



# TUBAC FIRE DISTRICT

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TUBAC FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
July 28, 2021

1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m., by Mary Dahl. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Roll call of Board Members: Mary Dahl, Mike Connelly, Herb Wisdom, Pete Benequista, and Bill Kirkpatrick were present at Station #2. Also, in attendance at Station #2 were Chief Horvath, Deputy Chief Rivera, Deputy Chief Ben Guerrero, Captain Hesly Guerrero, Gabe Buldra, Sara Simonton, Ben Archer Clowes, John Price, and Nancy Lindsey.
3. Report from Board Members: None
4. Reading of public comments submitted via email: None
5. Call to the public: None
6. Correspondence: Chief Horvath summarized thank you letters addressed to TFD crews
7. Chair's Report: Mary Dahl reported that the revised agenda does not have the Pension Board items. She explained that state statute allows the Board Chair to appoint a new member and thus she appointed Pete Mendoza to the Local Pension Board. There were no questions or comments from the Board.
8. Chief and Staff Report: Chief Horvath gave the following updates:
  - The June call volume was significantly higher than previous months and TFD staff is tracking an increase in calls within the last couple of years
  - TFD responded to out-of-district wildland assignments 40 times. Medical teams and brush trucks were the primary units sent out.
  - CON was renewed and is effective until August 2024.
  - The local Pension Board is scheduled to meet on August 4, 2021, with two drop applications included on the agenda
  - Tubac Fire District applied for funding for fire station expansions and remodels being offered as part of a Homeland Security bill. TFD was not selected but is still being considered for funding through Senator Kristen Sinema's office.
9. Monthly Financial Report for June 2021: Gabe Buldra presented the financial reports for the month of June 2021.
10. Consent Agenda: Mary Dahl requested one amendment to an action item from the June 2021 meeting minutes. Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve the June 30, 2021, meeting minutes with the recommended amendment and Herb Wisdom seconded the motion; all were in favor, motion passed.

11. Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of a new A/C unit for Station #2: Deputy Chief Rivera explained that both Bustamante Refrigeration and Cactus Heating and Cooling recommended that the A/C unit at Station #2 be replaced as it was not economically feasible to be repaired any longer. Mike Connelly asked if it was allowed for the Tubac Fire District to favor the local business when the quoted bids are comparable to which Gabe Buldra stated that the district is not obligated to go with the lowest bid and could choose the company they believed would be the most beneficial for the district. Pete Benequista made a motion to approve the quote from Bustamante Refrigeration at a cost not to exceed \$6,000. Hearing no second, the motion did not carry. Pete Benequista made a second motion to accept the quote from Cactus Heating and Cooling at a cost not to exceed \$6,285 and Bill Kirkpatrick seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.
12. Discussion and possible action regarding a development plan and budget for building a new Station #1: Chief Horvath gave an update on the development schedule of Station #1 and explained the content of the project plan. Chief Horvath read from the Board Action Request on Station #1 Development Plan and Funding Recommendations. She stated that the projected dates listed on the Board Action Request are concept only. John Price, a Representative from WSM Architects, explained the development schedule. Mike Connelly asked about the square footage of the station and the price. John Price estimated the fire station to be about 8,000 sq ft and for the administrative building to be approximately 3,000-4,000 sq ft. Chief Horvath stated the square footage would depend on the money available for construction. John Price further explained that if the administrative offices were separate, the last estimate was \$413/sq ft. Pete Benequista asked if the existing Station #1 was excluded as an option for remodel and suggested TFD investigate purchasing the vacant lot south of Station #1 if more property is needed. John Price stated remodeling Station #1 would require operations to move elsewhere during construction and that other issues may come up once construction started. Gabe Buldra explained the funding recommendations in the Board Action Request. Mike Connelly asked why it was necessary to build a new fire station versus keeping the \$4m in the bank, having financial security, and not having to raise taxes or issue bonds. Chief Horvath stated the reasons for building a new station had already been discussed in previous board meetings. Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to move forward with the development plans and budget for building Station #1 and Pete Benequista seconded the motion; Mike Connelly was opposed; the motion passed 4:1.
13. Future Agenda Items:
  - Update on dispatch
14. Next meeting: August 25, 2021
15. Adjourn meeting: Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. and Pete Benequista seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.