

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 2022 AT 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 1836 hours by Board Chair Mark Lee. Present at roll call were Board Members: Mary Bowen, Mark Lee, Phyllis Ellis, Brian Hughes and Robert Murray.

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."

No public speakers present.

Item 2: **Minutes:** Review, discussion, and possible action to approve the Draft minutes of the June 29th 2022, Regular Board Meeting and the Draft minutes of the June 29th 2022, Special Meeting and Public Hearing minutes.

Mary Bowen made a motion to approve the June 29th, 2022 Regular Board minutes. Motion seconded by Phyllis Ellis. Motion carried 4 – 0 with Mark Lee – yes, Mary Bowen – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes and Robert Murray – yes, Brian Hughes – abstained

Mary Bowen made a motion to approve the June 29th, 2022 Special Meeting and Public Hearing minutes. Motion seconded by Phyllis Ellis, Motion carried 4 – 0 with Mark Lee – yes, Mary Bowen – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes, Robert Murray – yes, Brian Hughes – 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 June 2022 Financial Report, as prepared by Natalie Galgano of Municipal Accounts & Consulting.

Mary Bowen made a motion to accept as given the June 2022 Financial Report. Phyllis Ellis seconded. Motion carries 5 – 0 with Mark Lee – yes, Mary Bowen – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes, Brian Hughes – 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 taken.

Incidents: We ran 64 calls in June with an average response time of 11:00 and an average turnout time of 4:37. We provided mutual aid 4 times and had 6 incidents occur while FF's were working another incident at the same time.

Training: Typical shift training taking place daily.

Apparatus Maintenance: LED emergency lighting upgrades for E171. The apparatus should be much more visible at night. Next on the list for LED upgrades is Brush171.

Facility / Building Maintenance: We've had a water leak between the multipurpose room and the storage room for some time that suddenly worsened. Doug Nelson, Nelco Transport, was down the next day to make repairs that included new plywood, tar paper, and shingles. Doug installed the French drain in the front sidewalk leading to the admin office, has leveled our buildings in the past, and is scheduled to perform another building level.

Station 172, I'm sure you've all noticed, is looking much better these days, all thanks to volunteer Scott Sherwood. Scott is a California transplant who apparently had all he could stand of retired life, as he has been working his tail off for us. He has painted the water tanks, replaced the rotten wood siding and painted the pump house and is keeping the grounds mowed and looking good. He purchased and donated a brand new Craftsman riding lawnmower, as well as all the paint and building materials for the pump house. All told, I calculate his financial contribution at just \$3,941.49, not to mention the countless hours of his own time he's spent doing the work. Scott is a welcome addition to MJFD and the work he is doing is appreciated by everyone here. If you happen to see him working outside, stop by and say hello... but be warned that you very well may be put to work!

Billing: Fire Recovery USA has collected another \$1,398.40 and the check should be here any day.

Other:

- Lone Mountain Communications has repaired the red flashing beacon atop the 172 radio tower
- Mrs. Joanne Ellsworth was the only interested candidate for the November election and as such she will be appointed by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors after the November election.
- Our budget documents have been submitted to Cochise County.
- I am currently working to obtain the necessary information for the SAFER grant that Lexipol is preparing for us.
- We have new internet here at Admin, which I trust will solve our streaming issues.
- Don't forget Benson Hospital's Bagels and Blood Pressures, this Friday from 10-12.

Item 5: NIMS Proclamation: Review, discussion, and possible action to approve a proclamation adopting the National Incident Management System. Chief Moran reported that MJFD has been utilizing the National Incident Management System for years but an official statement to that effect is a requirement to receive Federal grants.

Mary Bowen made a motion to accept the proclamation adopting of the National Incident Management System. Brian Hughes seconded. Motion carries 5 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes, Brian Hughes – yes, and Robert Murray – yes.

Item 6: 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.

Mary Bowen made a motion to approve the revision to the July 28, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. Brian Hughes seconded. Motion carries 3 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Brian Hughes – yes, Phyllis Ellis- abstained, Robert Murray – abstained.

Item 7: Badge Pinning Ceremony: Chief Moran will recognize Firefighter Christopher Peralta for completing his Firefighter Task Book and successfully completing his probation period.

No board action taken.

Chief Moran said, Christopher Peralta has been with us for over a year now, has completed his task book and is now an official Firefighter with the Mescal-J6 Fire District.

Item 8: 2011 Ford 550: Chief Moran will provide a status update regarding there repairs currently being performed on this vehicle. Review, discussion and possible action to determine the future use of this apparatus.

Mrs. Ellis said the apparatus is all put together and they are driving it as we speak. Mr. Lee asked if Chief Moran was aware there was a crack in the block to which Chief Moran responded he was not, he was only aware of a crack in the back plate. Mr. Hughes added, it is a new motor so they should just swap the motor out. Chief Moran responded that K and R reported that they had contacted Ford about that but Ford has been hesitant to do that. Mr. Hughes said that is unfortunate to which Chief Moran agreed. Mr. Lee explained that while the board decided to fix the truck rather than sell it, with a promised May 2022 completion timeframe, that we are now passed that. Mr. Lee added that he assumes they have been keeping in contact throughout the process in some way to which Chief Moran replied, no sir and that he just found out about the test drive now. Mr. Lee went on to say it would be unlike Chief Moran not to keep in touch in some way and inquired as to how Chief Moran was getting information if they weren't contacting him.

