

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – All board members present (Johnson, Dorney, Webber, Archibald)

Call to the public – *In light of the anticipated meeting length, COVID-19 restrictions, and meeting venue, we are canceling the call to the public for this meeting. Members of the public are invited to submit written comments for inclusion in the minutes.*

Recognition of Service of former Board member Kurt Bahti. An award was available to present to Kurt Bahti, but Kurt was not able to attend today.

Agenda Items – Johnson: We will not be going in order of the agenda; we will not be doing item #8.

Presentation of FY2020 Audit – presented by Jay Parke of Walker & Armstrong. The Audit firm gave an unqualified opinion on the financial statement of SEFD. Parke briefly explained the four reports presented to the Board. Board members signed the Acceptance of the Audit Report document. With regards to pension allocations: I do want to say from a position of liquidity you are doing well very well, and just in general, your debt management is very good.

Presentation of Payroll Audit was immediately following the FY2020 Audit report. Performance of agreed upon procedure report; not expressing an opinion as in FY2020 Audit; findings were presented at the meeting. There were no questions. Mr. Parke wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Approval of the minutes: The discussion was a bit confusing but I believe these were the actions:

23 Nov 2020 – Tabled. Webber was not happy with the minutes as written and wanted to summarize them further. She will review and have ready for next meeting. Archibald made a motion to approve the minutes; there was no second. Minutes were not approved.

7 Dec 2020 – Motion to approve as written was made by Archibald; second by Dorney, motion carried unanimously.

Report from the Fire Chief – we ran 52 calls last month; 12 (A), 18 (B), 21 (C). Zone 1 had 16, zone 2 had 7, zone 3 had 10, zone 4 had 3, and zone 5 had 16. Wildland billing – we have roughly \$32,000 outstanding. Apparatus; we are doing very well; repairs and routine maintenance are complete. See additional document at the end of the minutes for Ops Chief Meredith's personnel update. Because of increased COVID cases across the state, we have closed the bay doors and are restricting access to the station. We hope to resume somewhat normal routine in late January or early February. We are having new volunteers do telephone interviews and complete online classes from home at this time. As soon as we're able we'll

Minutes to the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
Monday, December 28, 2020
0900

bring that back in. COVID vaccines – Santa Cruz County has obtained a batch of vaccine and will be rolling out a plan for vaccinations; we have started to get front-line personnel vaccinated.

Financials – Financial Reports were presented to the Board by V. Rutter; reports include the Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Statement and the Cashflow Forecast. The Board was again cautioned about the forecasted loss (= \$5,615) at the end of the year; no action was taken. Motion to accept the financials as presented was made by Webber, seconded by Archibald; motion carried unanimously.

Review, discussion and possible action: Update of survey - motion to table this was made by Dorney, seconded by Webber; motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on finalizing Chief De Wolf's annual audit / Possible executive session for legal advice regarding the audit of PFD IGA payments and compensation paid to Chief De Wolf. / Original motion tabled by Weber, seconded by Dorney; discussion in which Archibald, Dorney and Webber were not interested in tabling. Archibald is pretty frustrated with how long this investigation was taking. She wants it done. This is where the three action items became compiled into one discussion. Dorney – does Donna have the audit information. Chair said yes. She agreed with Sue. At this point, Board Chair read a memorandum from the District's attorney. Memorandum is attached with these minutes. Archibald and Dorney were not happy about not finalizing the investigation today. The Board went into executive session at 1040 a.m. for legal advice with regards to Chief De Wolf and PFD payroll. The Board resumed regular session at 10:50 a.m.

Possible executive session for legal advice regarding the report of investigation of toxic workplace environment. This was not addressed in open session and the Board did not go into executive session for this item.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made by Archibald, seconded by Webber; motion carried unanimously. (10:52)

Minutes approved on 25 January 2021; _____, Board Clerk.
Reba Webber

Call to the Public

P² P² <lr60@yahoo.com>

Mon 28-Dec-20 1:20 PM

To: Katie Goodwin <sefd911@sefd911.org>

I attended today's (12/28/2020) Fire Board meeting and there was an impressive attendance. It is there where I read Mr. Mike Wright's rambling discourse on the current Board. Giving an opinion that is NOT based on FACTS is an act of "idiocracy." The Board has obviously chosen to wait on the investigation to be completed before rendering their actions in relation to the FACTS. Good for them!!!

I have not given a speech to the Board in years. My last speech was to thank the SEFD and the Chief for their impressive job at the Los Encinos Fire. They showed that the Community was in good hands with our Fire Department and the Board. I felt no need to add anything to a well-oiled machine.

