MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31st, 2022 AT 6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 1830 hours by Board Chair Mark Lee. Present at roll call were Board Members: Mark Lee, Phyllis Ellis, 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."

Bruce Andrews submitted comments and concerns via email, prior to the meeting, to be included in the Call to the Public. That email, in its entirety, is included as an attachment in the Districts official minutes. Mr. Andrews expressed concern in regard to comments made by board member, Mrs. Phyllis Ellis at a meeting, concerns as to whether Mrs. Ellis is having conversations with firefighters in the absence of the Districts Fire Chief, and concerns in general pertaining to the 2011 F-550, its reliability and the question of whether to retain the apparatus or sell it.

Mrs. Phyllis Ellis responded to Mr. Andrews email during the meeting. Mrs. Ellis's response, in its entirety, is included as an attachment in the Districts official minutes. Mrs. Ellis apologized for a comment made at the meeting pertaining to votes. Mrs. Ellis went on to explain that some of the comments in question, were only opinions expressed based on verbal comments and non-verbal body language observed from others at the meeting. Mrs. Ellis stated that other comments in question were reiterated after another board member had previously made them.

Item 2: **Minutes:** Review, discussion, and possible action to approve the Draft minutes of the August 3rd 2022, Regular Board Meeting and the Draft minutes of the August 10th 2022, Special Meeting and minutes.

Phyllis Ellis made a motion to approve the August 3rd, 2022 Regular Board minutes. Motion seconded by Robert Murray. Motion carried 3 – 0 with Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes and Robert Murray – yes.

Robert Murray made a motion to approve the August 10th, 2022 Special Meeting minutes, with correction to Item 1, changing the "no" to yes in the last sentence, the last word. Motion seconded by Phyllis Ellis, Motion carried 3 – 0 with Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes, Robert Murray – yes.

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 July 2022 Financial Report, as prepared by Natalie Galgano of Municipal Accounts & Consulting.

Phyllis Ellis made a motion to accept as given the July 2022 Financial Report. Robert Murray seconded. Motion carries 3 – 0 with Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes, and Robert Murray – yes.

Item 4: **Fire Chief Report:**

Incidents: We responded to 50 incidents during the month of July, with an average turnout time of 2:13 and an average response time of 9:55. We provided mutual aid on 5 occasions and had 2 overlapping calls.
Training: Four firefighters will be attending AZ State Fire School next week. Staffing will be thinner than usual during this Saturday and Sunday and while our people are in Mesa at Fire School.
Apparatus Maintenance: Captain Olander has ordered some misc. tools and EMS supplies in preparation to place the Ford
550 back in service. The Ford's call sign has been changed to R1711.
Facility / Building Maintenance: New signs/banners for Admin and Station 172. The total costs for all three was around $175.00. The old ones were purchased in 2016. Doug Nelson stopped by and took some measurements and will replace
two, possibly three wood core doors on the East side of the building. The new ones will be all metal, providing they can be found.
Billing:
Other:
• Census payroll data sent to Feds
• AZ DPS will be conducting an audit of our criminal background record keeping on September 16th. Chief Moran didn't anticipate any negative findings. Technically, these audits are supposed to be conducted every three years; this will be our
first in the eight years Chief Moran has been with MJFD.
• Chief Moran has returned the engagement letter to Walker & Armstrong, for the purpose of conducting our annual review.
Staff will provide documentation to our accountant and Walker & Armstrong as needed.
• The annual workers compensation payroll audit was completed on the 12th.
• Adequate staffing remains an issue, especially at night. Several firefighters are making it a point to be available for night calls, despite their having to leave for their full-time jobs the next morning. Some make the drive from Tucson just to provide some staffing for eight or even four hours. These folks are lucky to break even when you
compare the price of fuel to the stipend they receive and proves once again that MJFD staffs some great, community service minded men and women.
• Last Wednesday, Mike Nervik and Chief Moran attended the Cochise County EMS and Fire Chiefs meeting in Sierra Vista. Attendance was lower than usual and both meetings were short. SEACOM's director, Mike Cline, is dealing with the same staffing issues as everyone else; only 30% of the available dispatcher jobs are currently filled and that includes some AZ National Guard folks.

• The County Wide station alerting program is moving along, slightly ahead of schedule and the initial rollout and testing will begin soon. Chief Moran said he was confident our install will be completed by the end of the year
• Chief Moran recently signed us up with a new smart phone dispatching app called Bryx.com. Natasha Martinez, the Benson PD Dispatch Supervisor and SEACOM completed the work necessary to on their ends and Chief Moran looks for the new service to be operable in a couple of weeks. Bryx911 operates much the same as our current provider, eDispatches… only SEACOM and will provide real time data on Fire/EMS incidents throughout the County. He added that the Bryx91 program will be more useful than eDispatches, and has the added benefit of being free. The County Wide dispatching system comes with a smart phone dispatching app as well. We should know whether we want to keep or utilize the Bryx app by the time the County system is up and running.

No Board action taken.

Mr. Murray requested a work session to which Chief Moran replied, he is happy to set a date that works for everyone and asked if there were any suggestions. Mrs. Ellis stated she was available any night they wanted to do that, the more board members attending the better and she would like to have someone from operations in attendance.

Item 5: Employee Recognition: Chief Moran will recognize firefighters, Steven Montalvo and Christopher Peralta, for their performance at a recent incident.

No Board Action Taken.

Chief Moran stated, on August 22, 2022 there was a casual conversation at the Administration office with Christopher Peralta and Steven Montalvo about delivering babies while on duty. About 45 minutes later, they delivered a baby on the side of I-10 in conjunction with HCI. A baby boy, 7 lb, 10 oz. Chief Moran went on to say, these don't happen very often, not in his 8 years that he has been with the district and probably even before that. Chief Moran presented both Montalvo and Peralta with a commemorative blue stork bar to be display on the right side of their dress uniforms. Mr. Mark Lee commented, that's pretty special right there, this is why we exist.

Item 6: Adjourn: Phyllis Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Murray seconded the motion. Motion carries 3 – 0 with Mark Lee – yes, Phyllis Ellis – yes, and Robert Murray – yes.

Mark Lee adjourned the meeting at 1944 hours.

Minutes complied and submitted by:
Denise Serna
Office Administrator