



**SUMMIT FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT
Governing Board
Public Hearing/Budget Workshop and
REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2017
Station 37, 5500 Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff AZ, 3:00 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Clerk Jim Timney called the Public Hearing/Budget Workshop and Summit Fire Board Regular to order on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 3:10pm, at Station 37, 5500 N Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff, Arizona.

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS / AFFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Members Present: Board Clerk Jim Timney, Board Member Mike Milich, Board Member Jim Duskocil

Members Absent: Board Chairman Rick Parker, Board Member Jim Newkirk

Administration: Fire Chief Mark Gaillard, Deputy Fire Chief Jerry Bills, Administrative Officer Chris Gioia, Administrative Assistant Tammy Schieffer

Public: Cindy Duskocil, Patricia Kearney, Kathy Perkins, Don Woods, Linda Jalbert, Carol Gore, Betty Huffman, John Vankat

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

4. PUBLIC HEARING - Proposed Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget and GO Bond Budget

a. Overview of Proposed Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget

Deputy Chief Bills went over the propose Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget. A copy is included in the governing board packet.

Chris Gioia explained to Board Member Duskocil regarding the difference between this one and the one that was e-mailed is we added the grants into this one, that was not in the one e-mailed, and the miscellaneous wildland income is really 16/17, not 17/18.

Board Clerk Timney explained to the public, this meeting is an additional review of the budget, and the actual adoption of the budget. We can approve it for



posting only, not definitive approval. It will be posted throughout the district and available to you to review on a timelier basis where you can sit down and think about what you are looking at. Then at the end of 20 days a meeting is held for the formal adoption of the budget.

b. Overview of Proposed Fiscal Year 2017/2018 GO Bond Budget

A copy of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2017/2018 GO Bond Budget is attached to the official Governing Board meeting packet.

Deputy Chief Bills: It is the General Obligation Bond Budget. We have already paid off this structure, Station 36, and the loans against the 2 facilities on the other side of town. Which is Station 31 and the Maintenance Facility. This is what is left of the bond, and what we had asked for in the bond presentation, listed out as the equipment to be purchased in the next year. These are budget numbers, not purchase numbers. We have not done the due process to buy all these things. That is how much money is allocated for those specific items.....

Kathy Perkins: Did I understand you correctly that this facility and Station 36 have already been paid for?

Deputy Chief Bills: The bond paid off the loans against these two facilities. And two on the other side.

Board Member Daskocil: That was the whole reason for the bond was to pay off the debt to get us into a better position. Even though the majority of the residents out here assumed the bond would open the station, which it did not. That was not a part of it. The signage and stuff they put out there, as far as increasing man power, and stuff like that, would lead you to believe that, and that is not the case.

Betty Hoffman: What would it cost to staff 36? What kinds of dollars are we looking at that would be needed?

Deputy Chief Bills: Nine personnel. Our other stations are staffed with three. So, that would be nine personnel. An average for a brand new firefighter, is probably \$65,000 including their retirement, benefits, and all that. So, \$575000.00 with 9 employees not including anybody with rank yet. You start sticking an officer out there, so more money, and mid-year firefighter, who is going to drive the vehicle. You are probably in the \$600,000 to \$650,000 range for personnel.

Chief Gaillard: An alternative staffing level could be two people a day. That provides an EMS capable response, but creates a hardship in context of full services we provide, which is fire protection, and fire suppression. So, it could be less than that if it were a lesser type of response. I would ask the board, Chief Bills is one of the best financial guys I have ever seen. Let's give him a little room if we want to provide more information to the board. It will be more accurate, than what Chief Bills have provided here just off the top of his head. If that were something the board desires, we, certainly, can provide that. In context of the



budget, it is difficult because the budget is fully expended. The board is very familiar with our financial condition. We cannot produce any more revenue. It comes to question, where would we cut it elsewhere in the district. It is not a function in our case of just deciding to take on more debt, or take on more taxes. We can't do that. At this point we are at an add/delete stage where if we want something different, the board is aware of this but for the conversation, we are at a point of "if we do this instead, where will we not do somewhere else in the budget". That is the condition.

Cindy Duskocil (wife of Summit Board Member Jim Duskocil): Is there any way you can move personnel around so you are not actually having add a lot of new employees with new money to the budget that would place some of them on the other side, so we can have our station open, and it may take one or two people off another station that may not run as many calls. They can handle that having a little less staffing? Is that possible in the budget?

Deputy Chief Bills: Our lowest staffing is set by the types of alarms we run and the ability for us to do the job that is required when we get there. I start breaking these guys down into two person units; we wrestle with that on the other side every day. With people off, I am down to 2-two person units and 1 three on this side and 1 three on that side at Station 31. If I take those two and move them and open another station, I have 4 people on this side, 6 on the other when I have 2 folks off, which is often all summer. The ability for them to perform the task of fighting fire diminishes with only 2 personnel. Right now, you have 3 in one unit, they can make a relatively good attack with those, with someone operating the pump and providing good direction and pulling lines.

Cindy Duskocil: It wouldn't be like bringing someone from one of your other stations, if they had a fire, another station that is in that area to add to that manpower so that even if they didn't have it initially? That is not something that would render that problem? Like if they had a fire.....

Deputy Chief Bills: If there was a fire, we have people coming from all over the place.

Cindy Duskocil: You are adding to the manpower like that, even though you don't have 3 on a truck initially, and.....I mean if you do that. If you only had a couple that at least had ours open for at least medical calls, knowing full well that is not enough on a fire call, but if there was a fire call, this station would respond as well, and that would add to their manpower.

Deputy Chief Bills: It adds 2 more, so there would be 2 and 2. It is the response times, and the ability, and the next truck is probably another 6 or 8 minutes away, before the next one comes in, than the water and all others come from where you are at. It is the way it used to run, as a matter of fact. The reason we don't do that anymore is we couldn't afford it when people were off. We would be down to one truck and we would brown out that station, put 3 here. We are



in that same boat now. Nothing has changed. I don't have more people. I am in the same boat I was when they closed the station.

Cindy Doscocil: That is what I am trying to get to. You don't have anything within the budget means that would give you...allow you to hire 1 or 2 guys that would make up whatever that difference is to keep this one open all the time?

