

# Kuna Rural Fire District

PO Box 607, Kuna, ID 83634

Phone (208) 922-1144 Fax (208) 922-1135

## Minutes of Commissioners Regular Meeting

April 10, 2024

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **REVISED:** \_\_\_\_\_ (see revised version)

Chairwoman Rebekah Luther called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. in the Kuna City Hall Council Chambers.

Present were Commissioners: Commissioner Rebekah Luther, Scott Burn and Dawn Hale. Also present were Chief T.J. Lawrence, White Peterson Attorney Marc Bybee and Officer of Administration-Secretary-Bookkeeper Krystal Hinkle.

### **Agenda Approval:**

Comm. Burn moved to accept the agenda as printed and posted. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Approval of Minutes:** Comm. Hale moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2024. Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

### **Public Hearing – Adoption of Summertime and Davis Annexation:**

Chairwoman Luther continued the hearing at 11:03 a.m.

Staff Report: A draft agreement was received, but not in time to review it before the board meeting.

Comm. Burn made a motion to table the hearing to May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at Kuna City Hall. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Presentation:** Joe Lombardo – Office of Emergency Management – Sub Grantee – Trailer Grant – Joe Lombardo spoke to the board about the process by which the State receives Federal funds and how the funds are distributed to each entity. Ada Co. would receive the funds and they are requiring Kuna Fire to sign an agreement in order to accept the federal funds on our behalf. Marc Bybee had concerns about the agreement, but indicated that he provided his input, but it is up to the board to decide if they want to move forward with signing the agreement.

There is a chance that the Federal Gov. could come in at any time and ask for a reimbursement or the item back. According to Mr. Lombardo, this has never occurred. Hinkle indicated that if it does, we have the item budgeted in our 10 year plan and it wouldn't be an issue if the request happened.

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**Financial Reports Presented by Hinkle:** Comm. Burn moved to accept the financial reports and report of fund investments and to approve the disbursement of funds in the amount of **\$261,159.97** for the District for payment of bills and payroll as presented. A disbursement of \$0 for the Community Assistance Fund for payment of bills. Comm. Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Purchase Order over \$5,000:** None

### Staff Reports:

**Chief Report – by T.J. Lawrence:** Chief reported we are fully staffed. Kuna Hometown Fair is May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and we will have a presence using 2 staff members and our ATV. The district hosted an Annual BLM refresher training. Both Brush trucks have been sold.

The employee on light duty did complete the Captain's task book and Engineer's task book. We have Engineers who have now started their task books.

There was an incident where a vehicle was blocking one of our bays. We waited a couple of days before having it towed. We have now put signs up that state unauthorized parking and the tow companies information. Per statute 49-1806A, we are authorized to put those signs up.

Chief was contacted by Mayfield Springs about a potential development near I-84 and the Stage Stop.

**Local 4165 - Full Time Firefighter Report:** Matt Graham reported their golf tournament will take place on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Attorney Report:** Bybee reported he did a cursory review of Title 17. Station 2 - Tim Eck has concerns about the lot split if it ends up putting him at the back of the line for consideration with the City/County. Marc was going to talk with the City about Tim's concerns and if the lot split to allow us to build our next station would impact his place in line.

**Officer of Administration Report by Krystal Hinkle:** Hinkle reported everything is on the agenda.

**Administrator of Impact Fees by Krystal Hinkle:** Hinkle reported that the current fund totals \$2,616,127.09 thru February permits.

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### Old Business:

**State Fire Commissioners Report** – All Commissioners but Billy will be attending the Conference. Both Chief's will be attending as well. The Conference will take place on May 29-31 in Boise.

**Ada County City EMS System (ACCESS) Update** – Chief spoke to what took place at the admin level. There is a 2025 Budget proposal, with the fees being a little higher due to a new system they are trying to implement to track patient evaluations and errors. TIPS plan on invoicing each district separate and not going through ACCESS.

### New Business:

**Discuss and Consider Resolution Amending Policy – Title 17** - Comm. Burn made a motion approving Resolution 2024-11 for policy code amendment, Title 17. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Discuss and Consider Policy Code Addition – Light Duty** – Chief has asked the board to consider the policy with the removal of 7.14.2.3 which requires the employee to exhaust all leave before being considered for Light Duty.

Comm. Burn made a motion to table the topic to the next meeting. The motion was not seconded, motion failed.

A lengthy discussion about how the budget would be impacted, our stats only show our crews are averaging 4 calls per day (2 calls per apparatus), are the crews utilizing their time properly, why aren't we utilizing the crews for items we are behind in instead of bringing employees back, would the policy be provisional and do we allow it until we can agree on language.

There are concerns from the union about not making the employee whole. Comm. Burn has serious concerns about making an employee whole for an off the job injury and paying them for hours they did not work. That would not be fiscally responsible with tax payer money.

However, there was discussion about allowing them to use the Pl, Sick or Comp leave to make up the short hours.

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The board asked the union to draft an MOU and submit the draft for the board to consider at the May Board Meeting.

Comm. Burn made a motion to table this item until next month. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Discuss and Consider the Proposed Amended 2023 Budget and Direct Secretary to Publish the Notice in the Idaho Press** - Comm. Burn made a motion accepting the 2023 Proposed Amended Budget and directed the district secretary to publish the notice in the Idaho Press. Comm. Luther seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Discuss and Consider the Proposed Amended 2024 Budget and Direct Secretary to Publish the Notice in the Idaho Press** - Comm. Burn made a motion accepting the 2024 Proposed Amended Budget and directed the district secretary to publish the notice in the Idaho Press. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Action Plan to Reduce Injuries and SIF Mod Rate** – Chief Trumble met with Joseph with SIF to try and understand where the injuries are stemming from and why our MOD rate keeps increasing.

The number one injury for cost is Mental Stress. It is new to the state and don't have a lot of options on reducing the cost. The district is using Guadian Tracking and it will trigger a notification to the Chief's and peer support team to follow up with the employees.

The second injury that is the most costly is Lifting. The district provides the equipment for lifting patients, we have a brand new gym and they take classes on how to lift properly.

95% of our total cost is from indemnity claims. Injuries where the employee is off work and they have to pay any payroll are classified as indemnity.

39% of our claims are indemnity but account for 95% of the total cost.

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Nampa Fire has a policy where they never have indemnity claims. They automatically bring the employee back and pay their full wages, even if they work or not.

Kuna would have to do an analysis on the cost savings of payroll vs the increase in premium to determine if that is the best course of action.

**Discuss and Consider Agreement with Ada Co., Subrecipient of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management** - Comm. Burn made a motion approving the Chair to sign the agreement with Ada Co. in order to receive a trailer through the Idaho Office of Emergency Management. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Discuss and Consider Resolution for the Agreement with Ultimate Heating and Air-** Comm. Burn made a motion approving Resolution 2024-12 accepting the agreement with Ultimate Heating and Air for our Annual HVAC maintenance. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Discuss and Consider Resolution for Assistant Chief Trumble's Salary** – Tabled

**Commissioner Open Discussion** – Chief Lawrence and Sec. Hinkle provided a draft of Title 7 to the board for review. There were a couple of concerns from Comm. Hale and Chief will address those next month.

Sec. Hinkle indicated that the board will need to consider the write-off of ambulance debt next month to add it to the 2023 Audit.

Commissioner Burn moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Luther seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Krystal Hinkle, District Secretary

Rebekah Luther, Chairwoman