



Bouse Volunteer Fire District
P.O. Box 155
Bouse, Az. 85325

Board of Directors
John Nault (928) 851-5234
Doug Williams (928) 916-4416
David Bull (928) 851-2222

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOUSE VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICT BOARD: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Bouse Volunteer Fire District Board of Directors and to the general public that the Bouse Volunteers Fire District Board will hold a meeting open to the public:

SPECIAL MEETING - MINUTES

Friday, June 23, 2017 at 5:00 pm at 44-031 Plomosa Rd. #4.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: meeting was called to order at **1800 (6:00PM)**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: John Nault, Doug Williams & David Bull

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: approximately ten (10) members of the public were in attendance as well as Chief Novak, Assistant Chief Lowe and representation of volunteer staff

DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR:

(JN) explained purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the issues associated with the proposed budget for FY18. He also raised point that he as new president and DB as a new board member were unfamiliar fully with the protocols and procedures of the district Budget requirements. (JN) went on to step down as BVFD Board Chairman and pass that role back to past chairman (DW). (DW) proceeded with the meeting in new capacity.

Discussion and possible action on Proposed Budget for FY18

(DW) commented that his feelings towards tax increases in the BVFD are well known and He was disappointed the Budget committee had taken this step with the proposed budget. He went on to explain that the BVFD had never raised taxes other than when it was overridden by the county.

(DB) responded stating that the Budget committee met at the time the full board had selected in a monthly meeting and only the one board member (DB) was in attendance at that time with the budget committee. He further added that within two days he had sent a copy of the proposed budget and an explanation letter to each board member for their feedback. Having heard nothing back it was added to the agenda for the general meeting for approval prior to public comment and adoption in the next meeting. At the June meeting the budget was approved for public comment and posted to the website and facebook page. This meeting and the public comments could of been avoided by the other board members taking the time to review the proposed budget.

(JN) countered saying he believed that nothing had changed and that (DB) had said that when dropping off the Board packet prior to the meeting. (DB) responded again stating that was not the case and that the packet clearly showed the proposed budget and the committee had included a two page letter covering each change and the reasons.(DW) stated that with work commitments he had only glanced at the proposed budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT: This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may discuss items that are not on the agenda but not take action. Therefore, action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

Dani Bull expressed surprise at the board not attending the workshop that they had set time for and that she along with the other committee members discussed the proposed budget at length during the meeting and made decisions based on the information they had and in the best interests of the BVFD. She was disappointed at the apparent lack of commitment of the board members to review the proposed budget in a timely manner and that it is unfair to blame the committee who have also been the brunt of public ridicule.

(DW) responded stating he was sorry and he appreciated the time the committee had taken. but his comment earlier regarding tax increases is well known. (DB) again pointed out that with rising fuel costs, have to now pay for medical supplies and drugs, and the lack of staffing to fill shifts the only option that the committee saw was a minimal increase (*from 1.7 to 1.9 - substantially less than county recommends AND well below the other districts in the region who have all budgeted at between 2.6 and 3.1*). (DB) also explained that although the chief has applied for Grants totally above \$500,000 we cannot include that in the budget as there has been no confirmation we have those grants and until we do they cannot be included as a budget line item.

More discussion followed

A Motion was made by (DW) to have the Budget Committee revisit the budget and to work out a budget without a tax increase. *Seconded (JN). Vote Aye 2 Nay 1 (DB) Motion carried.*

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

(DB) stated that due to times constraints required by county and the AFDA we need to have this solved by July 1st. He also stated that in order to get this done All members of the board will need to be at meeting asking for a time and date in the next week to be set

ADJOURN: 1830 (6.30PM)

Minutes taken by audio recording and transcribed on June 13, 2017 by board member David Bull. These minutes are a synopsis of the recording of the meeting, not a word for word transcription.

Minutes Approved at the Regular Meeting of the BVFD Board of DIRECTORS:

Date _____

Signed: _____