Deputy Chief Bills: I have 3 people I have on a grant right now that is saving us approximately \$85,000. They are helping us to meet our minimum staffing for the district that it is now. Including this side.

Chief Gaillard: It is problematic. We have to look at the west side of the district as 1 area. I recognize that it is residents that previously had a working station more proximal to where you live, and it is difficult to see that service level diminish. That is what happened. With the delayed service, I would say it is the service level that has been altered. We used to have more resources on this side of our district. We are currently in a pilot program, with the City of Flagstaff, to provide with a concept we call automatic aid. What that means is that we now operate automatically from the dispatch center if the west side unit, this side, is occupied on another call, or if the kind of call is such that we need more than 1 unit, the Flagstaff units are automatically dispatched as if they were part of this fire department. We have been doing other things to try to maximize the limited resources, not only Summit Fire has, but also the City of Flagstaff. We are trying to do smart things there, but as we took a look at this district, and looking at 2 station risk, if you will, that is posed on this side of the Summit Fire And Medical District, it is difficult to fathom that we would ever open up a second station.

Met with the county planning division asking what is in store for this side of our district? They said 2% growth over the next 2 to 20 years. So, the risk profile is going to stay in this character. This rural character. We communicated with the board that likely the long term looks like a fire station on this side of the district. We have also communicated, we are not terribly convinced that either one of the current locations we are now are suitable. In other words, is there a better place? That is an analysis that we promised to the board that we would bring to them. If for now, we are looking at this as 1 area in 1 district, where would you put the fire station if you were designing it from scratch? We are getting ready to under-take that. Right now, with respect to the analysis, to give the board the knowledge to have a long term vision on what should happen. There likely will be, because of our financial condition, be increments working towards that over the long haul. I don't see a quick fix for us. Just from a financial stand point. I recognize the concern. We are doing things that we can as far as maximizing resources with our partners; strengthening the automatic aid system to make sure resources are available here in a way is such we are not hampered by boundaries and smoke stacks, and political subdivision. We have a lot of work to do to kinda push that off to the side to maximize the available resources in the



region. I suspect that doesn't make you feel much better, but those are the efforts we are making.

Deputy Chief Bills: You mentioned the feasibility study early on in the conversation, and part of that is using that Station 5 of the cities, to cover the south end of the district to cover that south end of the district in that automatic aid format. As long as I have an unit that covers the south end, this unit doesn't need to go down there, so theoretically moves it closer to you, so 5 now covers the south, this one covers this end. Your district is 2 big chunks out here with a road in the middle that doesn't have a lot of action on it because there are no homes. It is all forest. I have a bunch of people that live over there, and bunch of people that live over here, and they both have the same amount of need. Both have about 50 calls a year. The best place for them right now as 1 district is this station. As we move towards that automatic and I have someone else to cover the south side of this, that 50, this 50 gets the station closer to them. It is better response times for both units and their back-up. We divide that area into a different layer as opposed to where it is at with district boundaries and the city line. It is hard to picture. We are looking at all that now, trying to get into wording that you would understand and maps with pictures with our intent to locate the best place for a station that would do away with both of these.

Don Woods: Since you raised that issue, where is at as a priority for you to do that feasibility study on a new location?

Chief Gaillard: In this coming Fiscal Year, we expect to have it early in this Fiscal Year once we get the budget out. That is the priority this year is to give them an analysis. We don't have any money. We are not waiting to figure out what the solution is, so we can expense it and head in that direction. There is no urgency in the context of as soon as the analysis is over, we can fix the problem. As soon as the analysis is over, the board can consider the various options and we can communicate with the community as to this looks like the best direction to go to moving forward in the future. Our intent is the first quarter of the fiscal year, our board should begin seeing the element of the analysis. The new fiscal year begins July 1. My intention is for our staff to take a look at the analysis, consider the automatic aid system, and view that as a success both in Flagstaff and for the district itself, and make a recommendation to the board. I suspect that will look like a multi-faceted, multi-year advancement, typically due to our financial condition.

Don Woods: You do have 2 assets now that are totally paid off now, right, that could be sold?

Deputy Chief Bills: That is correct, we have 2 stations that are paid off, and they could be sold to generate the funds to build another. But, we have to keep one open, and have a plan. If we have a plan, than we can show you. You are the tax



payer, and get your input, and the components of it and pricing, than we will have a place to start then.

Don Woods: Is there a point in time when the staff is doing this for public involvement? Or is that only when it gets to the board level?

Chief Gaillard: we had not anticipated community involvement until we went to the board. If the board would like us to, we could engage the community. It is a function of setting up an ADHOC committee. I don't think there is anything that eliminates us from doing that. We have anticipated a public hearing, to say let's show the community what our analysis is showing today for the specific purpose of discussing that singular issue. Whether or not the board wants us to do that before they see it or after they see it, we have not had that conversation yet. We would anticipate a very pronounced public involvement, because we knew you were coming to the meeting today.

Cindy Duskocil: Is there anything within budget framework you have right now that would allow for the station to be open during 3 day weekends, and during the time we have this snow traffic out here? It is impeding everything for all of us out there. We need something right there in the neighborhood that doesn't have to try to make its way through traffic. We have a 3 day weekend coming up now. It would be nice to have the station open with people in there. Over the 4th of July is another big one, Labor Day, as they go to make sure we have at least some coverage, even if it can't be all the time until you can figure out all the time. Is that possible?

Deputy Chief Bills: Funding. We do not have the budgeted funds for it. The station has been closed and when it came time for buying things, instead of buying more, we used it from that station. It is not ready to just turn the lights on and start opening. It needs some more work, furniture, beds, refrigerator, all those things that have gone bad at other stations have been taken from. Instead of buying items, we used everything from that station. There is an amount of funds to bring that up to openable. Putting a unit out there and patrolling during those times of the year, we do that anyway. Although you may not see them, they are out and about on the days when the traffic is heavy. With 96 calls a year is about 2 per week throughout all of this side. We are not bothered a lot by traffic jams and people playing in the snow. It doesn't really slow us down because, generally the calls aren't happening at that time. We are not seeing it in at least with the statistics we are pulling. We are seeing 4.5 to 5 minute response from this station into all reaches of the area where you all are talking about. The Baderville area. The same at the other end. This is in a perfect spot for the big side, but the funding to do all that, we are talking about pretty hefty cash because it would pulling guys from off-duty, which is time and half. That is big money. We are thin on money now as it is.



Cindy Duskocil: So you are banking on maybe we don't have a call out there, our emergency during that heavy traffic, and that you are not getting any, but it only takes one.

Deputy Chief Bills: We do respond either way. We don't bank on anything but the calls happening period. We haven't experience a lot of issues yet. We do not have the money to do that. That is all there is to it. To re-open that station, there is a lot of work that has to be done, and staffing on overtime, even for 8 hours a day for 2 people is a hunk of money.

Chief Gaillard: Operation, I think, as chief mentioned is important in cognoscente of what is going on in this area and some of the impact is pretty high profile right now with snow play, issue here on this side of the community is vibrant conversation going on in the community. We are aware of that. It is not uncommon for folks to move out and go in certain areas based on their operational day to day understanding of what's going on in their district.

Don Woods: you made a good point. There is a lot of discussion right now about the lack of 36 being opened out in Ft Valley. It may serve this fire districts purposes to have a meeting out there to discuss what you are discussing right now, in order to at least tell the people that you understand the problem, you are trying to address it, this is how you are trying to address it, rather than doing nothing. You are working on it, but in isolation, no one knows what you are doing.

Chief Gaillard: I would agree with probably haven't been as high profile, but we have been in contact with city of Flagstaff elected officials and county attorney as well, providing them with information about the impacts of.....Snow Bowl is a separate issue than snow play. We have broken that issue apart and provided statistical data to them, which is unremarkable. The statistical data we provided, the numbers of calls that we have experienced during those periods of time, and the impacts on our ability to respond really did not demonstrate much use for the elected officials, and the public policy makers that we provided that information, just the data set so small. What is really the larger issue seemed to do with parking, as well as litter. Those don't impact us much.

Don Woods: I am afraid I have not made my point clear. You need to get out into the community. Hold a meeting there at the fire station and explain to the public, not the elected officials, which we don't have much confidence in anymore. Explain to the public what's happening, what isn't happening, why it is working the way it is. In other words, talk to the people. We already know the county commissioner here doesn't really want to help us. We already know that because of the snow play issue.

Cindy Duskocil: One of the things they keep telling us is they are going approach you guys about staging a guardian ambulance at that station out there, so it is out there during snow play time when the traffic is very heavy. It is like, why



would that be? That doesn't make any sense to us either. That is, again, who is going to pay for that, if somebody has to have a call, then we have to pay for that when we are already paying for a fire station to have a paramedic out there, but now we have to pay for a private ambulance to come. This is the kind of things they are throwing at us. Well, we will get Guardian to house somebody out there.

Chief Gaillard: I am not familiar with any conversations we have had regarding Guardian co-locating at Summit Fire District, or Flagstaff. We are not aware of that.

Cindy Duskocil: That is what they have telling us.

Timney: I can shed some light on this. I was with Summit Fire for many years on the east side. That discussion has come up periodically over the last 30 years about staging an ambulance with the station out there. It has never been anything more than an off-hand thought. I think that was as far as it went.

Cindy Duskocil: Right now they are talking about doing it because of all the noise our community is making about all the issues we have. They are telling us that one of the things they want to do is talk with you, and see about staging a Guardian Ambulance in that fire station that is on Bader Road out there full time during that 2 to 3 week period of snow play. They would be in that station.

Board Clerk Timney: They would have to come talk to this board before anything happened beyond conversations.

Board Member Milich: Who is they?

Cindy Duskocil: Art Babbitt

Jim Duskocil: County officials that was at that open forum. That was actually brought up and disseminated on all the 100 people that were there, that was told to them.

Chief Gaillard: Within the last 3 weeks, I have met with director of Guardian Ambulance. We talked about a number of issues. Their issues are currently a little more kin to the City of Flagstaff issues. Tremendous call volume increases, and he did not bring up co habiting staffing. As a matter of fact his comments is experience there in the metro/downtown corridor, they are being pulled apart very similar for the Flagstaff resources. Unless, somebody is paying, I don't see them posting up in an area where there are low call volumes. I don't want to speak out of turn. There may be a lot of things that are being discussed ahead of that conversation. We, simply, have not been involved in it.

Public I am trying to stick to just the budget stuff. I have several comments for #11 later. Has there been any thought, since we have this comingling between Flagstaff and Summit Fire of sharing firefighters with Summit to cover one here so people could go over there?



Chief Gaillard: Yes, let me put that into context. There have been conversations, and we can certainly envision that as a future state. It is kinda difficult now because we have district training levels that we are overcoming, all of our new hires same academy, same training, but that is 4 to 5 people. It not that we are quite as interchangeable yet. But, we are working that way. It is a good idea for the future. We think that is something we should be working for. The City of Flagstaff is having great difficulty make daily staffing, just like Summit Fire. There is no extra capacity downtown that we could push out here anyway. But, the concept you are talking about is the way we should be thinking, and we are. We are putting those things in place.

Don Woods: I will try one more time. Do you think you could hold a public meeting out in Ft Valley to explain to the folks out there what is happening? Tell them what your plans are? Or is it premature?

Board Clerk Timney: I don't think it would be premature. It might not be tomorrow. We got to get into We will have to meet in the garage over there, but I don't see a problem.

Chief Gaillard: As you see, we don't have a lot to tell you. So, would the information we have today, just be mis-managing expectations and creating more anxious? Would it be better to wait? I leave it to the board to tell us that.

Board Member Milich: I disagree with you in saying you don't have a lot to say. I think these people have heard things they have never heard before, if I am reading their faces right? I think it would be very helpful for them just to know what the status quo is. Part of the status quo is Jerry refining the numbers so that they know what the cost is to get station 36 up and running again today. And how we got here.

