MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29th, 2022 AT 6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 1832 hours by Board Chair Mark Lee. Present at roll call were Board Members: Mary Bowen, Mark Lee, Phyllis Ellis, and Robert Murray. Brian Hughes was absent.

Item 1: **Call to the Public:** This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date."

Mary McCool, chair of J6/Mescal CDO presented the board members with paperwork (included as an attachment in the District's official minutes) of questions and concerns for the official record and stated she hopes the questions will be answered in current or future Agenda items. Mrs. McCool further stated she was unsure if the District officially published a call to election and that it would be helpful to the community if that information was posted on display boards, website and the District Facebook page. Mrs. McCool added, it is the Boards ultimate responsibility to guide the disbursement of 2022 funds at the close of the year and to have safeguard's put in place ensuring bills are paid.

Item 2: **Minutes:** Review, discussion, and possible action to approve the Draft minutes of the May 25th 2022, Regular Board Meeting and the Draft minutes of the June 14th 2022, Work Session.

Phyllis Ellis made a motion to approve the May 25th, 2022 Regular Board minutes with corrections to Item 5, changing the verbiage of strategic plan to Five-year plan, in two instances; and in Item 6, changing the name Captain Josh Olander to Phyllis Ellis. Motion seconded by Mary Bowen. Motion carried 3 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes and Robert Murray – yes, Mark Lee – abstained

Phyllis Ellis made a motion to approve the June 14th, 2022 Work Session minutes. Motion seconded by Robert Murray, Motion carried 2 – 0 with Phyllis Ellis – yes, Robert Murray – yes – Mark Lee – abstained, Mary Bowen – abstained

Item 3: **Financial Report:** Natalie Galgano of Municipal Accounts & Consulting, provided a brief summary of the District's recent financial activities. Board Members reviewed, discussed and possible board action to approve the May 2022 Financial Report, as prepared by Natalie Galgano of Municipal Accounts & Consulting.

Mary Bowen made a motion to accept as given the May 2022 Financial Report. Phyllis Ellis seconded. Motion carries 4 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes and Robert Murray – yes.

Item 4: **Fire Chief Report:** Fire Chief John Moran presented a summary of current events pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K). as they relate to administrative and operational activities at MJFD, including information regarding incident response, training, vehicle and facility maintenance, legislative issues, and/or other relevant topics.
No board action was taken.

- We responded to 53 incidents in May. Our average turnout time was 4:36 and our average response time was 11:55. 15 of those incidents were fires
- We received two $500.00 training scholarships from the Arizona Firefighter's Fund and will be sending four people to this year's annual fire school in Mesa.
- The 2009 Ford 550 engine swap is moving along very slowly.
- The administration building has some issues with doors closing, due to settling and deterioration of the wood cores on several doors. Nelco Transport has been scheduled to level the building toward the end of June or first of September.
- Fire Recovery USA has $6,176.00 worth of invoices billed out and has collected an additional $382.40 since last month.
- Benson Hospital will be hosting Bagels and Blood Pressures, July 1st , from 1000 to 1200 hours at the MJFD Administration Building.
- SCR1049 Fire District Funding has passed through the Arizona Legislature and will be decided in the November General election. If approved by Arizona's voters, this bill will provide a 1/10 of 1% sales tax increase to be shared by Arizona Fire Districts.
- We have two member anniversaries: the first one is our Chaplain, Ron Soto. Ron marks five years with MJFD… The second anniversary is Amanda Montalvo, who recently hit her one-year mark with MJFD.
- Mike Nervik and Chief Moran attended the June 22 Cochise County EMS and Fire Chiefs association meeting held on June 22. Highlights of the EMS meeting involved updates on HB2609: Ambulance Services; Certificates of Necessity and HB2431 Emergency Medical Services; Patient Transport, and HB2431, a bill that forbids an EMT from offering a presumptive medical diagnosis to a patient with the goal of obtaining a patient refusal for treatment/transport.
- In an effort to assist Cochise County Sheriff with their investigation into the recent arson fires, Chief Moran has contacted the Arizona State Fire Marshal's office to request a reward via their Arson Detection Reward Fund, as designated in A.R.S. 37-1387.
- NCCI required a down payment of $5,013 for our compensation insurance. This required Clerk Mary Bowen to obtain an emergency, temporary increase to Chief Moran's District credit card so it could be paid in time.
- Chief Moran has entered into an agreement with Lexipol for grant writing services. The cost of this service is normally $6,000.00 but he took advantage of a 50% discount. Chief's intent is for them to write a SAFER grant to obtain personnel.
- Whetstone's Fire Chief Jarvis has invited us to participate in a regional grant for the HAAS alerting system. This system uses the emergency notification system on

smart phones, Onstar and similar vehicle alerting programs to notify drivers that an emergency vehicle is approaching them, or that they are approaching an existing incident.

