



~ These Minutes were approved by the Board on 5/20/15. ~

Sedona Fire District

2860 Southwest Drive, Sedona, Arizona 86336
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PUBLIC BUDGET WORKSHOP AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Station #1 – 2860 Southwest Drive – Sedona – Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 / 3:15 PM – Executive Session with Public Session to Immediately Follow

~ MINUTES ~

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Board Present: Ty Montgomery – Chairman; Corrie Cooperman – Clerk; Scott Jablow, Nazih Hazime, Diane Schoen – Members

Staff Present: Kris Kazian – Fire Chief; Scott Schwisow – Division Chief; Gary Johnson – Fire Marshal; Sandi Schmidt – Finance Manager; Jane Witt – HR Manager; Jayson Coil and Dave Cochran – Battalion Chiefs; Kevin Sullivan – Fire Inspector; Tricia Greer – Exec. Assistant

Others Present: Police Chief Ray Cota; Ron Eland – *Red Rock News*

Board Chairman Ty Montgomery called the Public Session to order at 3:18 PM.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Vote to go into Executive Session pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(A)(3) Legal Advice; ARS 38-431.03(A)(4) Instructions to Attorney; and ARS 38-431.03(A)(5) Discussion/Consultation with Representatives regarding Employee Negotiations on the following issues:

- 1. Sedona Regional Communications Center Employee Contract.**
- 2. Meet and Confer for Employee Groups; and**

B. Vote to go into Executive Session pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(A)(3) Legal Advice; ARS 38-431.03(A)(4) Instructions to Attorney on the following issue:

- 1. Cottonwood Public Safety Communications Center IGA.**

Mr. Montgomery moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice; ARS 38-431.03(A)(4) instructions to attorney; and ARS 38-431.03(A)(5) for discussion/consultation with representatives regarding employee negotiations on the Sedona Regional Communications Center employee contract, and Meet and Confer for employee groups; and pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(A)(3) legal advice; ARS 38-431.03(A)(4) instructions to attorney on the Cottonwood Public Safety Communications Center IGA; Board Clerk Corrie Cooperman seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

III. FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016 SFD BUDGET WORKSHOP.

A. Salute to the Flag of the United States of America and Moment of Silence to Honor all American Men and Women in Service to Our Country, Firefighters, and Police Officers.

Mr. Montgomery reconvened the Public Session at 4:45 PM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Division Chief Scott Schwisow asked all present to honor our service men and women, and the memory of the 6 Firefighters and 9 Police Officers killed in our nation since the March Fire Board meeting.

B. FY 2015/2016 SFD Budget Presentation from SFD Staff; Board and Staff Discussion.

Fire Chief Kris Kazian said at last month's Board meeting, he presented information about the budget process and effects of Proposition 117 on our budget; he said the draft of the budget was presented at \$14,999,036, and staff is continuing to work on it; SFD received notice of healthcare insurance costs increasing over the preliminary budgeted amount, and we are now working with our broker to reduce that amount, as possible; Chief Kazian said we also received Workers Comp quote, which is about net neutral in the budget; there are remaining meet and confer issues, and the proposed budget includes a 1.7% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) based on the Social Security adjustment for 2015, but the Board's decision on COLA, finalization of healthcare,

and meet and confer issues could impact the final number. Chief Kazian said the Board has had the draft budget for weeks, and he can answer any questions. Mrs. Cooperman said the Chief mentioned it costs \$8,000 for Paramedic training, and he was not going to authorize that amount; Chief Kazian replied our initial budget had two paramedic certification spots, but we have dropped to one, as staff believes our current Paramedic roster is in good shape, and three personnel are in class right now. He said it takes about a year to get new Paramedics trained, and in his opinion, if “everyone was a Paramedic, that would be fine with me” because EMS is about 80% of our services; however, the decision was made that we could only afford to send one member to training; he would be happy to put additional training back in the budget if the Board desires. Mrs. Cooperman said she does not know how the rest of the Board feels, but the more Paramedics, the better in her opinion.

Chief Kazian said the budget includes some significant one-time costs for the SRCC migration, but next year, staff would have a better idea of costs going forward. He said although the budgets are not that far apart for the next two years, actual operating costs are down \$400,000, but capital projects are up \$300,000 proposed for next year. He said it is important for the organization to keep our Capital Improvement Plan updated, so we do not find ourselves with too much capital in one year.

Chief Kazian said for those that may not know, our budget uses the zero based budget concept, which is why over the last year or two, staff has asked the Board for contingency funds because these budgets do not have “like to have” items, they only include necessary items and no funds for unexpected needs like many governmental agencies have built-in in the past. He said staff has taken steps in the facilities budget to start repairing items running near end of life, and for facilities that have not been maintained. Chief Kazian said he is comfortable with the content of the budget, but understands the number may be of concern, as it is an increase over the prior year. Mr. Montgomery commented, speaking for himself, he is not happy with the amount of the budget, although we are being proactive in some areas that we will see in future budgets, such as reducing end leave liability and dispatch costs; he said he would let staff know if he has specific suggestions for the budget. Chief Kazian also reminded the Board of the increasing costs of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System due to the Fields court case. Mr. Montgomery said he understands we are getting “hit” in multiple areas over which we have no control, and he understands staff is negotiating to reduce the healthcare costs, but an almost 20% increase is tough; he also understands emergency services are expensive, but would like to mitigate the costs as we can. Chief Kazian agreed and recommended adding an early May Budget meeting, as we would have more finalized numbers including the general liability insurance, healthcare costs, and other items; this would allow staff to present the final budget to the Board for publication at its May 20th meeting. Our goal would be to have the Public Hearing and budget approval at the June Board meeting. After discussion, the Board scheduled a meeting for Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 4:00 PM. Chief Kazian said the Cottonwood Public Safety Communications Center IGA could also be ready for that Agenda.

C. Public Comments.

No member of the public requested to speak.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

A. Discussion/Possible Action: Follow-up for Executive Session Items:

1. Sedona Regional Communications Center Employee Contract.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the employee contract with the amendments as directed to the attorney in Executive Session and to distribute same; Mrs. Cooperman provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board at 5 to 0.

2. Meet and Confer for Employee Groups.

There was no action on this item.

3. Cottonwood Public Safety Communications Center IGA.

Mr. Montgomery moved to proceed with changes as directed to the attorney in Executive Session; Mrs. Cooperman seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

B. Consent Agenda – Discussion/Possible Action:

1. **March 9, 2015 Executive Session Minutes.**
2. **March 9, 2015 Special Board Meeting Minutes.**
3. **March 18, 2015 Executive Session Minutes.**
4. **March 18, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as submitted; Mrs. Cooperman seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board at 5 to 0.

C. Public Forum:

1. **Public Comments.**
2. **Executive Staff Response to Public Comments.**

No one requested to speak, and there was no need for an Executive Staff response.

D. Business:

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Review and Approval of:

a. March 2015 Financial Report.

Finance Manager Sandi Schmidt commented the budget is right on track. *Mr. Montgomery entertained a motion to approve the March 2015 Financial Report, as submitted; Mrs. Cooperman so moved, Board Member Scott Jablow seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.*

2. Monthly Staff Report – Fire Chief Kris Kazian.

- a. Incident Counts by Station.**
- b. Call Summary Year to Date.**
- c. Update of Special/Significant Activities and Incidents.**
- d. General Update of Recent SFD Activities, Happenings, and Events.**
 - i. SRCC Migration Update.**
 - ii. Upcoming Insurance Service Organization (ISO) Review.**
 - iii. AFDA Conference – June 25th – 27th in Tucson.**
 - iv. SFD Strategic Plan Update.**
- e. Community Risk Management Update.**
- f. SFD Training Report.**
- g. Donations to SFD.**
- h. Update of Grant Activity.**
- i. Regional Communications Center Dispatch Activity for Month and Year to Date.**
- j. Correspondence/Thank You Letters to SFD.**

Chief Kazian referenced the March Fire Chief Report about a fire on Bell Rock Boulevard in the Village of Oak Creek, extinguished by the resident and who, luckily, had a working smoke detector. The incident count shows we are ahead by 140 calls in three months, and if that trend continues, we would have an additional 10% increase, on top of the large increase from last year. With the large increase in tourism and traffic in Sedona, staff does not expect the call volume to slow any time soon. Chief Kazian commented interfacility transports are increasing, and we are researching data collection to better quantify the best business model to use. He reported last week after leaving a Phoenix hospital, the ambulance crew had a “near miss” with a wrong way driver entering the interstate. Chief Kazian pointed out the Community Risk Management section’s information on page one with the number of inspections, and that the Sedona Rouge expansion continues; a road was moved to connect to a new street behind the project; a new Starbucks is slated for construction.