Betty Huffman: I would like to add one more thing. We are really on your side. You mean a lot to us. A whole lot to us. More than anything, we would really like to help. I have been sitting here thinking what we could do to get you more money. I don't really understand how all of that works, but is there anything we could do to help you? I don't even know the answer to that. But, we are on your side.

Brian Furuya: I am with the Coconino County Attorney's Office. I have a contract to be legal counsel for districts. I am the fire districts lawyer. What I hear and what I think is necessary is context. Someone needs to go out into the community and say this is what we do with the money we have as a district as a whole, a nice map, show where the stations are and say we need to respond to this person here within 4 minutes, we need to respond to this person here within four minutes. Now, we have these resources to try and pull around. To put the context, which I think is revelation to most of you here is by state law, this district can do nothing more to raise money. It is set. There is nothing more it



can do more than it is already doing to raise more money. You are at the top of your tax rate. You cannot raise more taxes period. Even if you wanted to, you couldn't do it, because state law forbids you from doing it. You already have a bond. The bond is the last means of raising money. If we explain that, that there is no more income, they are writing all the grants they can. They have as much tax as legally permitted to levy. The only other funding mechanism available to you is through axillary. Money through auxiliary makes no impact. That is where you are at. In terms of what it would cost to increase the amount of services, you are between a rock and a hard place. What you need to do is exactly what your chief is telling you is you need mutual aid agreements with other agencies, develop those resources, strategically place your stations so that your response times can be shortened, so the resources are where they need to be. The ones you have. I think that is the conversation they are asking for, is to say we are in a box canyon with nowhere to go. This is where it is and that is it. Is that what you are saying?

Don Woods: Yes.

Chief Gaillard: Thank you Bryan. If the board is acceptable, we will go and schedule at first opportunity a meeting in the neighborhood. We will tell you what we know now. We will tell you what we would like to know in the near future is what we will bring back to the board. We will make you completely aware of how to engage in that process. It is no issue for us to schedule that and bring that to the neighborhood, and have a conversation with an expanded group, much like the one we are having today.

Don Woods: Thank you. In support of what Betty said, I think the most important thing the board is doing in the last year is having this Joint Operating Agreement with the City of Flagstaff. That is huge. The other thing I have heard, if I still have it correct, the firefighters themselves have had minimal or no increases in pay in a long time. That reflects how tight the financial situation is. They cannot afford to give pay raises they deserve, because they are a tremendous group of people.

Fire Chief Gaillard: I think that. Our firefighters here, not only forgone raises, but they have been part of the solution with tightening their belts.

Board Clerk Timney: Let me ask the members of the audience, since you are representing the community in question on that end of the district, is there any particular time of the year that would be more beneficial, knowing travel time of neighbors that might be able to reach the most people in a meeting?

Cindy Doscocil: In the summer everybody is usually travelling around and by September, they are back because they have kids that go to school. I think there are other people that have summer homes are gone by September, so it is give and take on either way. If you wanted to do something during the summer, you would reach the people that are out there for summer with more of them kind



of out there, but those that go home, you would be reaching the ones that are out there all the time probably September. As far as a place to do it, JR Murry that runs Snowbowl, is so accommodating every time we ask for anything like using the building and never charges us. I know he would probably say yes you can have a meeting in the lodge building, and they have room in there for the public together. Just have to ask him. He is usually very accommodating.

Board Clerk Timney: That is why I asked for your input what time of year we would reach the most residents because they are most impacted.

Carol Gore: One more question. You said there is nothing we can theoretically do. But, there has got to be something we can do, so maybe one of your agenda items at the meeting you are going to be having can be how the community can support you guys, because without us supporting you, you can't support us.

Deputy Chief Bills: This, right here, is huge for us. To get your input is completely huge. We would hope you continue to attend these and hear what we are saying at what we are talking about. That helps that information to get out, as well.

Hats off to you showing up for this. Thank you. Other things, we are coming up with a new IGA for the Joint Management Agreement we have now for time to be extended. Your support in that to our council members of the city would be huge as well. So, the politics of passing things through council.

Fire Chief Gaillard: There may be legislative issues appearing at the state legislature that would be beneficial for districts in our position introduced in the form that we keep the board informed. The majority of the districts are in the position that the Summit Fire & Medical District is in. They are sitting at a max tax cap regardless of their service level. Some have service levels that are similar to ours with effect to stations and staffing. Some have less. Some have more. They are all faced with the same financial conditions brought about by the recession and plunging of the Assessed Value, which fire districts don't have the luxury that the cities do with respect the cities have a much diversified revenue strengths. They have property tax, sales tax, tourism for the City of Flagstaff. Fire Districts are sitting here with a property tax, and that is it. We are enslaved to that property tax. There are things going on in a holistic way. We are in support of citizens who might encourage legislators who have not been kind to fire districts in the last several years to provide some relief. We will keep district members and our board apprised of any activities and support measures.

Cindy Dorskocil: Is there any money in the county, since we are in the county that could be allocated toward the department just because it is in the county?

Chief Gaillard: Funny you should ask that. The Mount Lemmon Fire District, I believe in Pinal County, recently, the board of supervisors of Pinal county scraped up funds to assist that district, who is very similar to ours. Although, I think they were getting ready to fold. The county can, not necessarily develop a revenue stream, but if they have surplus revenues, they have a way, in some



counties, to make expenditures. It has not happened in Coconino County that we are aware of.

Brian Furuya: I want to make it clear, the fire district can raise funds through donation. If an entity out there, be the county, private, or whatever, want to donate to the fire district. They are permitted to do that, and that becomes revenue to the district. What we are talking about here is anything lasting is going to be capital level. In other words, \$500,000 to \$600,000 plus, or something ongoing to fund the position permanently. Could be an ongoing grant type of position. I work in the attorney's office, I don't work in finance. I don't know what monies are out there. I do know the budget process is wrapping up. So the opportunity to try to petition for those funds is probably over for this coming fiscal year. But, for future years, if you wanted to do that would be a question to raise to your supervisor. I think the same presentation to better the community, likewise to be repurposed to be presented to the board of supervisors. How it is received and whether or not the resources are there to do that? Getting more money to do that would be like county wide tax increase, which would have its own processes. That might be available.

