

Special Meeting

April 14th, 2020 9:00 AM

1. Meeting Called to Order 9 AM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call & Recognition of Guest: Bruce Speirs-Chair, Sue Hamilton-Treasurer, Pam Weir-Secretary (pro tem), Chief Wayne Marx and Chief John Moede
See attached for Public:
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 25, 2020 Special Meeting
 - b. March 25, 2020 Executive Meeting
 - c. April 1, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting (revised)
 - d. April 6, 2020 Special MeetingBruce motion to accept Minutes Sue Hamilton 2nd unanimous
5. New Business:
 - a. Discussion and Possible Action re: Fireboard Meetings Publicly posted on sherwoodforeststatesfiredistrict.com Web site
 - b. Discussion and Possible Action re Public Comments via email for Fireboard Meetings & Proposed Public Notification.
 - c. Discussion and possible Action re: Debrief April 7th2020 Wildland Fire
see attached report from the Chief: see attached. Chief Marx has started a check list that can be used for the community. Discussion regarding radio frequency. Bruce announced there was a quorum with Sue and Bruce at the Beacon fire.

- d. Bruce is requesting to meet more often if necessary, to supply support
Command transmission Chief felt it was going rather smoothly. Chief
Moede felt comfortable with the transition. Cathy Cook agreed to update
The Truck manuals. Asst Chiefs and Admin are invited to all meetings
Covid – 19 Action plan updates working on this and will know more
After tomorrow's meeting.
- e. Sue Treasurer reported that Budget has been posted Sat April 11, 2020

Meeting Adjourned 10:38 AM

Public Attendance

Special Meeting

April 14th 9 am 2020

Martha Simoneau

Brian Burdikoff

Cathy Cook

Beacon Fire AAR

submitted by Wayne Marx

What happened:

On Tuesday April 8th at 15:17 we received a text from GMT dispatch that there was a Wildland fire in progress at 6593 E. Painted Horse Rd. (This in fact was not the correct address, the fire was at 6953, which caused a short delay). Shortly after the text message came in, we received a call from GMT giving an update, stating that the fire was contained to less than an acre.

FF McLaughlin and I arrived at the station first at approximately 15:22 and readied E-1 and T-4. I then set up the office communications station before leaving for the fire.

Upon arriving on scene, I assessed that the wind had carried the fire past MRR property boundaries and was at that time burning in excess of 5 acres on Forest Service land. Winds were high and it was obvious we would need mutual aid assistance. We called upon the KNF, Ponderosa FD and Camp Navajo FD, with all responding.

By the time all units were on scene there were a total of 14 units involved:

SFEFD had 2ea. Type-3 support tenders on scene (and a 3rd being readied at the FD), 1ea. Type-1 structure pumper and 1ea. First Responder vehicle.

PFD brought 1ea. Command vehicle and 1ea. Type-6 engine.

CNFD brought a Type-6 engine.

KNF brought 2ea. Type 6 engines, 2ea. Type-3 engines and 3ea. Type -7 personnel vehicles. Also, of great value was a mini excavator with operator on scene that was used to dig a perimeter line.

At its peak, there were 23 trained firefighters on scene and approximately 6 construction workers and neighbors on hand willing to assist. The fire spread to an area in excess of 15 acres before being totally contained. It would have traveled much further were it not for all the mutual aid assistance.

Since the largest portion of the fire was on Forest Service land, Incident Command was turned over to them at approximately 17:30. SFEFD tenders were used to refill all the engines used in fighting the fire before returning to the fire station.

The cause of the fire was the result of a metal worker cutting rebar with a power saw with the sparks igniting dry grass around his work area. This is the 3rd such fire started in MRR under similar circumstances. A sheriff's report was filed but no citations were given to the contractor.

What was done right:

1. Per our training, we responded to the fire and did a scene size-up. Tender 4 attempted to drive to the gate at the tail of the fire but became stuck in soft ground and remained there as a stationary water source. E-1 positioned as a mobile command post and was used as an equipment resource.