Then comes the Patagonia Regional Times story regarding the SEFD. It was disheartening, to say the least. This Board is making a meticulous effort to obtain the FACTS.

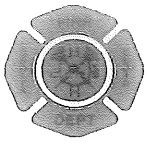
Mr. Wright's diatribe was reminiscent of the old ways of defending a person from rape charges. Bring in any breathing person to testify that they slept with the floosy. Mr. Wright is WRONG!

Now on to a new topic. Once I entered the Bay, after a "look see" and temperature check, I sat in distanced seating. The meeting was recorded with a recorder (I hope it was digital instead of tape), sitting on top of a bar stool.

Really??? Our Nation, including Santa Cruz County, uses Zoom or some other media, to hold SAFE meetings! Our Board members could sit in front of their computers AT HOME, SEFD in front of computers and any "call to the public" probably best to keep in writing. None of this mumbled stuff through masks or shared microphones.

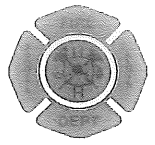
So, what is my opinion on Chief De Wolf's alleged actions? I DON'T KNOW. I will wait on the FACTS!!!

Peter Pototsky



SONOITA-ELGIN FIRE DISTRICT

“PROUD PAST STRONG FUTURE”



Fire District Board Meeting
December 2020
Member Update

New Volunteers

Due to increased COVID cases in the area, we have restricted access to the station and no volunteers have completed the recruit process but we have had two people start the process. We are working with them to complete content online and conducting phone and email check ins until restrictions are lifted.

Departures

Chase Newham has been hired by Tucson Fire Department. He will start their academy along with our three other members that I mentioned earlier in the fall. Chase started as a volunteer with us in 2016 and was hired full time in 2018. He has served on both A and B shifts and completed his paramedic training last year.

Erik Ceron has been hired by AMR and will start with them next month. Erik has been with the department since 2017 and has worked full time since last December. Erik completed his paramedic training last year and hopes to move into flight medicine.

New Hires

All start mid-January

Austin Dail has been with the department since 2019. He stated his EMS career at Tucson Motor Speedway. He is an EMT/WLF and is finishing up his structure training at Helmet Peak Fire Academy. Austin is a married father of two and enjoys riding motorcycles and being outdoors. Austin will be assigned to C shift.

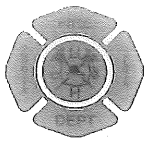
Tim Garcia joined SEFD in 2019 and has been serving full time on C shift since this fall. Tim completed his EMT training at Pima College and his structure training at Helmet Peak Fire Academy. He has been on our out of area wildland crew and is working on his degree in Fire Science. Tim comes from a fire family and his father is a chief officer at Tucson Fire Department. Tim will be assigned to B shift.

Shelby Shields joined SEFD this spring as a volunteer while she was in paramedic school at Pima College. She graduated from the program last month. Shelby has been a firefighter/EMT for several years and previously worked at Sierra Vista Fire. She is a veteran, having served in the Marine Corps for six years. She has a nine-year-old and loves spending time with her. Shelby will be assigned to B shift.

Address: 3173 Highway 83. P.O. Box 322 Sonoita, AZ 85637 **Phone:** (520) 455 5854 **Fax:** (520)455 5361

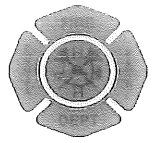
Website: www.sefd911.org

Fire Chief Joseph M. DeWolf



SONOITA-ELGIN FIRE DISTRICT

“PROUD PAST STRONG FUTURE”



Peter Vasquez started as a volunteer with us this year. Born and raised in Tucson, Peter has a degree in Atmospheric Studies from the Univ of Arizona, completed his EMT studies at Pima College and graduated from Helmet Peak Fire Academy last year. Peter is a musician and plays in Tucson. He will be assigned to A shift.

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Website: www.sefd911.org

Fire Chief Joseph M. DeWolf

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MEMORANDUM

TO: SEFD Board

FROM: Donna Aversa

RE: Agenda Items - Chief's Review,
Auditor's Report on Salary,
Pending Investigation Report

DATE: Dec. 24, 2020

Board members,

This morning, Chairman Johnson and I discussed the agenda. We also discussed the Auditor's Report on Salary.

At this time, I recommend that the Board postpone all discussion and any action on: the Chief's review; the Auditor's Report; and the pending investigation.

When the report on the pending investigation is issued, I will request the Board schedule a special meeting for the purpose of an executive session for legal advice to include each of these items.

During the Dec. 28 meeting I can be available by phone if needed.

Donna M. Aversa