Chief Kazian said Battalion Chief Jayson Coil is working on the rope rescue grant; we just finished the Blue Card incident command training, so that grant will be wrapped up and closed out soon; the gas monitors were purchased and fulfilled and will come off next month’s report. The Communications Center remains busy, but the numbers are down from the year before, as we are starting to see the expected reduction in calls. Under Training, he noted the impressive number of hours Division Chief Buzz Lechowski and Battalion Chief Dave Cochrane have spent in Blue Card training; he was impressed with the quality of the training and the engagement of our personnel. Six personnel were sent to this year’s Arizona Wildland Fire Academy, for which we received a grant. A few staff members went to the Fire Chiefs Conference in Glendale. Chief Coil attended

an important train-the-trainer class. Captain PJ Lingley put on an impressive drill for Verde Valley agencies and the Forest Service as part of our wildland preparedness kick-off drill.

Under “SRCC Migration Update”, he noted Sedona Police Chief Ray Cota was present for any questions about the Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), and SFD staff is in the process of making the migration; Division Chief Scott Schwisow attends the weekly meeting of the technical steps being taken; it is very coordinated and working well, but takes a lot of staff time with SFD and Cottonwood personnel; one concern is the PSAP issue, and the Board had expressed concern; Chief Kazian said the Police Department has first rights to taking over the PSAP; Chief Cota will make a presentation to the City Council on April 28th; this would mean SFD 911 calls within the City limits would first go to the police dispatch to be transferred to the Cottonwood Communications Center. SFD 911 calls originating in other areas of the district would either go directly to the Cottonwood Center or through county dispatch centers. Chief Kazian plans to attend the City Council meeting. He told the Board Chief Cota is available today to answer questions regarding the Board’s concern; he has expressed his desire as the Fire Chief and in support of the Fire Board, to not have the PSAP split; Chief Kazian has good cooperation with Chief Cota and Acting City Manager Karen Daines. Mrs. Cooperman expressed her appreciation that the PSAP traditionally belongs to law enforcement, but wants to know the anticipated time delay of EMS calls going first to the police to be routed to Cottonwood, as it will increase our response times. Police Chief Cota said, to be respectful to the City Council, most of those questions will be answered on April 28th; he assured the Board the City has taken a look at all the concerns, and Chief Kazian and staff have been excellent in providing information and expressing the desire to retain the PSAP functionality to Cottonwood; he said the City has looked at the performance issues and those will be addressed in his report to the City Council. Mr. Montgomery commented we knew this issue would occur as a result of our decision to move dispatch, but asked Chief Cota to do everything in his power to ensure the calls would be answered and routed in a timely fashion, even if the increased volume of calls requires more personnel at the police dispatch. Chief Cota said the report to Council highlights all those items, in terms of performance, staffing, and capability. Chief Kazian has high confidence that if there are issues, our close relationship with the City will address those easily. He commented the National standard for ringdown adds less than 30 seconds for 90%+ of the calls, and if that standard is not being met, it gives us the opportunity to discuss it with the City.

Chief Kazian reported the Insurance Services Organization will be doing a review of our services and ratings; they are trying to streamline the process, which will make it less intrusive and labor intensive for SFD since the last one in 2008; we should receive extra points for CRM and public education. The Arizona Fire District Association conference will be held June 25th to 27th, and Board Members should let Executive Assistant Tricia Greer know if they plan to attend. Board Member Diane Schoen asked if the Board would receive confirmation documentation that they attended the required training last year; Chief Kazian said the legal requirement is there has to be a report made to supervisors, and AFDA has been tapped as the supervisor; they are trying to work through the details. Attorney Whittington said no decision has yet been made regarding the documentation.

Chief Kazian announced the Strategic Planning workshop was held on Monday and Tuesday with about 15 SFD members from all sections of the district attending, as well as a couple of Board Members; he said SFD should receive a draft plan in about three weeks, at which time the members would reconvene for review and to also consider our Mission, Vision, and Values Statements, for presentation to the Board at the July meeting. It is a three year plan with two additional years on the “radar” to anticipate upcoming issues. He said the “Every 15 Minutes” drunk driving awareness program will be presented at the high school tomorrow with a mock car accident and mock trial; Captain Jeff Wassell, along with Firefighters and Police Officers will participate. He noted the thank you letters and letter received from Pinewood Fire Chief John Welsh thanking SFD for its excellent dispatching services through the years.

E. Items from Staff:

1. Update: 2015 Wildland Fire Season.

Battalion Chief Jayson Coil gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the upcoming Sedona wildland fire season and information on our preparedness efforts (slides follow).