Chief Moran explained he spoke with them a couple times through email, which was not working out. Mr. Kieley was making regular trips to Tucson for personal reasons and offered to go to K and R and check on the status of the repairs. Chief Moran decided that since Kieley knows much more about diesel engines than he does, he accepted the offer Mr. Kieley was stopping in and checking on them just about every other day. Mr. Lee added, in his opinion that makes perfect sense since Mr. Kieley has been involved in heavy equipment repair for decades and has a way about him that motivates people to do things. Mr. Lee added it is his understanding that they are having issues with Ford, to which Chief Moran agreed. Chief Moran said he is a bit upset that K and R has not kept in touch. That they have spoken to Mrs. Ellis but not him. Mrs. Ellis replied that they did not call her, she called them because she took the initiative to do so. Chief Moran responded that he has taken the initiative several times also and he has not gotten results, but appreciated Mrs. Ellis telling him. Chief Moran said the total bill is less than \$20,000 with he believes a \$13,000 deposit. Mr. Lee added that there will still be a balance due, and he suggests that we don't pick up the truck and instead put it up for sale and the purchaser can pick it up from the shop as to not get in between them and the warranty situation. Mr. Lee further added that he wonders if legal should now be involved in this. Chief replied that he doesn't see that working out as people will want to test drive it and he doesn't see K and R wanting to deal with that. Mr. Hughes added that the warranty is probably not transferable either. Chief Moran agreed and said we need to find out. Mr. Hughes asked if we could wait to see what the outcome is now that they are ready to go, see if it is viable now and get a follow up to see what the problem was. Mr. Hughes added, if there is a cracked block there it will still be cracked. Mr. Lee responded that K and R wants to silicone it. Mrs. Ellis questioned where that information came from and said that the Chief should get that information firsthand. Chief Moran said, he understands wanting to sell before taking possession, but he thinks it will be a train wreck to do that. Mr. Lee stated that the board has made many bad decisions over the last year and a half, and he thinks taking delivery of this truck would be another. Mrs. Ellis added that this would be a decision of the entire board to which Chief Moran agreed. Mr. Murray asked about involving the attorney to which Chief Moran responded that he believes it would be premature until we know the issues. Mrs. Bowen added that Chief Moran should get in touch with them and find out what is going on, bringing up the crack in the block and go from there, pertaining to getting legal involved, if in fact things are not being disclosed accurately. Chief Moran agreed.

Mary Bowen made a motion for Chief Moran to contact K and R Performance Automotive and inquire as to the status of completion on the 2011 Ford 550, possible issues with a cracked block and any other possible issues observed. Mark Lee seconded the motion. Motion carries 5 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes, Brian Hughes – yes, and Robert Murray – yes.

Item 9: Board Meeting Schedule: Review, discussion and possible action to change which day the Governing Boards hold their monthly business meeting.

No Board action taken.

Mrs. Ellis said that she has a conflict on Wednesday that she has been dealing with but would prefer not to and would like to move the meeting to Tuesday night. Mr. Lee said that historically, we have a Fire Chief and Admin who work Monday, Wednesday and Friday and that to bring them in on their days off for a board meeting would mean they would need to be paid for their time. Mr. Lee added that the meeting should either be Monday, Wednesday, or Friday and that in the past Mondays proved to be a problem due to holiday interruptions and Fridays would keep everyone late, which Mr. Lee doesn't think anyone would want. Mr. Lee went on to say, Wednesday proved to be the best day to have the meeting for several reasons and that if a person is going to serve on the board, it requires one day a month. Mrs. Bowen asked Mrs. Ellis if it is just the fourth Wednesday to which Mrs. Ellis responded she has church every Wednesday night. Mr. Lee stated that the fourth Wednesday of every month gives our accountant time to prepare the financials report, it allows us to conform to the 30-day requirement on the financial review and it has worked out best for several years and that we have tried several days. Mr. Murray asked if Monday was workable for Mrs. Ellis to which Mrs. Ellis replied, its ok, she understands that it is after hours and asking the Chief and Denise to come in on Tuesday evenings could possibly be a detriment to their schedules. Mr. Lee said he would be open to having the meeting earlier in the day to which Mrs. Bowen responded that would be an issue for people who work, including Mrs. Ellis, to which Mr. Lee agreed. Mrs. Ellis added that Chief Moran works many days, not just Monday, Wednesday and Friday so it would only be Denise that she would be inconveniencing. Mrs. Bowen responded, yes but Denise also drives in from Vail and has probably scheduled things around her work hours, like everyone else does. Mrs. Ellis concluded with, she would like another work session to go over what we have going on and what our priorities will be. Chief Moran replied, great and he would send out an email and we can flush it out. Mrs. Ellis said that would be great.

Item 10: Adjourn: Mary Bowen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carries 5 – 0 with Mary Bowen – yes, Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes, Brian Hughes – yes, and Robert Murray – yes.

Mark Lee adjourned the meeting at 1926 hours.

Minutes compiled and submitted by:
Denise Serna
Administrative Assistant