Item 5: Medical Direction Agreement: Review, discussion, and possible action to enter into an agreement with Canyon Vista Medical Center for Medical Direction Services or renew the District's current agreement with Tucson Medical Center for the same services.

Fire Chief John Moran responded to questions and concerns of the board concerning entering into agreement with CVMC, after expiration of current agreement in one month, stating, he believes it to be in our best interest to move our medical control to CVMC. Chief Moran explained, despite ratings, the medical control provided by CVMC is unrelated to any negative reviews associated with hospital stays. They have a new facility. Chief Moran added, he knows the pre-hospital coordinator at CVMC, she used to be with Mescal Fire and is very cooperative and knowledgeable.

Mary Bowen made a motion to accept the agreement with Canyon Medical Center for Medical Direction Services. Phyllis Ellis seconded. Motion carries 3 – 1 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes and Robert Murray – nay.

Item 6: Reserve Transfer: Review of the District's year-end financial status, followed by discussion and possible action for the purpose of determining the amount of funds to be transferred to the District's reserve fund.

Chief Moran stated, he clarified with the Cochise County Treasurer, Mrs. Cathy Traywick, on whether we needed board approval to do the transfer, since it is budgeted. Mrs. Traywick confirmed that we do not. Chief Moran and Board Chair Mark Lee both agreed that as a formality, it would be best practice to still have a motion to approve the transfer.

Phyllis Ellis made a motion to approve the transfer of $25,512.57 to the reserve account. Mary Bowen seconded. Motion carries 4 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes and Robert Murray – yes.

Item 7: Resolution 2022-01**:** Review, discussion, and possible action to approve a resolution that amends our existing rates when billing non-residents for emergency services and provides for annual increases based on the consumer price index.

Chief Moran stated revisions to the rates represent rates that are more in line with the department and expenses. Chief Moran added, several new rates were left out in the past because we weren't providing those services, but we are continually increasing our Firefighters education and their response capabilities so it's better to put them in their now, they are there if we need them, then there is no need to put another agreement up

for approval if we start running to hazmat incidents and things of that nature. Mr. Robert Murray inquired if everything is being put in, not just what we qualify for.
Chief Moran responded, absolutely. Mrs. Phyllis Ellis asked if these were in line with other District's and support. Chief Moran responded, yes. Chief Moran added, Fire Recovery is at 84% recovery rate for us, they do an outstanding job.

Mary Bowen made a motion to accept Resolution 2022-01 for the rate changes. Phyllis Ellis seconded the motion. Motion carries 4 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes and Robert Murray – yes.

Item 8: Revision to July 28, 2021 Minutes: Review, discussion and possible action to approve a revision to the July 28, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes, to include the names of members of the public who addressed the Governing Board, as well as a summary of their stated concerns.

Mr. Mark Lee stated, this agenda item is in reference to a complaint filed with the Ombudsman office because we went ahead with a call to the public, despite it not being on the agenda, which was referred to the Attorney General's office. Mr. Lee and Chief Moran added, this agenda item is in an effort to satisfy the Attorney General and provide an updated version that conforms with the statutes.
Mary Bowen explained, Brian Hughes needs to be here to have a quorum of the board on this matter.

Mary Bowen made a motion to table revision to the July 28, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes until the next meeting. Mark Lee seconded the motion. Motion carries 4 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes and Robert Murray – yes.

Item 9: Adjourn: Mary Bowen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phyllis Ellis seconded the motion. Motion carries 4 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes and Robert Murray – yes.

Mark Lee adjourned the meeting at 1939 hours.

Minutes complied and submitted by:
Denise Serna
Administrative Assistant