



2422 N Firehouse Lane - Huachuca City, AZ 85616

**MINUTES OF THE WHETSTONE FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MARCH 10th 2021 AT 1802 HOURS.**

**Call to Order/Roll Call/Affirmation of Quorum/Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Members Present: Dave Johnson, Trevor Thompson, Steven Hasson, Rick Evans, Bruce Harris**

**Staff Present: Sam Foster, Michelle Speer, Danny Speer, Connor McCloud**

**Absent: None**

It was determined a quorum existed.

**Call to the Public:**

**None**

**Old Business:**

**-Review Amendment and Discussion of Possible Action of extending the posting for Fire Chief to March 31st, 2021.**

Rick Evans: We got some good-looking applications just after the deadline and we want to make sure that we're making the best decision possible.

Steven Hasson: We received 6 or 7 applications by the original deadline but had a few after that who presented even better qualifications. I'm of the belief that extending this doesn't hurt us at all but I think that in the meantime we need to make sure that we don't lose these applicants so we need to draft a letter outlining our next steps so they know that we are still making progress.

Dave Johnson: I don't know if we should extend the deadline because if they can't follow the rules of an application how are they going to perform in a high-stress position like this?

Rick Evans: I think that we also need to look at this year and how many different things have been extended due to circumstances especially surrounding Covid-19 and I truly believe that it is in our best interest to extend this deadline to have the best pool of applicants to choose from.

**MOTION:** Motion to extend the Chief's posting through the 31st of March and contact the current applicants to inform them of this decision

**RESULT:** Five in favor; none opposed

**MOVED BY:** Trevor Thompson

**SECONDED:** Steven Hasson



**\*Item 3 was taken out as the material was covered in item 1\***

### **-Discussion of Highway Safety Grant**

Michelle Speer: Hello gentlemen, my name is Michelle Speer. So, I'm here tonight to explain that we are applying for the Governor's Highway Safety Grant. For this specific grant we are seeking money for cardiac monitors. our current cardiac monitors are going to be unserviceable by their provider by 2022 so we are on a pretty strict timeline. this grant, however, is a reimbursable grant, which means that we have to spend the money first, we supply them the receipt, and then they give us the money from there. part of the grant is that we have to have a resolution made that you guys are allowing us to spend the money. This grant can range from \$130,000 up to I believe \$170,000 and it depends on which monitors we feel is most appropriate for our providers and residents. If you guys want to see more, I can give you a copy of the grant proposal and we need to collect a decent amount of data. I'm here to talk to you to get a resolution from you so I can submit my grant by Friday. I'm here to field any questions you guys have.

Steven Hasson: If we apply for this, who determines which amount in the range to apply for?

Michele Speer: So, you guys would give us a cap. I have information about the three products we've looked at. you guys can set a limit for spending and we can set a date for a more in-depth presentation if you want. ultimately all three options do what we need and the difference is just in name.

Steven Hasson: So, is the range based on the different quotes for the different products?

Michelle Speer: Yes.

Steven Hasson: So, is this something that Cathy, if she were here, would approve of us doing as the CFO?

Michelle Speer: Yes, I've spoken with Cathy and AC Foster about this and we have money in our big expense account to do this. The one that we were really looking at is the lower priced one so the \$136,000 for 4 monitors one. Each monitor by itself is about \$34,000 and we have that in our capital in order to do that.

Sam Foster: I believe that there is an option to send the application in with the note that we will be discussing this at the next meeting.

Michelle Speer: Yes, but that would mean that this would have to be discussed at your next meeting

Steven Hasson: So that gets you ready to go even if we're not?



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Michelle Speer: Yes, but I don't want you guys to rush through this.

Trevor Thompson: Does this include maintenance?

Michelle Speer: Yes, they come with warranty.

Trevor Thompson: How old are our current monitors?

Danny Speer: At least 10 years old. some are even older probably going up to 15 years old.

Trevor Thompson: So, when would they make a decision on who gets the money?

Michelle Speer: So, this is due this Friday and between July and September we would be notified if we were awarded the grant.

Rick Evans: And this is 100% reimbursable?

Sam Foster: Yes, it is and we don't have to spend the money until we find out if we got it but the money is earmarked until then and we can't spend it.

Steven Hasson: I heard that there were several grants that we were seeking so is this the priority?

Michelle Speer: So, they're neck and neck right now. The AFG grant is for our SCBA's. as a district we are going to have to spend the funds in some way. The SCBA's are for our boots on the ground and they are slowly breaking down.

Sam Foster: So, this is our priority for fire. These are lifesaving and if we don't have functions scbas we can't fight fire safely or effectively.

Michelle Speer: And our cardiac monitors are what allows our paramedic to perform their jobs and serve our community. and I want to touch on the fact that our scbas are not NFPA compliant. They are still able to be used but they just don't comply with NFPA standards.

Sam Foster: We have passed our 2 NFPA cycles. but more concerningly we are having parts fail and break.

Michelle Speer: And the grant is more focused on that. particularly our facepieces which are breaking down as well as the SCBA's. The ones that we use are still functional and we just did fit testing and every active employee has a face piece but we have no extras.

Sam Foster: This grant however only covers 95% but this would still help us tremendously.



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Steven Hasson: Do we have the money in the budget to do all of this?

Sam Foster: so, Cathy has told me that it's there in the capital and she will have a better idea of exact numbers in May. We will have enough money to cover all of the grants- it will be tight but absolutely possible.

Dave Johnson: Do you have a recommendation for us?

Michelle Speer: I personally like the tempest. I have used the life packs and I'm not a fan.

Sam Foster: I've used the zolls before and it's good but there's drawbacks that the tempest doesn't have.

**MOTION:** Motion to move forward with the grant applications with selection made by field personnel

**RESULT:** Five in favor; none opposed

**MOVED BY:** Steven Hasson

**SECONDED:** Dave Johnson

#### **Board Members' Comments:**

Steven Hasson: So, we talked about opening this place up to covid vaccines, what's happening with that?

Connor McCloud: So, things are at a standstill right now. Chiricahua health is still waiting to see how they can work with us. And unfortunately, our medical director is really hard to get a hold of and I would like to get a third-party medical director but I need our current medical director to sign off on that so one again I'm in a holding pattern. right now, it's just a waiting game but things are in the works right now.

Steven Hasson: What about hiring and staffing?

Sam Foster: We just got 2-part timers out of the last hiring and a few volunteers. So, I have a ton of posters that I'll be putting out to various colleges and posting around. The problem is right now everyone is competing for the workforce. Everyone is hurting for staffing right now so we aren't alone. I also submitted all of my paperwork for us to be able to put on our own fire 1 and 2 class again in chief bidon's absence. I'm confident in getting approval for this but for now I'm just waiting for that approval.

Rick Evans: Since I've come back on the board, I'm very pleased with what I'm finding and how everyone is performing. you all are doing an incredible job and are holding things well in shape. We have some housekeeping to do but overall, I am very impressed and grateful for you all. I could not be happier to be back and be of use.

#### **Future Agenda Items:**



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Trevor Thompson: We do need to review all these chief applications.

Rick Evans: We could have a workshop to discuss and review them.

Steven Hasson: I've already seen some that just don't meet our standards and have no place being in here.

Rick Evans: We can at least start and decide which ones we want to review further and which ones to throw out.

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn the meeting

**RESULT:** Five in favor; none opposed

**MOVED BY:** Steven Hasson

**SECONDED:** Trevor Thompson

Minutes Recorded By:  
Hannah Sovar-Knox, CEP