Cindy Duskocil: On a legal standpoint if they have something county wide, they could put some kind of tax in that would be specific to the fire district because it is in the county?

Brian Furuya: The county, itself has a number of revenue raising options. Doing a county wide tax specific to aid fire districts would be one. There was one that happened earlier that was dedicated to roads. You can levy taxes specific to particular issues, and then dedicate those funds to that issue. The caveat is that everyone in the county has to pass off on tax increase. You hang your hat on a county wide vote, rather than a district vote. You feel it here, but the people feel it less in Flag and that is the big problem.

Chief Gaillard: Not all good things come from raising taxes. We have made contact with Coconino National Forest and told them that, likely, there needs to be a search for a suitable location for a fire station in this part of our district. We have not approached them yet, I just got the name of the capital planner for the county in our meeting with the county attorney. The idea here is, other governmental entities provides services in and around this area gives us an opportunity to collaborate to co-locate federal, county, district facilities to make it more accessible and affordable to all of us. We are entering into those kind of conversations. The county can be a great partner with us in a number of ways. We are pursuing those.

Brian Furuya: All those would go through the Board of Supervisors. The start point for that is to go to your supervisor and say this is the problem, help us find a solution.

Board Clerk Timney: Any further comments on the budget?



Board Member Milich motioned to close the Public hearing and open the regular board meeting. **Board Member Dorskocil** seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Hearing adjourned at 4:11pm.

c. Public Hearing/Comments

Don Woods - the budget on the table the budget, is there any more detail, or is that what we will be reviewing, after it is officially posted.

Board Clerk Timney: These two pages. This is the same budget we had. This is the combined, itemized budget, this is categorized.

Don Woods: So how does the public get to review the itemized budgets?

Administrative Gioia: You can make a request, by coming into the station.

Board Clerk Timney: It can be provided, that is why there is the 20 days. If you have questions on this, you can get a more definitive breakdown.

Mr. Woods: why isn't the detailed budget posted for the public hearing, and having to come here and ask for it?

Administrative Officer Gioia answered, it is about 25 pages long. This is the requirements from the state to post our budget. You are welcome to come in and ask to see our detailed budget.

Board Member Dorskocil: Is that on file to where they can be e-mailed to whatever parties so they don't have to come to the station out east?

Administrative Officer Gioia: We just ask that they fill out a records request for that.

Don Woods: Another follow up: if the staff is requested to do a feasibility study, or something similar, is there a specific line item to fund that, or is that not necessary if the staff is asked to do something like that?

Board Clerk Timney: If the staff is asked to do some project, or any kind of a job like that, it has to be somewhere in the budget where the funding for that project can be removed from a line item. It has to be funded specifically.

Don Woods: Can you tell me if a feasibility study of new fire house on 180 or reopening 36 is a line item in your budget?

Administrative Officer Gioia: It is not.

Don Woods: So, there are no plans for 2017/2018 to fund such a feasibility study? Is that correct?

Deputy Chief Bills: we can do the feasibility study in-house. There wouldn't be a budget for that. All of our pay is already in there. It is just my time and hours, staff time and hours, so yes it is still an option for us to do and provide that



information at following meetings. As far as farming that out to someone, it is not a budget item.

Don Woods: I was led two months ago, staff would do such a study, and I did not anticipate them going outside.

Deputy Chief Bills: Yes we are interested in performing something like that as well. We are through our budget now, and all the paperwork that goes with it. The bond program, the budget, and the audit took up all of our time in the last three months. We are finally coming to an end where this stuff is all done, gets approved and posted, then I will have time to those feasibility studies, and response times, and looks to see exactly where the best places are.

Don Woods: I see on the agenda, there is a discussion later for purchasing a vehicle for one of the officers. Is there any other vehicles in your budget that are being proposed or funded?

Board Clerk Timney: That purchase is coming out of this year's budget. That particular purchase will not be reflected to the budget we are working on right now?

Don Woods: Are there any vehicles planned to be purchase in 2017?

Deputy Chief Bills: There is from the bond program. There is a vehicle in the bond; a water tender that would be purchased.

Don Woods: The cost for that?

Deputy Chief Bills: We have budgeted \$250,000 for that. I have wrote a grant for it also.

Carol Gore: Since I do not know what is going on here, I am going to jump in. Is there a money in the budget to open up our fire station?

Chief Bills: There is not.

Carol Gore: Is there proration's for refunding some of our taxes for not opening up our fire station?

Chief Bills: There is not.

Are there any plans to hire this year or next budget year? Hire additional firefighters?

Chief Bills: I have three on a SAFER grant right now. Other than the retirees and those people from the SAFER grant moving into the already budgeted positions, no, there is no other opportunity to hire.

Carol Gore: How come I am paying taxes for something that's been taken away in terms of services for me? Am I that naive in expecting to receive a refund or a decreased tax?

Board Clerk Timney: We set a tax rate for the entire budget and the tax rate is set as maxed out by state legislation. When that tax rate is put into effect, that is the max and everybody within the political boundary whether it is water district,



fire district, or road improvement district, the tax is based upon the same rate for every individual home owner there.

Carol Gore: Whether services are provided or taken away?

Board Clerk Timney: Your services, at this point, are not taken away. I would say they are delayed. We will still serve your area out of this station. The fact that the station closest to you, which is your concern, I believe, if I have interpreted this correctly?

Carol Gore: You have interpreted correctly.

Timney: The services you will still get. It will just be delayed because of distance and financial constraint that has occurred in the district over that last couple years, which is unfortunate.

Carol Gore: You do see my concern, it is delayed, and delay for my husband could be his death. Just to make that on the record.

Board Clerk Timney: It is on record. It is unfortunate. But, we can only do so much with the money allocated that we can collect. We have to provide a service based upon the revenue we collect. It doesn't always seem equitable.

Carol Gore: I understand your rationale. I understand your words, but when we bought the property, we knew there was a fire station there, which is one of the reasons we bought the property. Now the fire station is not there. So, just again, for the record, not that it matters any, but we assumed we were getting something, now we're not. It just seems terribly unfair.

Board Clerk Timney: Like I said, you are getting that service, there is just that delay, that is unfortunate.