No Brush
E-1 Stuck
T-4 - water
Tender
Brush hand
Tools
SFEFD
Tender

2. After assessing the intensity, fuel load and wind speed and direction of the fire, FF McLaughlin requested the assistance of the mini excavator operator on scene to dig a perimeter line. As additional units arrived, they were directed to various hot spots in all 4 geographical directions of the fire.
3. Initially, there were a few short delays while we determined who had the correct SFEFD frequencies and lock-out codes, but full communications were soon established. All the mutual aid partners worked together well, and the fire was fully contained in just over two hours. There were no injuries and our tender was pulled from the soft soil after offloading half its water and with the assistance of the mini excavator. All units and personnel were back at the fire station before dark.

What was done wrong:

1. We initially drove up the wrong access route (driveway) because of the address we were given by dispatch.
2. Even though I had my wildland PPE with me, I did not take the time to put it on. My reasoning, though admittedly flawed, was that I was not going to do anything other than direct resources from the mobile command center.
3. Even though the contractor and some well-meaning neighbors were initially working to prevent the fire from spreading, as Incident commander (IC), I should have acted sooner to remove nonfirefighting personnel from the active scene.

Corrective action to be taken:

1. Re-train on the importance of always wearing proper PPE during an emergency.
2. Make sure there is compatible radio communication available between authorized agencies complete with tone guard protection.
3. Develop an appropriate SOG relating to non-firefighters on a fire scene after discussing same with our insurance agent and other emergency service agencies.
4. Since the SFEFD has no legal right to issue any enforceable guidelines relating to the activities that caused the Beacon fire, it can and should make the fire districts communities aware of the dangers these activities present. Further, suggestions should be made that would help mitigate future events of this type.

LOTS
LARGE
WIRE
REQUIRE.

accidental fire
COR-
CABIS
INSPECT BOARD

STARTER 4 CHIX
LIST:
CONTACT FIRE
BURN conditioner
fire extinguishers
listen to interactions
MOST FIRES ARE
FENCE COMPANY

Having another meeting

To the residents of the Sherwood Forest Estates Fire District –

The Last 30 Days

In the last 30 days we have seen the arrival and spread of a deadly pandemic disease, significant changes for the Fire District, the hiring of our new Fire Chief, and changes in the way the Fire Board shall publically operate.

New Fire Chief Selected

On March 17th the Fire Board interviewed two candidates for the position of Fire Chief. The decision as to which candidate was not easy as the board found both professional firefighters very qualified and had to weigh several factors. The unanimous decision, made in the best interest of the District, was to hire John Moede. John is an extremely experienced professional firefighter with extensive management experience and training. John joined the District on April 1st and began his duties as Interim Fire Chief working alongside Chief Marx. With John as Chief and then his teaming with Assistant Chiefs Matthew McDowell and Deidre McLaughlin, puts us in a great position as we meet the demands of today and as we progress into the future and its growing challenges. Like Fire Agencies nationwide our service demands have changed over the years and this will require improvements, new methods, and updated equipment to keep our fire, rescue, and emergency medical services capable of meeting our evolving public safety missions.

Chief Moede has prepared an introductory greeting which will be posted here and also distributed to the residents of the Fire District. He has also provided his resume for review.

Finally we would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the many years of service provided by Chief Marx to the Fire District during our most formative years. On May 16th Chief Marx will revert to an advisory capacity to Chief Moede. We wish him well on his retirement which begins July 1st.

COVID-19 Pandemic, SFEFD Response, Funding

On March 25th the Fire Board took several actions. First, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the fire board acted to enable the SFEFD to meet its increased public safety obligations, institute additional procedures to keep our firefighters and

EMS personnel safe, and acquire the necessary supplies and equipment to address the COVID-19 Pandemic National Emergency as it confronts our communities.

