

CALL TO THE PUBLIC
10/26/2022

MESCAL-J6 GOVERNING BOARD

Several Requests:

1. Attached is an unofficial transcript of approximately a 20 minute discussion regarding the Ford 550 at the end of the Chief's Report for the August 31st Meeting. This important information was not captured in the Chief's written report, the Approved Minutes, live-streamed video, and is not available as the audio tape of the meeting was destroyed after the Minutes were created.

Two Considerations requested:

a. Most importantly, amend the Minutes of the August 31st Meeting to include the missing information. The information may be provided at another meeting but for maintaining credibility that this District makes every effort to adequately report key elements of a monthly meeting, those minutes should be properly amended.

b. Amend your policy of destroying the meeting audio tape after Minutes are written if it is known that the live-streaming video was disrupted multiple times. I believe it is recommended that the District should be keeping the audio recording after public hearings for at least three months in case of questions, so perhaps poor live-streaming might warrant keeping a tape accessible for at least 45 days to 2 months after the meeting in case there is a question regarding information shared or direction of a discussion, vote count, etc.

2. I am requesting an internal review in order for the Board to identify why the helipad renovations were delayed until November 2022, and if the Board will be considering how best to update SSVEC regarding the progress and plans for the Helipad versus the outrageous, misleading explanation in a permanent public record posted on the web - Chair Mark Lee's September 28th Statement.

Pay off of the Ford 550 or having the engine replaced in no way prevented the Board from moving forward with renovations in 2021-2022, prevented the Chief from carrying out a condition of his evaluation, or caused the District to have little carryover, and needing to borrow money and pay interest at the beginning of 2022-2023.

Chair Lee's statements are left in context in the following paragraphs but highlighted in red font.

AGAIN, the statements are outrageous, intentionally misleading the taxpayers of this District.

"Last summer when the Board reviewed the Chief's performance, they identified the heliport as a priority for repair. The truck was broke down at that time and it was in storage. Bruce Andrews assisted Chief Moran in securing a grant from SSVEC and AEPO to help with the cost of repairs. **As the end of the year approached money should have been transferred into the heliport fund to allow the Chief to gather bids and start construction on the project. Instead the Board allocated \$20,000 to replace the engine in the truck, effectively putting off repairs to the heliport until October at the earliest, when money starts coming in from property taxes. We ended up the year with very little carry over and, for the first time, we have been borrowing money and paying interest for several months. We also denied the Chief the ability to carry out a project he had been assigned as a condition of his evaluation.**

Now is the time to approach SSVEC and AEPCO to see if they will consider another donation to the heliport fund. The first logical question they would ask is "what have you accomplished with the money we donated last year?" How do we respond? I wish we were in a position to say we added \$20,000 to the money you gave us and construction is underway. I am not comfortable asking Mr. Andrews to go to back and ask for more money. This is an example of how one decision can effect others."

The 2022 June Financials, 5-year plan, and approved budget show no constraints placed on the Chief or Board for moving forward and completing the helipad renovations during fiscal year 2021-2022.

1. The 2021-2022 5-year plan identified helipad renovations as a possible project.
2. The Warrant Register Indicated on June 30, 2022 that an excess of \$ 25,512.57 was not needed to cover yearly expenses and was transferred into the Reserve Account bringing that total to \$229,005.68 for Capital Outlay items identified in the 5-year plan. The donation amount of \$7,500 by SSVEC and APCO remained available in an account.
3. With the amended 2021-2022 Reserve Budget, there were no constraints using any of those funds in conjunction with the donation to pay for the helipad project. In addition, the Cash Flow Projection Report for the end of June showed no constraints as well since the mentioned helipad monies would not have exceeded either the Income expected to be spent or the anticipated total for projected expenses on the 2021-2022 Approved M & O Budget.

Total Revenue Collected To Date	\$ 398,412	88.57%	collected
Estimated Total Revenue*	\$ 449,821	11.43%	remaining
Remaining to be Collected	\$ 51,409	100.00%	

Total Expenditures To Date	\$ 364,000	80.92%	expended
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 449,821	19.08%	remaining
Balance Remaining	\$ 85,821	100.00%	

Total Budgeted Reserve Expenditures	\$ 190,000	27.63%	expended
Total Reserve Expenditures To Date	\$ 52,496	72.37%	remaining
Balance Remaining	\$ 137,504	100.00%	

4. And to infer that paying off the truck or doing repairs was the cause of **"We ended up the year with very little carry over and, for the first time, we have been borrowing money and paying interest for several months,"** is an outright disservice to this Board and our tax payers. The Board was informed by the County Treasurer that the District had not followed County Policy in making transfers between accounts for multiple years, leading to her training the current Board on the proper procedure about 6 months ago. **THE BOARD CHAIR'S INFERENCE IS TOTALLY MISLEADING SINCE THE STATEMENT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO RELEVANCE TO THE PAYOFF PAYMENT/REPAIR OF THE TRUCK OR THE HELIPAD RENOVATION OR LACK THEREOF.**

