

Minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
9 October 2020
0930

Call to order

Roll Call – Bahti, Archibald, Dorney, Webber, Johnson. Also present was Donna Aversa, the District's Attorney, Chief De Wolf, Acting Chief Buonaccorsi, Katie Goodwin and Medical Chief Sink.

Pledge of Allegiance

Archibald – motion to go into executive session, second by Webber, motion carried unanimously. 0937

(first recording ends)

Back from 1st executive session. Reminder that everything said in executive session is confidential. We are down to item D, possible executive session. Chief did you receive your 24-hour notice. Chief De Wolf – I did. Johnson – did you choose open session or executive session? Admin – he selected executive session. Motion to go into executive session for item D by Webber, seconded by Baht, motion carried unanimously. Aversa – just to be clear you want the Chief (De Wolf) to remain present? Johnson – Yes, we'd like the Chief to remain. Time 1058.

(second recording ends)

Johnson – reminder that things said in executive session are confidential.

Item E – can you give us an update on item E: Following your decision to hire the outside investigator, unable to understand – Aversa didn't have a mic..... she is in the process of gathering all the information that the board members have.....on track with the due diligence to address the complaints.....so that's what I have on the status. [39 seconds through 3:30]

Item F – Review and approval of the Chief's return to work status and assignment following authorized use of leave. Aversa – Mr. Chairman,....[Aversa gave some sort of direction to the Board]the district has the ability to place the Chief on administrative leave to allow the investigation to go forward..... the purpose is simply to allow the investigation to go forward..... not understandable...it is simply to allow the investigation to go forward. Archibald read the following... So after much difficult discussion challenges we are all facing, I move that we place the Chief [De Wolf] on paid administrative leave per policy on page 58 for personnel matters. Chief is to have no contact with the district with the exception of Jon, the Acting Chief, the Chairman of the Board or the investigator who's doing the investigation. This extends to not working with Palominas including no use of any district vehicle. We also direct that all phone and email communications be forwarded to the Acting Chief in regards to the fire district.... [not understandable] effective today. Johnson: Any discussion...? Dorney – second. Motion carried unanimously. Aversa – Again stated that she knows it was a hard decision..... then not understandable.

Motion to adjourn by Webber, this was interrupted by Aversa – most of her statement was not understandable.

Motion to Adjourn – Webber, second by Bahti, motion carried unanimously. 1116