



MINUTES OF THE BUCKSKIN FIRE DISTRICT FIRE BOARD

04/16/2024 - Open Meeting: Minutes to be approved at open public meeting on Tuesday, 05/14/2024, a public meeting of the Buckskin Fire Board convened on April 16, 2024, that started at 6:00 pm in the classroom of the Buckskin Fire District, located at: 8500 Riverside Drive, Parker, AZ 85344. The following matters were discussed at the Open Meeting.

Agenda Open Meeting

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Roll Call: 6:05 pm

Members Present: *Chairman, Jeff Daniel, John Mihelich, Jim Brouillette, Wayne Posey. Don Rountree absent.*

Staff Present: *Chief McMahan, Barbara Cole, Captain Byrd, Captain Weatherford, Captain Maxwell, Lt. Fernandes, Lt. Foster, FF Rather & FF Irwin, FF Anderson*

Public Present: *Diane McMahan, Elaine Downing, Anna Comacho, Ron Simms, Samantha Anderson, Armando DeLeon, Allayzia Foster, Troy Grotenhuis.*

2. **Call to the Public.** Consideration and discussion of comments from the public. *Those wishing to address the Buckskin Fire District Board need not request permission in advance Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(G), the Fire District Board is not permitted to discuss or take any action on items raised in the call to the public that is not specifically identified on the Agenda. However, individual Board members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct that staff review the matter or ask that the matter be placed on a future agenda. Public input is limited to two (2) minutes unless a greater amount of time is approved by the Board. **The Fire District Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public that is not on the current Agenda, due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law.***

*Board Chairman gave the public 2 minutes to speak.
Anna Comacho, County assessor.*

3. Board discussion with regards to the fire response of the April 9th, 2024, Car Wash fire on Riverside Drive in the Town of Parker.
Steve Zigler Public Works Director had sent board member Wayne Posey an email regarding the Chief correspondence with him and the Town Manager, Nora Yackley regarding the fire hydrants in Parker, but couldn't attend the BFD Board meeting due to scheduling conflicts, Board tabled the item. No other action taken.
4. Possible motion by the Buckskin Fire District Governing Board to go into Executive Session for Discussion pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 A.1 for consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of Chief McMahan. *Chief McMahan stated that he wanted the Executive session to held in*



public setting. The fire board acknowledged that Chief McMahan had done a lot of good to the community and to the Fire District but had stated that it didn't seem like the right fit, from the discussions that were brought to the board in the previous meetings, including the email that Wayne Posey had received recently from Steve Zigler regarding Chief McMahan discussing fire hydrants that were not working. Jim Brouillet had asked the Chief what his plans were, if he had wanted to still work at BFD or would rather be on administrative leave for the time left on the 30-day notice, of which Chief McMahan had stated that he had been working his tail off, even though his contract was not renewed and that he would continue to keep working.

Chief McMahan stated that he had set up with the college a Fire Prevention Class this summer and that he is happy to keep working for both BFD & PFD.

Executive Session ended at 6:34pm

5. (Discussion & Possible Action): Possible Board action regarding Fire Chief McMahan.

The Fire Board allowed the public to comment on issues brought up in executive session as it was held in public. Ron Simms from the Parker Fire Board stated that Buckskin should have stopped this and other complaints from the Town of Parker and directed them to the Parker Fire Board, as this is not a concern to Buckskin but for the Parker Fire Board, and not one of these people raising these complaints ever come to the Parker Fire Board meetings. He stated that Buckskin Fire needs to let Parker Fire handle their own business. Troy Grotenhuis from Riverside County stated that he had bought several pieces of property along the river and in Parker, and he had heard a lot of conversations regarding the Chief being anti-growth and not allowing people to build, but there is a difference of something being correctly built according to code and letting the public do whatever they want like a good old boys club, of which he had personally seen and witnessed and buildings should have to follow codes and be correctly installed and that doesn't mean that makes it anti-growth to the way things should be done. There were no other comments, except that the Fire Board stated that Chief McMahan had said that he had wanted to continue working like he has been doing until the end of his 30 days. There was no action taken.

6. (Discussion & Possible Action): For the Board to consider the placement of an Interim Fire Chief & invite the 3 current captains, Mike Byrd, Jason Weatherford & Joe Maxwell.

Wayne Posey stated that from the last meeting of discussing input from the Fire Captains and Admin on what they felt would be better, an Interim from within or going outside for an Interim Chief. Mr. Posey suggested there was 3 basic options available, 1) the 3 Captains, which are highly trained, rotate the responsibility as acting Chief, 2), 1 Captain be the interim Chief, until a full-time Chief could be found, and 3), Bring in an Interim Chief from outside the department. The Board asked, admin, Barbara Cole what her opinion on the 3 options were, and she stated that she felt that all 3 of the Captains were highly qualified in the operations side of the Chief's duties and when they have been in acting positions before it was only under operations, but that none of the 3 were qualified to run or understand the administrative side that a Chief is responsible for, and since they already had a couple of resumes that showed they were qualified to be interim Chiefs that the Board should go that way, as there could be



misguided resentment if you put one Captain over another and then they have to go back to being equal Captains. Captain Weatherford stated that he would be willing to share the responsibility, but he agreed with Ms. Cole regarding the administrative responsibilities. Captain Byrd stated that he didn't know there were already resumes for an interim, but he would be willing to take on the role, as interim until he retired in November if needed. Chief McMahan stated that rotating a Captain out of the line to take on the Interim position could cause a problem during Wildland season, as Buckskin is already short a person, and when the District could go out and produce revenue for the District it would restrict it. Chairman Daniel stated he respected everyone's honesty, regarding the issues with rotating, or using internal personnel, but that his opinion the Board should look at the resumes. A motion was made by Wayne Posey to have the Chairman contact the applicants that had submitted resumes for an interview with the Board at a special meeting, along with a second from Jim Brouillette.

There were no other comments or questions prior to voting.

Ayes: Daniel, Posey & Brouillette

Nays:

Absent: Rountree

Abstain: Mihelich

Chairman Daniel: Motion passed by a majority vote on agenda item #6.

7. (Discussion & Possible Action): re: For the Board to develop the recruitment flyer and selection process for the position of Fire Chief.

Wayne Posey distributed an outline for the current flyer that had been used in the prior advertising of a Fire Chief, for the board to decide on each question that were outlined on the form. The Board discussed timelines, posting dates and where to post & for how long. The kind of testing assessments to be used, including comments from current Chief McMahan and staff. The Board established what should be on the Job flyer and the assessment and what sites to post on.

8. Adjourn of Regular Board Meeting: 8:00 pm.

Jeff Daniel
Board Chairman

5/14/24
Date

Barbara Cole
Office Administrator

04/18/2024
Date

Minutes approved by: *W. Posey*

Date: 5/14/24

Minutes approved by: *James*

Date: 5/14/2024