



“Committed to Our Community”

BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES May 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:00. by Fire Chief Patrick Moore.

Present at the meeting were Fire Chief Patrick Moore, Assistant Chief Scott Neal, Chairman David C. Cummings, Board Member Charles Moore, Board Member Karen Flenniken, Board Member Heather Petrillo.

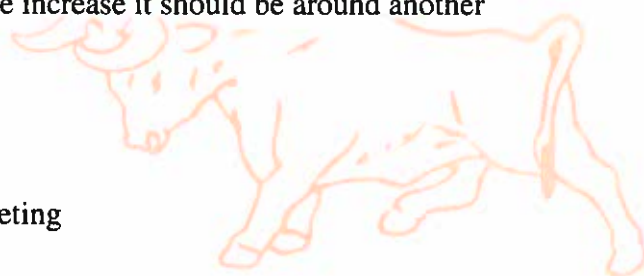
The meeting was called to order by Fire Chief Patrick Moore. Chief Moore addressed the Board and provided a memorandum that is attached to the official minutes. Chief Moore stated he has handed out information to the Board and is still waiting for final numbers from health insurance, dispatch and workers comp which we anticipate having these numbers by the end of next week.

Chief Moore stated we could discuss some of the hard costs such as personnel costs, utility, fuel and some of the soft costs would be training, operations.

In two weeks we have scheduled another budget workshop at Station #1, 10:00 am. He stated a draft budget has been built, with flat line increases across the board and will be completed by the next budget meeting.

Today we want to talk about some of the limitations we are experiencing. We are currently at \$3.15 on a \$3.25 cap and if there is not going to be an adjustment with the cap we would remain at \$3.15 and we would cut some more programs or other areas in the organization. Some of the projects we did in the FY 18-19 was a capital replacement plan and with this we have worked to replace or purchase ambulances and staff vehicles. A new version of the capital plan will be sent out. He stated he would like to put \$460,000 in the capital plan in FY 19-20. He stated we still have some bond projects to finish such as facilities. He advised that special team training, rope rescue has been completed and will continued to upgrade our dive and wildland programs. He stated that items for consideration for this FY is to continue to fund the line items we have created, capital replacement by replacing several vehicles as listed. He also stated we are seeking to increase on the ambulance rate. Chairman Cummings stated he was not sure why we had not done this in the past. Chief Moore stated even though we increase our rates, Medicare will pay what they are going to pay. Private insurance is around 40% of what we bill which is a small percent of what we collect. He stated if we collect on the increase it should be around another \$100,000 to \$150,000.

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He explained if the rate remains at \$3.15 we would be at 13.6 million, which includes a \$500,000 tax increase this year, overall were only getting a \$360,000 increase due to losing some funding from the ambulance billing.

He stated FDAT will stay at \$400,000 and our net assessed valuation went up about 5.1% at \$304,285,000.

He stated he put some information in today's packet on the fees for service. He stated we have reduced our wildland response and also reduced our ambulance billing down to 3.6 million which is \$300,000 a month, currently we are not meeting this goal. Also fees for service for billing for Fort Mohave and Mohave Valley billing have been taken out. PSPRS will increase. He stated he will have more information in the next two weeks were we will have more numbers. He stated, keeping in mind that we want to keep our personnel costs in the 85 percentile range and our operating costs in the 15 percentile range. That is some of the bench marks that we use when we are sitting down and talking with our employees and staff.

Chuck asked about wild land preparedness, chief said it could be impacted due to Marvin going over to the BC side of the house. So it's a little more difficult for us to get BC's out, but we have people that are prepared and ready to go, when we will be actively involved in wildland. He stated it might be a busy season. He stated he believes the State will come back and give us the all-inclusive rate next year. If they give us a pay range that will be very difficult to make work. This year we still have actual pay back.

Chief Moore stated performance of the budget is in line where it needs to be except for ambulance collection; which is a significant impact on us and if contingency is used to make up the difference this year it will be paid back in FY 19-20.

Discussion continued on current liability on unfunded liability with PSPRS and its impact.

Chief Moore stated he will prepare a couple of options like last year, at \$3.15 and up, and the Board can decide. There will be program cuts if we do not move from the \$3.15. he stated, like last year we will provide options, and the Board will have the ability to make a decision.

Chief Moore stated we had less employees last year and will have less employees next year. The model we are using is not sustainable. He said an easy solution is to run the rate ten cents up but it's just a band aid, if we keep going down the path that were going, it's not sustainable. We either have to look at doing changes in our shared services, or staffing model.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Recorded by,



Paula Acker
Administrative Manager

Approved by,



David C. Cummings, Chairman
Fire District Board



Charles Moore, Board Clerk
Fire District Board