

Board Action Request

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action to end the current association with attorney Sam Coppersmith.

DATE: March 22, 2023 For the March 29, 2023 Board Meeting

FROM: Treasurer Pete Benequista

TO: Tubac Fire District Board of Directors

Background:

Over the past two years I have observed and called attention to the unnecessary and wasteful expenditure of taxpayer money for frivolous reasons, especially the pursuit of grandiose real estate schemes. Continuing is the unacceptable practice of including the attorney without the advance knowledge of most board members, let alone their approval.

It appears that calling the attorney is a substitute for Board Members taking the time to read Arizona laws and for using common sense. Interestingly, we board members learn about new laws affecting Fire Districts every week from the reports by John Flynn of the AFDA, probably before the attorneys do.

The current attorney charges \$450 per hour just to listen to our BOD meetings via Zoom. A phone call costs the taxpayers a minimum of \$45.

Other fire districts and departments in Arizona utilize more than one attorney, depending on the topic, on an as-needed basis.

TFD, as a matter of policy, should always seek to do business with local businesses and professionals barring an unreasonable difference in cost. Ideally our attorneys should live in Rio Rico.

My comments are not meant to demean the quality and professionalism of current attorneys.

Fiscal Impact: A palpable reduction in the expenditure of unnecessary attorney's fees while improving transparency and control by the BOD.

Proposed Motion:

I move to end the current association with attorney Sam Coppersmith and his associate, Scott Bennett, and seek an on-call relationship with attorneys resident within the Tubac Fire District who can provide services as needed at a reasonable rate when approved by the BOD in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter R Benequista