Next, to support this effort we are hereby advising the residents of the SFE Fire District that we have withdrawn our much discussed and prior stated intent to freeze and rollover \$17,000 in funding as a remedy for an error in the FY 2019/2020 budget calculations. This action not only is permitted but is directly in response to the National Emergency Declaration. Further the potential of this action was known and came with the oft stated forewarning that we would not proceed with this action 'in the case of emergency or other unusual circumstances' - that today being the COVID-19 Pandemic. In reality the "budget calculation error" has proven to be a most fortuitous albeit unintended benefit as it will now fulfill a critical life safety benefit to the communities.

Lastly, Fire Board approved the following directives –

1. The \$17,000 in frozen funding is now released and specifically allocated for the Fire Chief to acquire appropriate supplies and equipment for the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency,
2. The Fire Chief shall create appropriate COVID-19 procedures to keep our personnel safe and the communities protected,
3. The Fire Chief shall institute a public information campaign to keep our Fire District's residents informed,
4. The Fire Chief shall identify and reach out to those residents of our Fire District considered the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic and institute an appropriate monitoring and assistance effort.

Official Mandates change the way SFEFD operates

On March 31st the Fire Board approved SFEFD Resolution 2020-2 which mandates the SFEFD follow Governor Doug Ducey Executive Orders 2020-18 and 2020-12 effective March 31, 2020 which is essence state -

Arizonans shall limit their time away from their place of residence or property, except

- *To conduct or participate in essential activities, and/or;*

- *For employment, to volunteer or participate in essential functions.*

The Executive order mandates –

The SFEFD via resolution 2020-2 shall limit gatherings to 10 persons or less - Page 1 per CDC and AZHS

The SFEFD via resolution 2020-2 shall institute a policy for social distancing (6' separation) - Page 2 Section 1

The SFEFD shall continue to meet Page 4 Section 11 B "Essential Functions conducted by governmental entities shall remain open."

On April 14th the Fire Board enacted the following procedure in regards to public meetings and the establishment of alternative methods to receive comments from the public.

Public Notice of Public Meeting Changes–

The Sherwood Forest Estates Fire Board, during this time of Nation Emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Arizona Governor's Executive Orders 2020-12 & 2020-18 effective March 31, 2020, is under official mandate to enact social distancing and restrict attendance at public meetings.

As a consequence public attendance at all meetings is restricted to just 3 members of the general public, first come first serve at the door, no reservations.

In the interest of open government and to maximize public participation via alternative methods in the governance of the District the following procedure has been approved by the Fire Board.

The public may comment on any agenda item or topic via email. For the comment to be accepted the public is required to openly identify themselves by name and address. The email will be received as "Correspondence" and then read into the official SFEFD Fire Board meeting minutes during the "Public Comments" session. The Fire Board may, as appropriate, respond to the comment or direct Staff to do so. The Fire Boards' / Staffs' response, if any, will become part of the official SFEFD Fire Board meeting minutes available for public review via the SFEFD website. The public is requested to write in the Subject box "Public Comment for SFEFD Agenda Meeting date ____". This process will remain in effect until the

Arizona Governor's Executive Orders 2020-12 & 2020-18, effective March 31, 2020, have been rescinded and that no other public gathering restrictions have subsequently been enacted and are concurrently in effect.

Comments may be submitted via

SFEFDBoard@sherwoodforeststatesfiredistrict.com

For your Safety

Our Fire Department personnel have been provided personal protective equipment to deal with the potential for COVID-19 exposure when responding to emergency calls for service. The Fire Board and Fire Staff encourage everyone to shelter in place and follow the government guidelines for social distancing and hygiene. If at any time you have questions or concerns we encourage you to visit the Sherwood Forest Estates Fire District Website for access to excellent information on the current status of the pandemic and self and family care.

Respectfully,

Bruce Speirs, Chair

Sue Hamilton, Treasurer

Pamela Weir, Secretary (pro tem)