



# TUBAC FIRE DISTRICT

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## TUBAC FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS January 19, 2022

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. Nomination and appointment of new Board Officers: Bill Kirkpatrick nominated Mary Dahl for Board Chairman; all were in favor, the motion passed. Bill Kirkpatrick nominated Mike Connelly for Board Clerk; all were in favor, the motion passed. Herb Wisdom nominated Bill Kirkpatrick for Treasurer; all were in favor, the motion passed.
3. Roll call of Board Members: Mike Connelly, Bill Kirkpatrick, Herb Wisdom, and Mary Dahl were present at Station No. 2. Pete Benequista attended telephonically. Also, in attendance at Station #2 were Chief Horvath, Deputy Chief Rivera, Hesly Guerrero, Gabe Buldra, and Ben Archer Clowes. Others in attendance were Mary Glen Hatcher, Lea Mylar, Colleen Bathe, Dan Dellinger, Paul Plett, Robert Klosek, Terry Loftus, John Combo, Mike Pettypool, Don Robidoux, Mr. & Mrs. Vic Vickery, Randy Nye, Paula Nye, Clem Shute, Carol Siple, Cathy Breen, Ron Campana, and Tim Drumic (*Spelling of some names may not be correct due to difficulty in interpretation*).
4. Report from Board Members: Pete Benequista commented that he was pleased that St. Anne's Church was showing interest in working with the Fire District regarding land.
5. Reading of public comments submitted via email: Chief Horvath read emails from Lee Blackwell, Joanna Corrigan, Jim Patterson, Constance & George Gessler, John Peyton, Tom & Mindy Maddock, Julie Arma, Skye Leone, Nancy Bohman, Rich Bohman, and Jim & Kathy Clarke.
6. Call to the public: District residents Paul Plett, Robert Klosek, Terry Loftus, Don Robidoux, Vic Vickery, Mike Pettypool, Clem Shute, and John Combo expressed their concerns to constructing a new Station #1, citing primarily the speed of the process and lack of transparency from the board on the ultimate cost to the taxpayers.
7. Correspondence: Thank you letter for the district's participation in providing CPR and first aid training for the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's volunteers.
8. Chair's Report: Mary Dahl provide an update on the Covid pandemic with the hopes that 2022 will show improvement.
9. Chief and Staff Report: Chief Horvath provided the following to the Board:
  - An overview of the monthly staff report.
  - Update on the new ambulance which was received to the district yesterday
  - Update on Covid-19 cases explaining that a total of 12 breakthrough cases have occurred with Tubac Fire staff.

10. Monthly Financial Report for December 2021: Gabe Buldra presented the financial reports for the month of December 2021.
11. Consent Agenda: Mike Connelly made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Bill Kirkpatrick seconded the motion; all were in favor, motion passed.
12. Open Meeting Law Refresher Training – Information presentation by legal counsel to the District about the Arizona Open Meeting Law (OML) and responsibilities of the District and of members of the District Board under the OML. No action is proposed: Attorney Sam Coppersmith provided a presentation to the Board on Arizona's Open Meeting Laws via Zoom.
13. Discussion and possible action regarding acquisition of land for new Station #1. The Board might convene into Executive Session regarding this item in accordance with A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(7) (allowing executive session for discussion or consultation with designated representatives of the District in order to consider the District's position and instruct its representative regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real property) and/or A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) (allowing executive session for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the District's attorney). Any action by the board will be taken in the public session: Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to convene to executive session at 3:40 p.m. and Mike Connelly seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed. Upon returning from executive session, Chairman Dahl explained that no action would be taken on the purchase of land due to the withdrawal of the land purchase agreement by the property owner.
14. For discussion only, an in-depth review of the TFD five-year Capital Plan: Mike Connelly began the discussion by requesting information on the five-year capital plan. Chief Horvath explained the following: a) the five-year plan has been in place since 2018; b) it was put in place to keep track of the District's assets; c) includes a replacement schedule to know when the assets are due to be replaced; and, d) it is adjusted annually as part of the budget process. Mike asked Gabe if the cost to fund the five-year capital plan is \$9 million what the plan is to come up with the money to fund it without depleting reserves, raising taxes, and fully expending bond capacity. Gabe replied that a new Station #1 is almost half of the \$9 million and that the District will be looking at funding opportunities such as grants along with evaluating wildland performance over the next few years and determining that some capital projects may have to be delayed. Mike stated that he feels the only way to achieve the capital plan will be to raise taxes and before any decisions are made on spending, he wants to have a real idea of what the numbers are going to look like. Chief Horvath commented that the assessed valuation numbers from the county should be received by the February meeting at which time the budget talks for FY 22-23 will begin. Mike concluded that no further discussion would need to take place at this time whereas agenda items 15 and 16 can be skipped.
15. For discussion only, status of TFD reserve fund minus cash utilized for new fire station project: No discussion
16. For discussion only, potential new fire station budget and plan: No discussion
17. Future Agenda Items: None discussed
18. Next meeting: February 23, 2022
19. Adjourn meeting: Bill Kirkpatrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. and Pete Benequista seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed.