

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE
MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 1832 hours by Board Chair Mark Lee. Present at roll call were Board Members Mark Lee, Mary Bowen, Phyllis Ellis and Bob Murray. Fire Chief John Moran and District Accountant Natalie Galgano were also in attendance.

1. Reserve Transfer: Chief Moran explained that a temporary transfer from the reserve account to the warrant account was necessary, as the current balance was not enough for the District to meet its financial obligations. Discussion amongst all in attendance centered on how much would be needed, when it would be feasible to return the funds to the warrant account, the current status of the reserve budget, the status of the District's line of credit and what the board could expect in the way of tax collection over the next few months. Natalie Galgano informed the board that an additional \$11,000 of taxes were deposited to the warrant account on the 5th, which would significantly improve the situation. Board Clerk Mary Bowen motioned to transfer \$20,000 from the reserve fund to the warrant account with the stipulation that staff re-evaluate things in December, as the funds would be returned to the reserve when the District's financial situation improved. Board Member Phyllis Ellis seconded. Additional discussion centered on whether the transfer of funds was within the board's authority. Board Member Bob Murray opined that any transfer from the Reserve to the Warrant account would be deducted from the reserve budget. Chief Moran disagreed, as a transfer for such an emergency was listed in the five-year plan and was only a loan. Natalie Galgano explained that moving money from funds is an accepted practice, that the reserve money will be used on budgeted expenses. She added that using the line of credit was only an option when the District had no reserve money, which is not the case. Chief Moran stated the goal was to return the funds once the District collected the bulk of its tax revenue in November. Chief Moran explained that although the warrant account reaches its lowest balance at this time every year, this year was especially worse, with tax collections being approximately \$18,000 since July 1st, compared to approximately \$68,000 at this same time last year. He added that, if the current trend continued, the District will need to reevaluate its spending and may not be able to add the three full-time firefighters as he had planned. Board Chair Lee called the vote: Lee, Bowen and Ellis voting yes, Murray voting no. Motion Carried 3-0.

Item 2: Adjourn: Motion by Clerk Mary Bowen to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Ellis, motion carried 4-0.

Minutes Compiled by
John Moran
Fire Chief