Sincerely,
Mary McCool, Chair J-6/Mescal CDO

AUGUST 31ST, 2022 TIME STAMP MARKER 1:01:05

RUNNING SUMMARY OF DIALOGUE RE UPDATE ON FORD 550 - CHIEF DIRECTS BOARD BACK TO 1ST PAGE OF CHIEF'S REPORT "to talk about the Rescue"

Chief: I picked it up, drove it home from the shop and experienced no issues. We had a support person drive it to San Simone and back and then we parked it in a bay at Station 2 on some papers to see if there were any oil leaks or stuff like that - we found none.

We put 248 miles on it since it was broke down in 2021. 14 Engine Hours and 31 Turbo Hours. I am not really sure how that works but we have power meters and a computer in there that tracks all that stuff.

Bob: Excuse me, Chief, where is that all written?

Phyllis: It is not.

Chief: This is all verbal.

Bob: Oh, alright.

Chief: It had 50008 miles on it when it _____ from the shop. If you go back to the records, the guys keep really good records on our apparatus maintenance and truck checks. That's a total of 171 miles put on it before we received it. That falls short of the 500 that we were given before they gave it back to us. But it seems to be working just fine.

Captain Olander has ordered some medical equipment and some tools and I noticed that the hydraulic hoses that we ordered months ago actually came in. I will make arrangements to pick those up a couple of days from now. I think we have probably spent approximately \$3,000 roughly, or a little less, and we have been putting that unit in service for vehicle fires....

Bob: What do you expect to spend on it - you said that you have \$3,000 now?

Chief: A little less, I am thinking about \$3,500 - \$4,000...

Firefighter speaks to Chief

Chief: Less than \$3,000. That's it. Do you have any questions for me?

Bob: What did you find out about the warranty - did you get something in writing from them?

Chief: The warranty is from Ford Motors, not from K & R. K & R is an approved Ford Shop, there are over 3,000 in the nation. I have copies of the Warranties from Ford. We can take it anywhere to any Ford approved shop. We obviously want to take it to K & R since they know the vehicle and they did the work. They really don't have any say over the warranties that I can find.

Bob: What does the Ford warranty tell you then?

Chief: If you look the Engine up by it's part number on the Ford website, it will tell you exactly that it is a remanufactured engine and then you follow the link and it comes to a warranty right here which I have in front of me....

"A ??truck's _____ ??warranty remanufactured diesel engines are covered by a 24 month unlimited mile warranty. There are no commercial fleet exceptions for any of these. All warranties are backed by Ford Motor and are supported by over 3,000 Ford/Lincoln dealerships nationwide.

....Goes on to tell you the original equipment, yada yada, competitively priced, no-risk core returns - basically if you throw a rock through your core, your block, they are still going to give you full credit for it as long as you return it within the designated time frame, I think 30 days - I saw it somewhere..

So ya, there were some discrepancies between that and K & R but that was mostly about who would service the warranty. I believe, it really doesn't affect ...

Bob: What about the Turbo, was that covered?

Chief: The turbo is included because it is a Ford Turbo. Now if we had of switched to another brand, it would have been a different story.

Bob: Alright. How long is that guaranteed for?

Chief: 2 years so everything is two years.

Mark: Did they replace it with a complete engine or a long block?

Chief: It was a remanufactured engine so it was a long block. It had everything on it except for the inner cooler, and I think the air conditioning pump, alternator...

Mark: So when you said it was a complete engine, that means the turbo, and the....

Chief: Yes, the turbo is on there but it stops right there.

Mark:the fuel pump and all that stuff is covered under warranty.

Chief: I believe it is. Everything that I can find says it is.

Mark: Well, that is the text that I received. A person put in a Freedom of Information Act and got in a copy of the invoice. They were concerned they put in a long block and it had only the half warranty of a complete engine.

Chief: I think I know where that confusion arose. It was from the notes in the estimate. I think he was trying to tell us the difference between the two motors and not telling us what we got.

I think the important thing to note is that the engine assembly specifically states what engine we did purchase and it is a re-manufactured long block motor.

Mark: and it is warranted by Ford for 24 months.

Bob: So now what I would like to ask is all this negative information that has come about over the last few months about how bad the engine is and this that and the other thing, is there documentation to prove that?

Bob: A lot of people been saying a lot of stuff there , but I mean I haven't really seen any documentation. That's why I hesitate...

Chief: I can tell you that we have all of our documentation for all the warranty work that we have done to it and the five turbos that were put in it in the time that I have been here and some things like that. The rest of it is, you know, groups on the internet and things like that, people you are talking to. I mean I don't have receipts from other people but it is historically an unreliable motor. That's just, everybody that deals with it, that model year, has those kind of issues. Well, I can't say everybody, but a good deal of people. So if you look at the used apparatus for that model year in that area, they are lower than what they probably ought to be because I think that people are aware of some of the issues with that motor. However, it is a brand new motor for all intents and purposes, and....

