

Kuna Rural Fire District

PO Box 607, Kuna, ID 83634

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

Minutes of Commissioners Regular Meeting

March 8, 2023

APPROVED: _____ **REVISED:** _____ (see revised version)

Chairman Gregory McPherson called the meeting to order at 11:02 am in the Kuna City Hall Council Chambers.

Present were Commissioners: Gregory McPherson, Rebekah Luther, Brandon Carver, Billy Edwards and Randall Feaster. Also present were Chief T.J. Lawrence, White Peterson Attorney Marc Bybee, and Officer of Administration-Secretary-Bookkeeper Krystal Hinkle.

Agenda Approval:

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

Executive Session Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting– The Commissioners, upon a unanimous roll call vote, went into the executive session, pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206 (1) (a) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure (f) to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation. The executive session commenced at 11:03 a.m. In attendance were all the members of the Board of Commissioners, Chief Lawrence, Krystal Hinkle, legal counsel Marc Bybee and Jetta Mathews with Hawley Troxell. Krystal Hinkle was appointed as secretary to take the minutes of this executive session. Information was then exchanged among the those in attendance. At 11:26 am, Jetta Mathews left executive session. A motion was made by Commissioner Luther and seconded by Commissioner Carver to come out of executive session, which motion passed unanimously at 1:20 p.m.

Open session resumed and Chairman McPherson reported that information was received in relation to the announced purpose for going into executive session and no action was taken by the Commissioners.

Approval of Minutes: Comm. Luther moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2023. Comm. Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Financial Reports Presented by Hinkle: Comm. Carver moved to accept the financial reports and report of fund investments, and to approve disbursement of funds in the amount of **\$198,426.04** 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. Luther seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

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Purchase Order over \$5,000: None

Summary of Correspondence: None

Staff Reports:

Chief Report – by T.J. Lawrence: Chief Lawrence reported that we are fully staffed, the district had (4) employees come down with COVID, Asst. Chief interviews have taken place, new garage doors have been replaced and the City donated a training house for the crews.

Local 4165 - Full Time Firefighter Report: None

Attorney Report: Bybee reported that White Peterson helped with many items that are on the agenda.

Officer of Administration Report by Krystal Hinkle: Hinkle reported that she researched the Burn Our Fund that the district has and there hasn't been any activity since 2005 and the money will go into the Community Fund.

Administrator of Impact Fees by Krystal Hinkle: Hinkle reported that the current fund totals \$1,595,306.31 thru January permits.

Old Business:

State Fire Commissioners Report: Hinkle reported the association had a great annual conference, the PTSI class was a success, zoom trainings will be sent out to Commissioners and Comm. Luther is a Regional Director for the association.

Ada County City EMS System (ACCESS) Update: None

Discuss and Consider Annual Wellness Exam Expectations – The board was given information by Dr. Hilvers regarding what the exam covers. The board is considering whether the exams will be voluntary or mandatory. Union President, Matt Graham, provided the board with a copy of Nampa Fire District's Wellness Exam policy. More information is needed on how to handle cases where the employee is taken off duty due to a medical situation if the exams are mandatory and the medical situation is not work related.

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Comm. Luther made a motion to approve employees voluntarily getting their wellness exams through Dr. Hilvers office. Comm. Carver seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Letter to META Regarding Inspection and Impact Fees – Tabled

New Business:

Discuss and Consider Resolution Approving Easement Agreement with the City of Kuna– The easement is needed for pressurized irrigation. It should not impact the district, according to Chief Lawrence.

Comm. Carver made a motion approving Resolution 2023-05 approving the easement agreement with the City of Kuna. Comm. Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Resolution Approving Agreement with Ultimate Heating and Air – Sec. Hinkle indicated our fees did not increase and this is a renewal.

Comm. Luther made a motion approving Resolution 2023-06 approving the agreement with Ultimate Heating and Air. Comm. Carver seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Resolution Approving Policy Code Change – Assistant Chief –

Comm. Luther made a motion approving Resolution 2023-07 approving the changes to the Assistant Chief's position in the policy code. Comm. Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Resolution Amending Fire Building Permit Fees and/or Authorizing and Directing Staff to Complete Building Permit Fee Study- Meta and the City of Kuna do not agree with our current structure and would like to see a study completed to determine actual cost. The district has tried to explain how our fees work and how we contract with our 3rd party. Legal Counsel would like to see the district show the true cost of the services.

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Comm. Luther made a motion directing staff to complete an in-house study of our plan review and inspection fees. Also, look at a cost for a professional study. Comm. Carver seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Comm. Edwards made a motion to not revise our fee schedule to include an hourly rate. However, the district would entertain 50% payment of the original fees now and the difference owed prior to the next building permit release. Comm. Carver seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss the Hiring of New Firefighters in June – When the district set the budget for 2023, the goal was to hire 6 new firefighters in June, knowing it would put our payroll budget higher than normal, however, the district would be receiving the full levy amount in 2024, plus a contracted service rate from Meta.

Due to Meta restructuring their project, changes in state legislature, increases from PERSI and other factors, there is concern with hiring all 6 employees in June.

Chief Lawrence stated he is concerned if we don't hire all 6, we may lose great candidates, however, he doesn't feel comfortable with Meta and we also don't have enough gear for the recruits. If things change and we can hire all 6, the district will need to look at renting gear.

Commissioner Open Discussion – Comm. Luther, Comm. Feaster, Chief Lawrence and Sec. Hinkle will be attending Labor Negotiation Training at the end of the month.

Fire Ops will take place on May 4th and 5th. Attorney Marc Bybee plans on attending.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Krystal Hinkle, District Secretary

Greg McPherson, Chairman