2015 Fire Season Considerations for the Sedona Fire District

Presented by Jayson Coil
Outlooks Based on information from Predictive Services



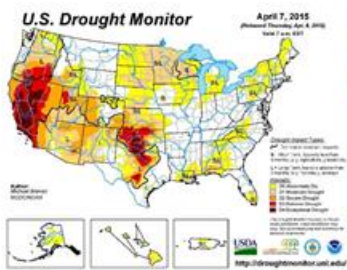
Objectives

- 2015 Fire Season Potential Update
- Status of Preparedness Activities
- State and National Level Involvement



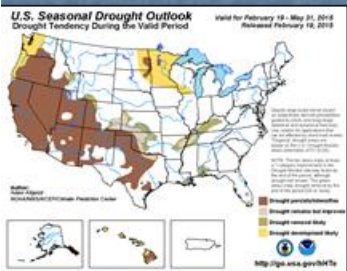
Seasonal Fire Potential Main Factors

1. Drought
2. Fine Fuels Condition
3. Seasonal Temperature & Precipitation
4. Spring & early Summer Weather Patterns
5. Monsoon

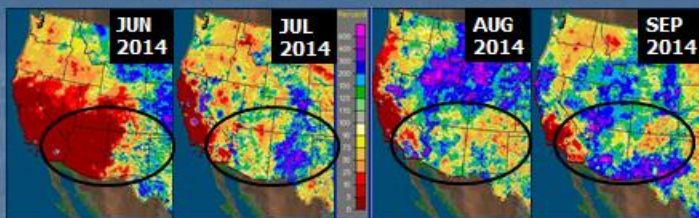


Fire Season 2015: Drought

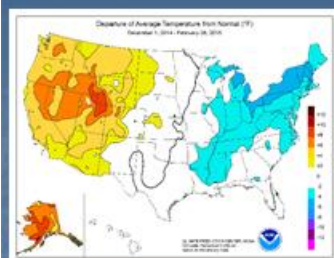
- Long-term drought conditions generally prevail, though have backed off from "Severe+" to "Moderate to Severe"
- Drought outlook calls for overall minimal change through MAY
- A more variable & complex mosaic of drought conditions than recent years.
- Increased severity & volatility where drought persists, & increased complexity in tracking where drought is persisting and how impactful it will be on various fuels.



Fire Season 2015: Fine Fuels

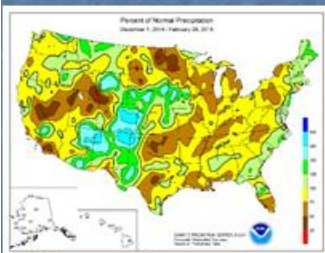


- Substantial periods of above normal precipitation existed across most of the area during monsoon season 2014 to drive warm-season fine fuels growth.
- Fine fuel loading and continuity is normal to above normal in general area-wide, similar to last year (2014).**
- Wet SEP across lower elevations/deserts AND recent moisture & warmth have aided the ongoing & emerging spring growing season.
- Good carry-over fine fuels & potential to add significantly more.**

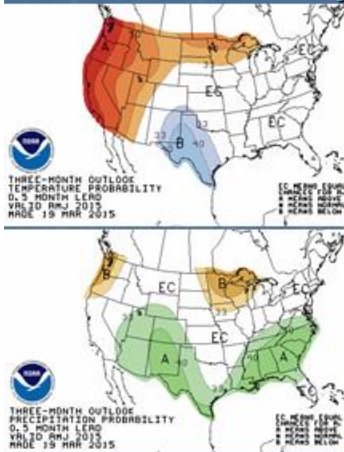


Fire Season 2015: DEC 2014-FEB2015 Temperature & Precipitation

- Overall mild with above normal precipitation. Some wide swings in temperature.
- Snowpack between 36%-6% Normal



Fire Season 2015: APR-JUN Temperature & Precipitation



Active jet stream holding on across the southern half of the U.S. *Persistence of this pattern, how frequent storms will be, and how long the pattern will last will be critical!*

Likely **warmer/drier** west and **cooler/wetter** east for the Southwest overall

A few slow moving storms may try to approach from the Baja vicinity, and these could be major precipitation producers. (fine fuels re-green potential)

→ = General Storm Track

Fire Season 2015: Monsoon



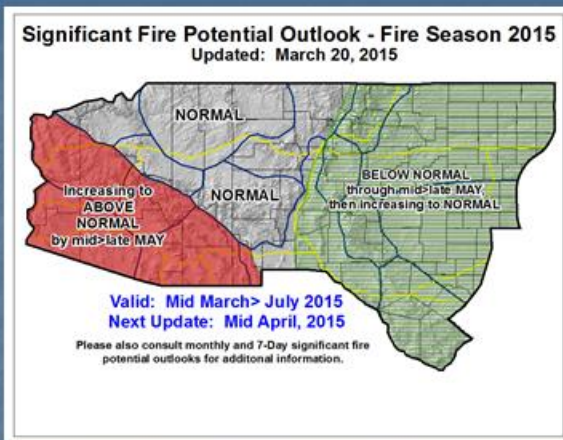
- **Onset:** No strong reason at this time to expect other than a near normal monsoon onset and wind-down of fire season
- **Overall Summer:** Some indications now of potentially drier than normal conditions emerging *during the latter half of summer*. This will need to be watched given amount of available fine fuels!