Don Woods: On the budget process, you posted we can get the details on it, we can make comments, and how can we make comments on the budget?

Board Clerk Timney: We will have your email address if you request a copy of the budget through the email, you can email your comments back to the staff.

Don Woods: Then what happens?

Timney: The staff will review them.

Don Woods: At some point in time you do approve the budget, right?

Board Clerk Timney: Yes, at the end of the 20 days, it will be submitted for final approval.

Don Woods: So you will take the public comments, and then at another board meeting, you would consider those comments, and decide to make changes or approve it as is? Is that correct?

Board Clerk Timney: At the end of the 20 day period, if there are no changes to the budget based upon public input, or lack of input for no changes, there is a board meeting to approve the budget. If the public input reflects a serious issue, or a line item, that that line item can be reviewed.

Deputy Chief Bills: We also ask that you copy your comments to your representative that you voted into office; all of them, so they have the



opportunity to know exactly what you are saying, then they can direct us. That is what they do, right? They will direct us to make changes in the budget by the way they direct us.

Chief Gaillard: Any comment you send to staff, we will make sure they receive every comment.

Board Clerk Timney: We will receive every comment.

Board Clerk Timney: Any further comments regarding budget process?

5. Discussion and possible Action on adopting the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 District Budget and Operational Plan for 20-day posting.

Board Member Milich motioned to adopt the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 District Budget and Operational Plan for 20-day posting. Board Member Dorskocil seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Timney, Dorskocil, Milich

NAYES: None

6. Discussion and possible Action on adopting the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 GO Bond Budget for 20-day posting

Board Member Milich motioned to adopt the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Go Bond Budget for 20-day posting. Board Member Dorskocil seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Timney, Dorskocil, Milich

NAYES: None

7. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS



- a. Discussion and Approval of the Budget Public Hearing Minutes of May 1, 2017

Tabled until next meeting. Board Clerk Timney and Board Member Daskocil were absent at the May 1 meeting.

- b. Discussion and Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2017

Board Member Daskocil motioned that the minutes of April 19, 2017 meeting be approved. Board Milich seconded the motion.

There were no corrections or additions. Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Timney, Daskocil, Milich

NAYES: None

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Reconciliations and Financial Reports for April, 2017 – Chris Gioia

Deputy Chief Bills and Administrative Officer Gioia answered any questions from the Board regarding the monthly Reconciliations and Financial Report for April, 2017. The April 2017 Monthly Reconciliations and Financial Report is attached to the official Governing Board meeting packet.

Board Member Daskocil motioned that the Governing Board approve the April 2017 Monthly Reconciliations and Financial Reports per Arizona Revised Statutes. Board Member Milich seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Timney, Daskocil, Milich

NAYES: None.

10. Current Events Summaries, Reports, and/or Correspondence

- a. Monthly Department Updates

Acting Battalion Chief Palm addressed the run calls for March amount of calls for stations. March is usually our lower months for calls.

Timney questioned calls for station 36 and 37.

Administrative Officer Gioia: All calls were Station 37.

- b. Local 1505 Update – Union Rep



Captain Slayton: Working the MOU with chief and the board.

c. Other Items –Chief Gaillard

- a. Networking opportunity in FL. The problems experiencing nationally goes along with what is going on here also.
- b. 100 club opportunity. Asked me to give a scholarship away. One of flag firefighter's daughter received the scholarship that I was asked to present.

Administrative Officer Gioia: Will be sending out the Fireboard handbook.

11. **NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS - Public Comment**: Public comment/input is welcomed after each agenda item of New Business/Action Items and Unfinished Business. Individual comments are limited to two minutes per individual and must pertain to the specific agenda item

- a. Review, discuss and possible approval of purchase order for new Battalion Chief vehicle

Chief Bills Dodge Ram 2500 through the state bid process. A couple months ago, we surplused some items that will cover this apparatus.

Board Member Milich motioned to approve the purchase of new Battalion Chief Vehicle. Board Clerk Timney seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Timney, Dorskocil, Milich

NAYES: None.

- b. Review, discuss and possible approval of MOU with Local 1505. The Board may vote to go into Executive Session regarding the MOU, pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 for discussions or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations with employee organizations regarding the salaries, salary schedules or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of employees of the public body.



Board Member Milich motioned to go into Executive Session. Board Member Dorskocil seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Regular board meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm to go into Executive Session.

Board Clerk Timney called the regular meeting back in session at 5:22pm.

The board agreed to table the approval of MOU until next meeting.

- c. Discussion of Station 36 Status
MOVED UP to Public Comments

BLUE SHIRT: Talking about having the meetings before Station 36 was closed, Chief Howard had several meetings out there where he handed out lots of statistics, which showed there were more calls for service in that area, then in this area. Plus this station has a city station right down the street with this Joint Management Agreement seems they would be able to respond as quickly, if not quicker than this station. The things that you said had been moved out. This station could be the one that closes because of the fact that it is closer to town, closer to additional resources, there are fewer houses, fewer calls for service. The need is greater out there. I live right on the corner of Bader and Hwy 180. I watch all winter, you guys going up and down for the snow play accidents, and other accidents. I, honestly remember, and you tell me if I remember correctly, Chief Howard promising us that there would be days that the station would be staffed, instead of this one when there high fire danger, heavy snow expected, heavy crowds out in the forest; he told us that and promised it. I, personally have not seen that, and now you are telling us that equipment has been moved out also making it impossible to keep that promise. Unless this station is the one that is browned out, and that one is the one that is staffed. It seems like it would be more urgent to be closer to a higher fire danger, because of the fact there are other resources. It just seems to me that the promises that were made have not been kept, and I understand that this facility was bought when the prices were the highest. Well, guess what, they are higher again. If you are looking to get down to one station, it makes more sense to me, not just because I live there, but because the additional calls for service, the population is larger, closer to the recreational activities where people can get injure, or start fires, it would make more sense to re-open that one and close this one down. Possibly even sell the property and use that money to fund your additional overtime or additional firefighter, or whatever at the operating level, not the top of the pyramid.

Board Clerk Timney: The snow play is not within our district.



