the recall effort is in full force and there have been approximately 400 signatures collected so far. He also said he feels some Board members have violated the State's Open Meeting law by attending other events without providing notice; texting during meetings and by email. He also said if this JPA happens without Fort Mojave taking part, we will be left on our own island while everyone else joins together.

Blue Gist told the Board his daughters wanted to thank them for paying attention and listening at the previous meeting about the Chief. Everyone appreciates him being brought back.

Joe Brock, a retired Orange County firefighter of over 43 years, said that he has personally seen JPAs work and thinks it is a good idea, it saves money and believes the board can still turn this around.

### **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS: (The Board may wish to change the order of items on the agenda):**

None.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE:**

Chief Pardi presented Office Manager Tracey Petrisko with a Certificate for her recent work on securing our District's portion of an ARPA grant through the Industrial Commission of Arizona in the amount of \$218,587.00.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: Approval of Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2023
- B. Approve Special Board Meeting Minutes – August 22, 2023
- C. Approve Special Board Meeting Minutes – August 29, 2023
- D. Approve Monthly Financial Report – August 2023
- E. Approve Ambulance Write-Offs - \$1,759.19
- F. Approve Ambulance Accounts to be Sent to Collection - \$25,981.77

David Brusby moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Arden Lauxman seconded. Roll call vote: Arden Lauxman, Aye; David Brusby, Aye; and Larry Morse, Aye. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: Fire Chief Salary:**

Arden Lauxman made a motion to approve the Fire Chief's salary at \$133,661.00 as per the approved and adopted Fiscal Year 2024 pay scale. Seconded by David Brusby. Roll call vote: Arden Lauxman, Aye; David Brusby, Aye; and Larry Morse, Aye. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: Ladder 921 Fly Section Repair and Replacement:**

Assistant Chief Kevin Smith explained to the Board the estimate is for repairing the ladder section which failed inspection. The other two sections passed inspection. The cost will be \$57,134.24 and the truck will be out of service for approximately three months. The price does not include an additional \$3-5 k for shipping nor an allowance for any overages. Chief Pardi said he has reached out to Phoenix Fire about possibly obtaining a ladder truck from them as a loaned vehicle while ours is out of service.

After discussion, David Brusby made a motion to approve the repairs to the ladder section of 921 for no more than \$67,134.74 which includes shipping and possible overage. If the final amount is in excess of the approved amount, the Chief will ask for an immediate special meeting to approve. Seconded by Arden Lauxman. Roll call vote: Arden Lauxman, Aye; David Brusby, Aye; and Larry Morse, Aye. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: Gila Electronics Invoices totaling \$99,250.48 for Microwave and Installation per Board Approval FY2022:**

These invoices are the billing for microwave and installation costs which were part of the previous fire chief's budget process for fiscal year 2022. Chief Pardi wanted the Board to be aware that the work has been completed and the final bills have been submitted to us for payment. Arden Lauxman made a motion to approve payment of the Gila Electronics invoices total \$99,250.48. Seconded by David Brusby. Roll call vote: Arden Lauxman, Aye; David Brusby, Aye; and Larry Morse, Aye. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: Five-Year Contract for Air Methods Ascend:**

Chief Pardi said that this item needs to be tabled as it is still being reviewed and because Chief Proa is not available for this month's meeting. Arden Lauxman made a motion to table this discussion. Seconded by David Brusby. Roll call vote: Arden Lauxman, Aye; David Brusby, Aye; and Larry Morse, Aye. Motion carried.

**EMS REPORT:**

Chief Proa was unavailable to give a report for this meeting.

**FIRE OPERATIONS AND TRAINING REPORT:**

Assistant Chief Kevin Smith gave the Board an overview of the breakdown on response calls for August and also discussed the IFT reports provided in the boards' packets which show 9-1-1 vs IFT calls and earnings comparisons, comparisons to the previous year, etc.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Fire Chief Pardi again told the Board how he appreciates being back and serving the District and that he looks forward to moving ahead and working with the Board in the best interests of the District.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS MAY BRING FORTH TOPICS FOR A FUTURE MEETING AGENDA. THE GOVERNING BOARD MAY NOT DISCUSS, DELIBERATE OR TAKE ACTION ON TOPICS PRESENTED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS ITEMS, PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.2(H).**


None.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Larry Morse declared the meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.



MICHAEL BELL  
CHAIRPERSON



R. LARRY MORSE  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