2015 Fire Season Factors Summary

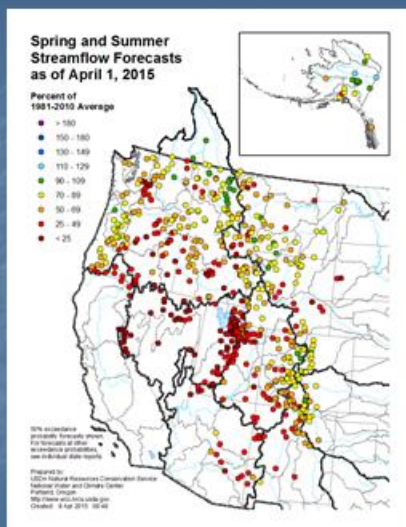
1. **Drought** – Conditions holding generally steady, at **Moderate-Severe**. Mosaic of drought impacts will add complexity in terms of fire potential.
2. **Fine Fuels Condition** – **Normal to above normal loading and continuity** from carry-over, with more being added now during spring growing season. (Potential for highest fine fuels component since 2005.)
3. **Seasonal Temperature & Precipitation** – Trending **warmer/drier west and cooler/wetter east** through spring.
4. **Spring & early Summer Weather Pattern** – Active southern U.S. jet could maintain and unsettled pattern **with periods of moisture/coolness into May/June**. Sustained windy/dry conditions less likely...lightning more likely.
5. **Monsoon** – **No strong indications** of other than 'normal' onset. (Watching for potential 2nd half of summer dryness)

2015 Fire Season Potential Summary

- Period of **Above Normal** fire potential to develop across mid and lower elevations of Arizona between final curing of fine fuels and monsoon onset. (thinking along the lines of the 2005 season – June>mid July?).
- Good possibility of **Below Normal** fire potential for much of the eastern half of the area...at least into May.
- Dynamic live fuels conditions & weather pattern impacts the likely primary drivers of the season.
- Excessively windy & dry conditions should not be a factor, but that opens the door for increased lightning potential as the season progresses.
- Will have to carefully monitor drought impacts, as some areas may remain in Severe+ and fuels & fire potential will respond accordingly.
- **Fine fuels availability + drought impact + lightning alignment = 2015?**



- This depiction likely to shift. Stay tuned for updates!



Preparedness

- Completed Annual Wildland Refresher, Pack Test, and Shelter Training
- Multi-agency Interface Fire Drill Completed, PFAC Drill end of Month
- Focus on Values at Risk on large incidents
 - Accept no Unnecessary Risk
 - Accept Risk in a calculated manner when benefits outweigh costs

Aviation

- Next Generation Air Tankers MD87, RJ85, DC10 VLATS in service
- Total of 15 LATs and VLATs, req 7 more
- 5 Air Attacks up by May 1
- T1 Helo @ Prescott, T2 at Flagstaff, DPS Ranger



Qualifications

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ 1-OSC1/ OSC2 (Coil) | ■ 3-ENGB(t) (Rippy, J. Pace, Co. Carr) |
| ■ 1-STPS (Coil) | ■ 1-HEQB (Miranda) |
| ■ 2-DIVS (Coil, Schwisow) | ■ 1-HEQB(t) (Lingley) |
| ■ 2-DIVS(t) (Miranda, Lingley) | ■ 3-HECM (Miranda, Kreun, Armenta) |
| ■ 4-TFLD (Coil, Schwisow) | ■ 1-HMGB(t) (Kreun) |
| ■ 1-TFLD(t) (Miranda, Lingley) | ■ 5-FAL2 (Baker, Coil, Mezulis, Miranda, M. Pace, Waltenburg) |
| ■ 3-STEN (Coil, Schwisow, Lingley) | ■ 17-FAL3 (Assorted) |
| ■ 2-STEN(t) (Cochrane, Ojeda) | ■ 1-FACL (Foster) |
| ■ 8-ENGB (Cochrane, Mezulis, Lingley, Ojeda, Ingrao, M. Pace, Miranda, Kreun) | ■ 1-ICT4(t) (Ojeda) |
| ■ 3-ICT3(t) (Coil, Lingley, Miranda) | ■ 14-EMPF |
| ■ 8-ICT4 (Bruglio, Cochrane, Ingrao, Kreun, Lingley, Miranda, M. Pace, Schwisow) | ■ 1-EMTF |

SFD State/Nat Involvement

- AZWIMA – Foster, Miranda, Lingley, M. Pace, Coil
- Qualifications Committee – Coil, Lingley
- AZDF/AFC Wildland Committee – Coil
- VVFC Wildland Drill – Lingley
- FLMP/AFFR – Foster, Miranda, Lingley, M. Pace



Southwest Fire Science Consortium Fire of the Year – Slide Fire

- Safety
- Long-term fire effects
- Risk level
- WUI
- Level of collaboration
- Mechanisms to leverage science,
- Bringing outside resources into local ecological perspective,
- Clear use of fire regime knowledge



Slide Fire

- “The decision to conduct nighttime burnouts allowed for in season burning that was overall ecologically beneficial and reduced fire hazard for neighboring communities.”
- When we Talk about Incident Planning, Collaboration, and Execution the Slide Fire Was the Test, and We Passed – Bill VanBruggen, Regional Forester R3

Questions?



Chief Coil noted that SFD made \$125,000 last year on wildland fires. Chief Kazian clarified that amount was net after all fuel charges and personnel costs. Although there were no questions from the Board, several members commented on the importance of this focus.

Chief Kazian said Chief Coil applied for the Fire Management Assistance Grant, which was denied; however, Chief Coil filed an appeal, which we were granted, and we are still working with State Forestry for reimbursement; Chief Coil said it will probably be September or October before we receive notice, but is an opportunity, in addition to the \$125,000, to recover some of our extraordinary overtime costs for the Slide Fire. Chief Coil thanked GIS Specialist Tammy Schuerman for her help with the maps demonstrating when, where, and why the threat to the community met the threshold for the grant.

Chief Kazian introduced Fire Inspector Kevin Sullivan to present some of the activities ongoing for wildfire prevention. Inspector Sullivan said Chief Coil had presented SFD's exceptional level of preparedness for wildfire response, but the question we need to ask is, "What is SFD doing for wildfire prevention and preparedness?" He reminded the Board that SFD applied for and received a \$20,000 grant from the Arizona Community Foundation to develop a professional wildfire prevention and preparedness video at very little cost. He complimented the exceptional team including a professional local videographer who has spent time doing videography work for NASA in the past; he said we also have a wildfire consultant – a former Hot Shot with Mormon Lake and current Firefighter with Prescott. Additionally, they have formulated some no cost interagency partnerships – DPS offered a helicopter free of charge, our videographer acquired Slide Fire aerial footage, and the Coconino Forest Service allowed our videographer on-scene for a prescribed burn footage; they have secured two case studies – one is a private homeowner from Pine Valley who was affected by the La Berranca Fire in 2006 to demonstrate the right way to prepare to be FireWise; and a commercial case study at Junipine Resort, which was directly impacted by the Slide Fire, and has done significant amounts of work to prepare its property in wildland fire preparedness. Inspector Sullivan said we have experienced resistance and misconceptions from the community about the real dangers of wildfire. The key messages staff wants to highlight in the project are: 1. How SFD is dedicated to serve this community in terms of wildland fire response and prevention/preparedness; 2. Comprehensive understanding that wildfire is part of a healthy and balanced ecosystem (Professor Wally Covington from NAU's Forestry Division will participate in the video to ensure science used is sound); 3. Discuss the importance of embracing a fire adaptive mindset and that wildfire is everyone's responsibility; 4. To take meaningful action – What can we do as residents, community members, tourists, and citizens in the SFD to prevent and prepare for wildfire. We will utilize the National model of "Ready/Set/Go" through creating defensible space, understanding what to do to treat landscaping in a fire resistant manner, and understanding the impact of ember zones, harden your home against wildfire, and develop a personal wildland fire action guide. The "Set" component is a situational awareness component for when

wildfire starts; the “Go” component is acting early – what our residents need to do to prepare for and act in a timely manner when wildland fire happens. Inspector Sullivan said we are still in pre-production phases of the project, moving into production, but do not have an estimated time of delivery. He said it is more important for the video to be right, than fast; initially, we were hoping to have it for this fire season; however, the opportunity to use top resources at little or no cost pushed out our time frame and we felt it was the responsible thing to do. He said, essentially, with the grant funding, this project will cost the district nothing other than his time.

Mr. Jablow asked who will see the video, and how it is to be displayed; Inspector Sullivan said our videographer has a strong marketing background and will develop a marketing campaign to reach our target audience. The goal is the video be distributed in every possible format – advertising spots at Harkins Theater, distribution of DVDs to homeowner associations and homeowners directly at low cost, YouTube, at open houses, for community groups, and local access TV. Chief Kazian commented our community is vulnerable to wildland fire and we feel this is proactive. He gave “kudos” to all our SFD staff who participate in wildland fire prevention and mitigation, and thanked Inspector Sullivan for embracing the idea and looking to provide a top-notch production – especially in light of the fact many community members have a “not me” attitude about wildland fire; he believes this information is critical to the safety of our citizens as there have been quite a few “mega” fires in the last few years where 200 or 300 homes are lost and does not want that to happen in our community. Board Member Nazih Hazime thanked staff for taking on this project.

Chief Kazian said the fire danger sign at Station 6 is progressing; he talked to Danson Construction and hopes to have it in place by May 15th. He said there are five community organizations vying for four spots on the sign; three of the four committed early on, and he expects to do a random selection.

2. Discussion/Possible Action: Board Resolution #2015-01, Dark Skies Designation for Big Park Regional Coordinating Council.

Chief Kazian said this Resolution is in support for our community partner, Big Park Regional Coordinating Council, in its pursuit of Dark Sky designation for Big Park/Village of Oak Creek; about a year ago, SFD approved a similar Resolution for the City of Sedona. *Mr. Montgomery moved to approve SFD Board Resolution #2015-01, Mrs. Cooperman seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.*

3. Discussion/Possible Action: Proclamation for National Administrative Professionals Week – April 19 – 25, 2015.

Chief Kazian said this Proclamation honors our Administrative professionals at SFD and next week, is Administrative Professionals week; he said every area of our organization is top notch and asked the Board to recognize our dedicated administrative staff. *Mr. Montgomery read the Proclamation aloud (attached) and moved for its approval, Mr. Jablow seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.*

4. Discussion/Possible Action: Status of SFD Reserve Program.

Chief Kazian commented several years ago, staff received direction from the Board to implement a Firefighter Reserve program designed by Chairman Montgomery and former-Assistant Chief Terry Keller. Chief Kazian said all SFD members – particularly Division Chief Buzz Lechowski, Training Officer Michael Duran, and the Battalion Chiefs – have put forth a valiant effort to make it a viable program, but we have not had a great response. SFD had a career Firefighter test last month, and only two SFD Reserves applied. The draft budget has the Reserve Program cut out, as a cost savings measure; the amount of money allocated in the current budget is near \$135,000 for salaries, physicals, psychological evaluations, academy and instructors, and equipment. We have had two hiring processes in the last two years, and, currently, we are down to only five reserves; reserves have left SFD for other full-time jobs. Chief Kazian recommended phasing out the program as a cost-savings measure, as we have struggled at every level to make the program work. He said, initially, the hope was minimum staffing of our trucks would be enhanced, and although we never have extra firefighters on duty, as they are all needed daily, the number of times we were actually at minimum staffing when a Reserve was on versus when we were above minimum staffing, did not produce any money savings in offset costs. Additionally, he is concerned about the differences in benefits between part-time and full-time employees and concerns expressed about the possibility of catastrophic or fatal injuries resulting in very different benefits

received, as exemplified by the deaths of the 19 Hot Shots killed in the Yarnell Fire, and its effect on the organization. He also mentioned issues related to training and crew familiarity for continuity.

Mr. Montgomery said as one of the architects of the program, the pro forma showed it would not cash flow until there were between 12 to 16 Reserves, and we have never been able to hit that level; he is not surprised the district is now showing the program is not a money saver. Battalion Chief Dave Cochrane added that he felt everyone gave it a good try, and we hoped to use this program to groom and prove Reserves for full-time Firefighters, but we have found they are hired by other agencies, and confirmed we are not seeing the benefit of minimum staffing help. Chief Kazian said the demographics of the Sedona community do not provide a pool of people to draw from for a reserve program. Citing safety concerns and inequities, he recommended canceling the program, although he noted the high quality of the few Reserves currently in the system.

Mrs. Cooperman moved to discontinue the current SFD Reserve program, as directed by Human Resources and legal counsel; Mr. Jablow provided a second. Mrs. Cooperman said when the program was being considered, she had a lively conversation with Division Chief Lechowski about the continuity issue; her concern was based upon her experience as a psychiatric nurse and staffing in the Psych unit; she is sorry the program did not work out because it was pursued for fiscal reasons, but is glad the EMS teams know each other and each other's working styles very well. Mr. Montgomery commented the program is not physically capable of becoming big enough to perform well. Division Chief Scott Schwisow commented this is our second attempt at making the program successful and had a large academy last year, but lost people throughout the year. Mrs. Schoen said people have reasons for participating as Reserves, but they know they will get good training and may have an opportunity for a permanent position, and if they are offered full-time jobs elsewhere, they take them and leave SFD; she said the size and demographics of our community are not conducive to draw enough people to make the program work; she commended Mr. Montgomery for making this effort to support the staff in a different way. Chief Schwisow commented that Chief Kazian really worked hard to make it work, and came from an environment where this type of program can be successful, but our community does not have the young workforce needed for the program. Chief Kazian also commented the change in healthcare laws requiring individuals who work more than 30 hours to get healthcare was not part of the original calculations, and there is a new Arizona law requiring Reserves that work for more than 20 hours in 20 months, to be in the Arizona State Retirement System, which would be another cost. ***Mr. Montgomery then called for the vote, which was unanimously approved.***

F. Item from Board Clerk Corrie Cooperman.

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Consider Rescheduling Future Board Meetings at Station #1.

Mrs. Cooperman stated she is proposing SFD schedule all meetings at Station 1 in West Sedona versus holding two per year at Station 3 in the Village of Oak Creek. Chief Kazian commented after the last Board meeting, which was held at Station 3, Board Members asked him if it made sense from staff's perspective to continue meeting in the VOC; he told each Board Member who called that staff will have the meetings wherever the Board directs, but Station 1 is our headquarters with the facilities set up to handle the meeting and the video/audio; having the meetings at Station 3 requires staff to bring all the equipment, and necessary hours for a staff member to set up and tear down the audio/video equipment; Chief Kazian said many of the involved staff members are salaried, but it does affect our productivity, for example, when the Board adjourns into Executive Session, staff can return to their offices to work when at Station 1. He said we have held these meetings for the last few years at Station 3, and if there was a good turnout from the VOC citizens, it would be different, but as there is very limited attendance of the public, it may not make sense. Last month, three citizens actually showed up at Station 1 for the meeting and were unable to participate, which was more of the public than attended at Station 3. Chief Kazian stressed it is totally the Board's decision, and he had provided past Minutes involving Board discussion of this matter. Mrs. Schoen commented she believes it is important to determine other ways to attract the public to our meetings, as it is becoming "stylish" to only show up when there's trouble.

Chief Kazian said some members of the public watch the Board meeting videos on our website. Mrs. Schoen said she does not want to wait for an issue, such as a wildland fire, for people to participate in our district. Chief Kazian stated there is a "hard dollar" per meeting cost of about \$900 to move the meetings. Mr. Jablow stated

he believed it was a waste of money. Mrs. Cooperman commented this last meeting only had two citizens, and the previous attendance was also extremely low; the financial considerations and those of staff productivity are affecting her decision. Chief Kazian said people are accustomed to having our meetings here and, for example, City Council meetings and State meetings are always held in the same place, even though members of the public have to travel to attend. He also said SFD staff remains involved with citizens of the VOC by attending Big Park Regional Coordinating Council meetings and other community events. He said we are considering having a YouTube channel on our website renovation and it would be easy to upload the videos and track how many people are watching. ***Mrs. Cooperman then moved to hold all monthly meetings of the Board at Station 1 Multipurpose Room; Mrs. Schoen seconded and the motion unanimously passed.***

G. Item from Board Chairman Ty Montgomery:

1. Monthly Update: Fees for Legal Services Provided to SFD.

Mr. Montgomery said last month's legal bill was \$5,347, which was an increase due mostly to the Regional Communications Center transition and contract issues, but that we are still well under the budget for the year.

V. FIRE MARSHAL'S SAFETY MESSAGE

Fire Marshal Gary Johnson reminded everyone that changes in the Fire Code require all homes to have smoke detectors, and 2013 Code also requires carbon monoxide (CO2) detectors. He said the amount of non-fire incidents involving CO2 have doubled in the last ten years. Mr. Montgomery commented most smoke detectors are now combined with CO2 detectors. Mrs. Schoen commented the Jewish Synagogue recently changed all its smoke detectors to combination ones.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Original signed by Corrie Cooperman

Corrie Cooperman, Clerk of the Board

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