Fire Chief Gaillard: What you are asking to be considered, will be. That is definitely a part of the analysis. I think, in short term, our recommendation to the board will be the best one of these locations. The analysis will come with a recommendation on which one. In the analysis, we will look at population, risk, travel time studies, and do a rational job at trying to figure out which one of the two make the most sense in short term.

???? In speaking for the response times, too. Last May, I had an accident where I had to call 911 for myself and the dispatcher kept saying, they will be right there, they are just down the street. I said no they are not. Then, he said you should hear them now. I said, no I don't. But, it did make a difference. This gentleman and his wife are saying that he has health issues and there are probably a lot of people out there that have. There is a kid next door to me, who is extremely brittle diabetic, and my son has recently moved in with me, and guess what, so is he. Where he use to live, the firefighters knew him by name and would greet him Hi Sean. So, I expect that could happen at my house too.

Gaillard: If we close this station, and move it farther out, there would be a population that would be impacted similarly by the move. We have to look at it as one service area and do our best job to locate the limited resources we have. That is why it is an important decision for the board. We want to do to best job and giving them all that information. We have a difficult time dealing with it in the context of there were two fire stations in this area. Both of them, fire districts that existed and they, then, merged into Summit Fire District as close to pre-recession as you could get. We are faced with a resource level where we can only recommend operating one. We will give the board the best chance that we can with respect to Here is the information about making a selection. We will make a recommendation. It will evaluate response times, number of customers, risk, and wildfire risk. All those will go into the analysis.

Board Clerk Timney: Snow play is outside of our district.

???? I am talking about people parking on the side of the highway to play in the snow.

Board Clerk Timney: Once they pass our district line, we have no obligation there. If you want to include those numbers, they will be skewed. I don't know what numbers that was included in Chief Howard's presentation, I don't know whether he included all the responses, because I do know we were responding to Wing Mountain at that time. Those numbers may not be accurate as we think. Normally as you would do it. You would do all of your numbers and then you could do your numbers within your obligated area. We have the same problem on the east side with Interstate 40. Only one mile of Interstate 40 is within our jurisdiction. We cover a lot more than that. Those off district calls are counted as calls, but they are not counted as an obligation.



Doskocil: We were not going to snow play when Howard made that presentation. Just to clarify that.

Carol Gore: How many miles? You have three stations on the east side, correct? How many miles between each one?

Board Clerk Timney: I can't tell you exactly how many miles from each one, but I do know the longest run from one of the stations is Station 31 to the area south of Winona. It is about five miles.

Slayton: It is about five to six miles between stations. Our furthest station east, which has one of the larger populations, is about a five to seven minute response to the farthest end of that district.

Timney: The east side has the same problems.

Woods: We have a housing boom going on in Ft Valley right now. We can't believe the number of foundations that have already been poured, and other lots segregated off for more houses has us all really concerned because that meadow was going to be a meadow forever, but it is not. It is turning into housing developments.

Cindy Doskocil: With the woods around it, more impact. One of the things Chief Howard put up was the stations, like all the stations in the district, and drew circles around them showing where any of them overlapped as far as response time. It showed like an overlap over on the east side. With two of them, the overlap was so much. It seemed like one of those stations would, at that time, would make more sense to brown one of those out because of the way the overlap was for the calls, then to do ours because there was no overlap, as far as the way he drew the circles. Those were some of the promises that he made as he put that up. That is what a lot of people were listening to. And the other thing he said during that presentation was that they were going to alternate stations to brown out. It would be this station, then it would be that station, and it would go back and forth. So, we would not always be without coverage. The next thing we know, ours is shut down permanently, and no alternating going on. That brought a lot of concern to people, because that was another promise that was not kept the way it was given to us.

Timney I cannot address the promises that Chief Howard made realistically.

Doskocil: They were promises made to the community out there. He sat there and told them. Like, what Mr. Woods is saying, he, as far as making these on busy days and so forth. He sat out there, and that is what the community heard. Then, as things evolved, the station got shut completely. What are they to think out there?

Gaillard: That speaks to the point that we need to go out there and talk to the folks as to where the reality is today. Things are different with financial standpoint of the district being are different. Our budget here, we did not feel happy about the budget we had to set in front of this board. We had a bond



election that did exactly what we thought it would do, only to have it eaten up by increased overhead costs, pension costs the state handed down to us. The entire surplus, the entire savings that was to be generated by the bond was eaten up by our fixed cost increases. We will continue to fight, and scramble to maintain service levels. The board has made it very clear to us they don't want to cut services levels than we have. So, we continue to look for ways to improve and collaborate. Do everything except spend money we don't have.

Board Clerk Timney: We will do a public information in late August/September if that is a good time. We sit down with more facts and more statistics. Reality is statistics change, so we don't know what's happened now. We can only base projections on the future of what happened yesterday. We can look at the numbers that Chief Howard presented to see if they changed any. That is all we can do and come back with not the issue of closing just one station or another, or consolidating at a future point into one that is more serviceable for all parties involved. That is where I think we need to have a long term discussion with more people, and get to the root of this and make a better understanding.

Cindy Duskocil: One of the things, because you are talking about being needing funds. We are all how can we help to make this happen. We are a very active community right now. We have a lot of issues we are all being very active about. I think we can rally a lot of people in our community to also work how can we help on state or county level legislatively to bring a better revenue, or constant stream of revenue into this fire department to help for whatever you need, like to find funds somewhere within those budgets of either of those places. What is it, as a community that we can help with that?

Fire Chief Gaillard: I think the limitations of that we have discussed. Tremendous support here. We feel we also have a portion of our district that says you have taken enough. Collectively, you and they will decide, if there is an opportunity. It comes a political question larger than this part of our district. We will keep you apprised of opportunities to get behind things that could help the district. I want you to have eyes open that it is a big district.

Carol Gore: I am going to assume that when the fire district were building on Bader Road was first identified as a need, there was a needs assessment done, or something that said yes we need a fire station in the area. What was done when the fire station went away? Was there another needs assessment, or solely based on money and not need?

Fire Chief Gaillard: Here is what I know. Board Member Duskocil probably knows best, the historical perspective of that. It was one district. There was a separate district here designating one station fire protection area. That first fire station goes close to where most people live.....