Bob:and they can transfer the warranty?

Chief: The warranty is transferrable from everything that I can find. It says you have to have the original documentation, the receipt, with you when you take it in for warranty work. But there is only one spot where I did find that though.

Bob: I am just wondering if we can call Ford or something and get that or either that or maybe have some legal council or something just so we have our own protection about whether there is any confusion about the warranty or not.

Chief: I feel like I have beat this subject to death, and I....

Bob: I understand but there is a lot to it and you know we need to get the most information we can, accurate information to base our decision.

Chief: Well I think then that should have been decided before we spent the money you know. We have the truck now and we are with it.

Bob: I agree with you, but what I am saying is that if a short period down the road that we turn around and maybe sell it if there is that much concern.

Chief: It would be a concern for me if I were buying it. But I don't know what else I can provide you to convince you. I have done as much homework as I can do.

Bob: I know, but you have seen it, I haven't seen it, understand what I am saying?

Chief: I am providing it to you, Mr. Murray.

Bob: The only thing I got is some of the invoices about the turbo from Jim Click. That is the only thing I have gotten.

Chief: Alright, well, yes sir...

Bob: Can you put it on a flash drive or something where I can review it or something, I would appreciate that.

Chief: I would be happy to give you copies of what I have, yes sir.

Mark: You can put it on a piece of paper, isn't it all written down? Just make him copies of it.

Chief: There is a lot more than what I have copied, or like I said..

Mark: Or you can look it up yourself, too.

Chief: I will give you what I have.

Bob: The reason why I am saying that is because there are other members of the Board that have turned around and said that they have this information but sometimes it isn't all that accurate and I haven't seen anything in writing so I don't know what to believe. That's my reason for questioning everything... not that anybody is a liar or anything else like that.

Chief: ???

Bob: I was just saying that I don't see anything ...I don't know really what to base my opinion on.

Phyllis: And especially if...

Mark: Then why don't you look it up yourself?

Bob: I could do that but that means holding up the vote...

Phyllis: Mark, some constituents in the area want us to bring this up at future meetings and we need the proper information as they have stated in their emails. We need to have the proper information for us to be able to make the decisions.

Chief: I agree.

Mark: Well, this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Bob: What I would like, if it is possible, is to get that information available for when we have the work session so then everybody can kind of go over it?

Chief: While we are on that subject, what would you like the topics of the work session to be so I can post them - or do you want it to be specific to the Rescue or do you want to include... I was talking to our USDA rep the other day and we are going to have that Tender loan paid off in two years. He said it is a two year process now to get a building loan should we desire that. So if that is where the Board chooses to go, we do need to start that process in the near future.

Bob: I think we got several subjects. Do we have to confine it to just one subject or

Chief: No, I just need..

Bob: Okay, that is what I am asking.

Mark: Right now we are talking about that 550.

Chief: Understood.

Mark: If we start bringing up a bunch of other subjects up that are not on the agenda, they are not something we can discuss at this time.

Chief: Yes, sir.

Mark: That is my opinion. We have to tread very carefully on that...on discussing things that are not on the...

Bob: Then we will just have to have other work sessions...

Mark: Furthermore, I think work sessions are a waste of time. These things can be dealt with at a meeting. They don't need to be dealt with at a work session.

Bob: I disagree.

Mark: A work session is basically a way of concealing things away from the public.

Phyllis: I don't agree at all. I think I have the right to express that opinion. I don't agree, I think work sessions are a very good thing and two of your members have expressed it so far so I think we should have one.

Mark: I disagree.

Phyllis: Then you don't have to attend.

Mark: So, I will see how that all works out.

Chief: I am happy to set a date now if that is what you folks would like to do. I think that would be easier than trying to email people and what not ... if you have any suggestions. It seems like the 6:30 p.m. time works best for everybody.

Phyllis: That is fine and I am available any night you need to do it. And the more Board Members that we can have there would be better and if there can be somebody there from Operations to give us their opinion, I would like that.

Chief: Dually noted.

Mark: Let's move on. Chief, do you have anything else to say....anything else from the Chief's Report?

Chief: No, sir.

Bob: Can I just make a suggestion? { Can a copy of the Chief's Report be included when we are given Draft Minutes to review for Approval }

Chief: I understand now.

Mark: Is there a motion to adjourn?

Phyllis: I move we adjourn.

Bob: Second

Mark: Ms. Ellis moved, Mr. Murray seconded we adjourned. All those in favor say ay, those who oppose nay. Unanimous "ay". Meeting stands adjourned at 7:44.

Transcribed by Mary McCool, Chair J-6/Mescal CDO