

Kuna Rural Fire District

PO Box 607, Kuna, ID 83634

Phone (208) 922-1144 Fax (208) 922-1135

Minutes of Commissioners Regular Meeting May 8, 2024

APPROVED: _____ **REVISED:** _____ (see revised version)

Chairwoman Rebekah Luther called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Kuna City Hall Council Chambers.

Present were Commissioners: Commissioner Rebekah Luther, Scott Burn, Billy Edwards and Dawn Hale. Comm. Feaster arrived at 12:30pm. Also present were Chief T.J. Lawrence, White Peterson Attorney Marc Bybee and Officer of Administration-Secretary-Bookkeeper Krystal Hinkle.

Agenda Approval:

Comm. Burn moved to accept the agenda as printed and posted. Comm. Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes: Comm. Burn moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2024. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Public Hearing – Adoption of Summertime and Davis Annexation:

Chairwoman Luther continued the hearing at 11:33 a.m.

Staff Report: A draft agreement was sent back to Springrock and Ada Co for review. They need additional time to review the changes that Kuna's administrative staff recommended.

Comm. Burn made a motion to table the hearing to June 12th at 11:00 am at Kuna City Hall. Comm. Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Public Hearing – Adoption of Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2023:

Open Hearing – Comm. Burn moved to open the hearing at 11:34 am. Comm. Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Staff Report – Hinkle reported the legal notice was published with the Idaho Press on April 21, 2024.

Public Input/Discussion – None

Close Hearing – Comm. Edwards moved to close the hearing at 11:34 am. Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

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Comm. Edwards made a motion approving Resolution 2024-13, accepting the Amended 2023 Budget. Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Public Hearing – Adoption of Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2024:

Open Hearing – Comm. Burn moved to open the hearing at 11:36 am. Comm. Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Staff Report – Hinkle reported the legal notice was published with the Idaho Press on April 21, 2024.

Public Input/Discussion – Hinkle indicated 2 changes that need to be reflected in the amended budget. The first change was income that was received from Ada Co. for the remodel and the second was the expenditure for the increase in Workcomp.

Close Hearing – Comm. Burn moved to close the hearing at 11:39 am. Comm. Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Comm. Edwards made a motion approving Resolution 2024-14, accepting the Amended 2024 Budget. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Financial Reports Presented by Hinkle: Comm. Burn moved to accept the financial reports and report of fund investments and to approve the disbursement of funds in the amount of **\$294,643.67** for the District for payment of bills and payroll as presented. A disbursement of \$0 for the Community Assistance Fund for payment of bills. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Purchase Order over \$5,000: None

Staff Reports:

Chief Report – by T.J. Lawrence: Chief reported we are fully staffed. Captain Sterling is attending a Fire Investigation training at NFA. Riley Holmes is taking an Officer Development class through Nampa Fire. The Chief attended the Idaho Fire Chief's conference in CDA. Station 2 design is being hindered by the lot split. Doug Hanson, Director of P&Z is setting up a meeting between the City, the Fire District and Tim Eck. The command trailer is moving forward and should be built within 5-7 weeks.

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Local 4165 - Full Time Firefighter Report: None

Attorney Report: Bybee reported he worked on a draft for the Summertime/Davis Annexation and also had conversations with the City of Kuna regarding our lot split and we are moving in the right direction.

Officer of Administration Report by Krystal Hinkle: Hinkle reported everything is on the agenda.

Administrator of Impact Fees by Krystal Hinkle: Hinkle reported that the current fund totals \$2,716,479.09 thru March permits.

Old Business:

State Fire Commissioners Report – The Conference is at the end of the month.

Ada County City EMS System (ACCESS) Update – Comm. Luther attended the last meeting and they approved the budget, minus the request from Dr. Hilvers.

New Business:

Discuss and Consider MOU with Meridian Fire Department – AFG Grant- Comm. Edwards made a motion to table this item, as Marc Bybee didn't get enough lead time to review the document. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider MOU with Local 4165 – Light Duty for Injury off the Job – The Local would like the board to pay their full time wages for injuries that occur off the job, if brought back for light duty when their hours are reduced.

Members of the board are concerned with paying employees for hours they are not working or paying them a higher wage for less hours to make them whole. One of the board members mentioned speaking to their respective constituents and they also had concerns about using taxpayer dollars for injuries not associated to work. Just because you budget for full time pay, doesn't mean you should spend the money irresponsibly. Short term employee obligations for injuries or sickness shouldn't fall on the responsibility of their employer. Lastly, paying for light duty admin work doesn't compare to the pay our firefighters would be receiving when in their full time capacity, so pay should not be in comparison.

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An option for the employees is for them to look into short term/long term disability insurance.

Discuss and Consider MOU with Local 4165 – Light Duty for Injury on the Job -

The Local would like to see all employees given the opportunity to come back on light duty, even if the district doesn't have it available. They feel bringing the employee back, will keep them engaged and encouraged to come back. Also, due to increases to Work Comp rates, this might help reduce the Mod Rating.

Comm. Feaster asked about the cost analysis. Hinkle indicated that she spoke with Chair Luther and Luther asked Hinkle to wait until the board meeting to decide if my time is best used for the analysis.

The board asked Hinkle to provide an analysis of the cost to the district if they are on Light Duty or at home until fully recovered.

Comm. Feaster made a motion to table the discussion until the July board meeting.

Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Ambulance Write-Off – Sec. Hinkle indicated that we need to write off the ambulance billing that is outstanding from 2018-2021. We will still be able to accept collection payments, but the write-off will zero out the obligation for auditing purposes. Hinkle also expressed to the board that the district's percentage of collections is over 85% and the district did very well in their abilities to collect as much as possible.

Comm. Feaster made a motion to write off \$238,553.45 in ambulance receivables.

Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Declaring the Vacancy for Sub District 3 and Direct Secretary to Publish Notice of Vacancy -

Comm. Edwards announced his resignation from the board. Edwards indicated that his work schedule doesn't give him enough time to commit to the district. He would still like to help with the design of Station 2 as a citizen.

Comm. Feaster made a motion accepting Billy Edwards's resignation and directed the

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secretary to publish notice in the paper. Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Resolution Ratifying Approval of OEM Grant - Comm. Burn made a motion approving Resolution 2024-15 for the ratification of an agreement that was approved in April. Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Resolution for Assistant Chief Trumble's Salary – Comm. Edwards made a motion approving Resolution 2024-16 increasing the wages for Asst. Chief Trumble. Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Open Discussion – The budget committee needs to get finalized numbers to Krystal.

Comm. Burn asked Chief Lawrence and Sec. Hinkle to provide goals at next month's meeting for their reviews.

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Feaster seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Krystal Hinkle, District Secretary

Rebekah Luther, Chairwoman