Board Member Doscocil: That is exactly what happened. Ft Valley joined up with Elden Lookout. We got together and decided to join that district, so we could have enough money to do a station, and you are correct, the station we targeted was out there because the whole idea of bringing a station in, and tripling everybody's taxes....They at least tripled. When we contracted with the city, and Engine 5 coming out, they wanted something better than that. By the time Engine 5 got out there....medically or fire related wise, it was a matter of cleaning up the ashes or, if it is code or anything else, you need somebody quicker than what Engine 5 could produce. It is not their fault. It is the closest engine we had. The city was great. It was a great team. So, they all got together and said we need something out there. We are tired of losing houses, we are tired of people not getting, maybe, the best medical care possible. So, we joined up with Elden Lookout. We decided, once we joined forces and called it Ft Valley. That was the first station we targeted, because of the distance was out there off Bader Road.

Chief Gaillard: Was it volunteer?

Board Member Doscocil: No, we covered our own debt. We paid for Summit's manpower. We built the stations, we bought the trucks. We did all that. Summit came in and supplied us with the manpower. We paid for that. We paid for a third of the BC. We were getting screams from Summit that they were supporting Ft Valley. They weren't. We can show on paper, we were covering all of our cost. Then, it evolved from that. We bought the stations, we bought our trucks, we paid Summit for the manpower and the BC; that is how that all began and evolved into then getting in with Summit and making it all one district. That was the jest of it. That is why it was put out there. People were tired of the extended response times from the city which was in Cheshire, which was much different from right here.

Cindy Doscocil: We had no medical coverage. No EMS at all. The city would not include that in the contract. It was fire only.

Board Member Doscocil: The contract the board was paying the city every year kept going up. It was going to go up 6 times, and the councilman told me, if you don't like it, start your own. That is what we did. We got together and that's when we down that road and started our own district. We had our own station because we saw where the city was going, and our services weren't increasing, weren't getting any better. We were getting the one truck, water tender coming along later. So, we said for the monies, the people, willing to triple their taxes to get something for it. When the station got shut down was the frustration out there.

Fire Chief Gaillard: During the bond election, we spent a lot of time with the newspaper and saw the progression of what took place. In a very academic way, what the situation and experience we are talking about is driven from is



neighborhood fire stations for good reasons came together and merged. What that does, is now, we have a service area of one, not a station area here and a station area there. In our view is that someone formally that had a fire station in their neighborhood will not in the future. Now, which one and where. That is a question for the board. We are preparing that conversation. It didn't seem unreasonable that consolidation effort to try to reduce expenses and survive, and keep costs down. I am very well versed in the city's stance during those periods of time of recession and how that went around. It was tough going. Now here we are, one district. We have responsibilities to serve all of it. What is the best place to put the resources?

Don Woods: (addressing Board Member Doscocil) Is it too late to succeed Jim?

Board Member Doscocil: You can throw that out there. Let Ft Valley go back to Ft Valley with a JPA with the city remove from Summit and let the run on their own. That is out in left field, but if you are saying succeed from the union.....

Cindy Doscocil: I think that is where the people are frustrated, because they felt like, the only reason we did this in the first place is so we would have good coverage, and EMS coverage, which we weren't getting before, and everybody was fine with joining in with Summit thinking we had our station. If anybody would have thought not that long down the road they would shut us down completely and we were going to be back to where we started from, in the same place, I can tell you right now no one out there would have said yes, let's join Summit. We wouldn't be here.

Fire Chief Gaillard: I completely understand. I was involved in a lot of decisions in the valley that were predicated on this boom is never going to stop. I am sure a lot of the public policies and decisions that went into the idea to merge, were born of the assumption of the economics of that day. Then, we all remember how radically that changed. That is a part of what we are facing today.

Brian Furuya: A lot of those issues are late arising. The tax structure has changed very recently. It used to be the tax was based off your property value, whatever the value of your property is period. It is not now. It is based off 2 numbers. One is called your Full Cash Value, which is your property value, or Fair Market Value. The other one is based off you LPV, which is your Limited Property Value. The creation of Limited Property Value happened very recently. It is significant because what it does....it was passed by tax protectionist group that wanted to make sure that government taxes stayed low and control government spending. What it did was locked your property values. What your taxes pay is based on your LPV. That number can never be higher than you full cash value (Fair market value). It can never increase more than 5% each year. What happens is, used to be in good times, you're high and your district could sock away some money. In bad times, you weren't making as much, you were living off your reserves until your property values came back. This now says when the recession happened,



the property values dove beneath the LPV. That meant law required the LPV to be dropped down. Then full cash valued in now coming up. So, the market is recovering after the recession. Your full cash value is still lower because it can only come up 5% each year. Although Property Values are up here, your taxes are staying here. Your taxes that pay for Summit are right here. In the intermediate time, since you are there, the amount of tax that the district can collect, is becoming inviable. It is not doable. It will be decades before it gets back to where it is at a level where it was before the recession. It can only increase so much.

Cindy Doscocil: Wasn't some of that created with the fire and flood on Elden, that caused a lot of the decrease in the property values on the east side? So, that side lost a lot of their property values, which set them down, where on our side, we lost some because of the recession but not nearly to the degree they lost over there. Which is where most of the value for the money the district actually had, was gone from?

Bryan Furuya: It is true that various areas have lost more depending on local circumstance. Flagstaff Greater Metro Area lost somewhere in the 30% - 40% value. Just because of the recession. De annexation is a question I don't think anyone here is prepared to answer. If you de annex and form another district, the abilities you had before would not necessarily be the abilities you have now, because of that disparity. You had much more buying power before that tax law went into effect.

Don Woods: I understand. Good explanation.

Carol Gore: I really appreciate your time listening to all of us.

The public left.

Administrative Officer Gioia: You are more than welcome to stay.

12. FIRE BOARD COMMENTS

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Milich motioned to adjourn the meeting. Board Clerk seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. MOTION CARRIED, unanimous approval.

Board meeting adjourned at 5:23pm.

Respectfully submitted



Tammy Schieffer, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED