MINUTES, ARIVACA FIRE DISTRICT

April 11, 2011

The Arivaca Fire District governing Board met Monday, April 11, 2011 for a special meeting at the Arivaca Fire Station, 16091 West Universal Ranch Road, Arivaca, Arizona.

1. CALL TO ORDER
   Mark Dresang called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS
   Present: Mark Dresang
   Kathleen Wishnick
   Terry Tompkins
   Absent: Jim Meade
   Omar Rood

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
   All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. BUSINESS
   A. Discussion/Motion/Action on appointing a committee to investigate the cost of the Fire District to the taxpayers.
   Mark commented about the meeting that took place at the Community Center on April 7, 2011 which he had attended. He stated he had originally wanted to have some people meet at his house. However he was informed that was not appropriate so he had called a special meeting to form a committee to investigate the cost of the Fire District to the taxpayers.
   Mark asked if there was a motion to form this committee. Terry made the motion to form a committee to investigate the cost of the Fire District to the taxpayers. Mark asked Kathleen if she would second the motion and she no. Mark said he would second it.
   Mark stated that now since there was a motion they could discuss it.

   Kathleen stated she is not in favor of the committee. During the discussion, she also mentioned the following items:
   A) She was disappointed that members of the public did not attend this meeting and stated that if people had a concern they need to come to the meeting and face the board and put the issues into public record.
   B) Two meetings ago a committee was formed and the people with concerns did not step forward to tell us their concerns and issues. These people could have come at the last meeting when the budget was presented to the board and no one came.
   C) These people need to come to the meeting on April 21, 2011 and if they have concerns the budget will be on that agenda.
   D) We are an elected board and they need to come to the open meeting and speak to the board and have it on record
   E) This is an open forum. These people need to come to an open board meeting where other community members can come in also and hear what they are saying or speak against it
   F) The people need to come to the next board meeting and voice their issues and concerns in a open meeting and then if we do a committee we look at the pros and cons.
   G) I would be in favor of calling these people and invite them to the next meeting. I am in favor of meeting with any of these people but I think it needs to be done in a public meeting.

H) Kathleen thinks we might talk to the attorney because if Mark formalizes this she wants to be sure that Mark is not putting himself in any legal jeopardy.
I) Some of these people were against the Fire District to begin with. They would not sign the petition. Now they want to influence what the voters voted for.
J) Lets do a massive campaign to get the public to the next board meeting so we can discuss the taxes that went to the fire district. Therefore, we can hear their voice, pros, and cons., so we can address their issues.
K) The volunteers must be trained; the vehicles must be maintained and we must be able to respond in a timely manner.
L) The people do not understand the budget and if the people come to the meeting maybe they can understand the budget.
M) If we were not a district they would be billed a lot more than what the taxes are. Therefore, the taxes are like an insurance policy.
N) Paying the Chief to raise monies and to get volunteers, which has taken many long hours off some of the volunteers and her salary, is worth having her.

Mark stated his opinion was in opposition to Kathleen's.. During the discussion, he also mentioned the following items:
A) He was in favor of any communication with anyone.
B) He is very much in favor of a committee. Mark stated that with the committee we could meet with these individuals and talk about the cost of the Fire District to the taxpayers.
C) He felt compelled to meet with these people
D) There is a historical pattern for people non-attendance to fire department meetings so it is a characteristic of the Arivaca community.
E) If the people want a volunteer department, what are they going to do to make it a volunteer department?
F) Mark is in favor of serving the community who wants the Fire District.
G) Mark stated the committee meeting is posted and hence everyone in the community is invited. Therefore, the committee meeting is an open meeting and minutes are taken.
H) Mark asked where the regular people in the community that are for the Fire District were because they were not at this meeting either.
I) The Fire District did cause our taxes to go up a lot. We are just talking about the Fire District tax; not the School district tax.
J) Our taxes did go up because of the Fire District tax. There may be some people that think the tax increase was due 100% to the fire district however, anyone can look at their tax bill and see how much the district tax raised the taxes and how much the school tax raised the taxes.
K) Maybe the people would go for a reduction in the budget.

Terry commented that he could see both sides of the argument.
A) He is wondering where all these people are that are complaining about the taxes. We called a special meeting and no one came.
B) This district only has one paid employee; the rest are volunteers.
C) It is our job to make it clear that the people already have what they want. We need to ask these people how are they going to maintain the vehicles and pay for training if this is a volunteer department?
D) They do not understand that we already have a volunteer department. We need to ask them how they are going to maintain the department and expenses.

Fire Chief Kathleen Brumagin
A) When I returned to the Fire Department it was down to 2 volunteers, myself and Scott. I won't be able to get volunteers from outside the area. We only have 2 volunteers in our community. We would not be able to pay for their education and we won't be able to supplement them for their gas to come from Sahuarita and Tucson. The younger people in our community are not interested in being a volunteer; they have other interest.
B) We have two mutual aid agreements and those people came to us because we now have qualified volunteers.
C) If we were a volunteer department and not a district and we had a fire structure the bill would be at least $5,000.00.

Beth Lusby comments included:
A) Reading from the Arizona Revised Statutes, the Board of Supervisors shall determine whether the dissolution of the district will promote public health, comfort, convenience, necessity, or welfare. Beth stated it will destroy the health care in the area. I feel that the Board of Supervisors will not give them permission to circulate the petition.
B) She stated that she spoke to several people that were in support of the District however, these people did not think we should legitimatize their complaints because they don't think any one will follow through.
C) Days of all volunteer are over. We don't have people in the valley that will respond when the tones go off.
D) It takes time tax rate the tax rate. If we want to lower the tax rate we have to do impact statements and present it to the Board of Supervisors and get permission to lower the rate. It would not happen until next year's taxes.
E) This next meeting is when the public comes and comments on the budget. After it is posted the public can come and comment again.
F) The public always has input. However, the budget has been set. She stated she would check with the attorney to make sure.
G) Beth said she could take off $15,500 however, instead of taking it off the budget the funds should be redistributed to other items such maintenance. An example is the roof of the building. The insulation is falling down off the ceiling and some holes we could stick our hands out and wave to people.

Clare wood commented that maybe we should have all the properties in the district reassessed. People who will volunteer already have and they don't want to do it any more. They are happy the department is here and they will support us but they are done volunteering.

Barbara Hogg commented that he school district tax was more than the Fire District Tax. She also stated that she does not think these people think what our budget was. Barbara thinks the people don't want to talk about the budget they just want to dissolve the district; they don't care what our budget is. Barbara stated we had 5 volunteers out here this week and they did not have one call. But they still come out here.

Mark stated there is a motion on the floor that has been made and seconded. All those in favor include Mark and Terry. Kathleen opposed the motion. The motion carried.

Is there a motion to appoint two people to the committee? Terry made the motion and Mark seconded it. Mark appointed himself and appointed Terry. Those in favor are Mark and Terry. Those opposed included Kathleen. The motion carried.

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5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Consideration and discussion of comments and complaints from the public. Those wishing to address the Arivaca Fire District Board need not request permission in advance. The Fire District Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on any item raised in the call to the public. However, individual Board members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct that staff review the matter or that the matter be placed on a future agenda. The Fire District Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law.

Kathy Brumagin, as a taxpayer and not as the Fire Chief, wondered where the other two board members were. She tends to agree with Kathleen and what she is saying. Everyone in this community has had an opportunity to come to the meetings and voice their opinions and concerns and participate in the democratic process. If they cannot join into the democratic process then forming special committees and special meetings and everything else to assist in their process outside the democratic process which we conduct a month is out of line with what we are doing. Why can't these people show up at the monthly meetings like we do and participate in the democratic process? So she sides with Kathleen in this.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Kathleen Wishnick made a motion to adjourn and Terry Tompkins seconded it.
Mark Dresang adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM

Approved April 21, 2011

Mark E. Dresang

Terry Tompkins