

**MINUTES OF THE WHETSTONE FIRE DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING, June 8th 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: 5:45PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL/ AFFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Chairperson Steven Hasson called the Hearing to order at 5:45pm. The meeting was held in the Whetstone Fire District Station 321 classroom, 2422 N Firehouse Lane, Huachuca City, Arizona.

Members Present: Chairman, Steven Hasson
Board Member, Rodney Weichelt
Board Member, Michael Estrada
Board Member, Bruce Harris [Phoned in at 6pm]
Board Clerk, Vacant

Staff Present: Chief Robert Jarvis, CFO Cathy Dyer, Assistant Chief Sam Foster

Absent:

It was determined a quorum existed with four board members present.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: NONE

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

No members of the public wished to address the board.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDANCE:

A. CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Jarvis comments there has been no movement or significant changes since last week.

B. FIRE BOARD CHAIRMAN REPORT: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: Public Hearing was opened; no public members were present to express concerns with the budgets presented aside from Whetstone Fire District Staff. Chief Jarvis briefly goes over the two budget proposals presented to the board and public for consideration. Chief Jarvis informs that the two budget dollar amounts are the same, revenue verses expenses. Proposal one (1) has a 8% employee wage reduction across the board, excluding the Firefighters, they have a 2.5% wage reduction. Proposal two (2) has a 2% reduction in

employee wages across the board. Chief Jarvis informs the main difference between the two is the staffing model and difference of the two proposals is listed on the cover sheets presented. [Phone rings and Board Member, Bruce Harris joins the hearing at 6pm. Chairman Hasson, adds Member Harris to the role call and confirms that he has no conflict of interest. Member Harris states he has none. Chairman Hasson informs Member Harris of the hearing's activity prior to his calling in] the discussion continues. Chief Jarvis continues on with describing the staffing models and budget line differences between the two budgets. Chief Jarvis also comments he has no knowledge of where legislature is currently with the TPT Tax and the ARPA funds but that estimated revenue has been added to the budget proposals as placeholders and that they are not being throughout the budgets unless that money comes in. Chairman Hasson asks Member Harris if he has questions or comments, he has none. Discussion takes place regarding the current employee positions and possible adjustments, demotions and changes made to those positions and titles. The board continues to discuss the expense differences between the budgets. Chairman Hasson reminds all present that the reductions in the budgets is due to the loss of the Huachuca City Contract for services and explains how difficult it is to make up for that loss. Chairman Hasson continues to thanks the staff for being as creative as they were with the budgets amidst the loss of that revenue. More discussion between the Board and Chief continues regarding budget line items to include employee positions and retaining as many boots on the ground as possible. Lt. Michelle Speer comments that the budget proposal one (1) has nothing but reductions to employees and supplies. She also states the importance of having revenue to support the growing costs of EMS supplies. Member Estrada agrees, and comments the staff needs the tools to do the job. Chairman Hasson asks CFO Dyer if there could be a reduction in the overtime budget line to shift monies to EMS supplies. She states that the overtime budget line presented, has already been reduced so to take more from that line wouldn't be recommended. Chairman Hasson asks Lt. Speer if she has any ideas regarding the budget. He asks her to state her ideas, she states she feels we need to delete Chief Robert Jarvis from the budget and place AC Sam Foster as the Interim. Member Estrada suggests the possibility of making CFO Dyer the Interim Chief, he also comments he wants to make sure in moving forward that the staff has what they need to do their job. Continued discussion, regarding possible adjustments to staffing and wages as compared on the two budget proposals as well as possible revenue options to enhance the budget for the district.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Adjournment:

MOTION:	Motion made to adjourn the Public Hearing
RESULT:	Approved, all in favor none opposed
MOVED BY:	Motion made by Rodney Weichelt
SECONDED:	Motion seconded by Michael Estrada

Approved: _____