

**Crown King Fire District**  
**General Session Minutes**  
**January 22, 2024**

**1. Call to order**

Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m.

**2. Roll call of members**

Present: Chairman Drye; Board Members Beck, Norman

**3. Consent Agenda:**

- a. **Regular Session Meeting Minutes from November 27, 2023**
- b. **Approve monthly reconciliations**
- c. **Approve monthly budget review**

Upon a motion by Board Member Beck, seconded by Chairman Drye, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

**4. Reports and Correspondence: (The governing body may not propose, discuss, deliberate, or take legal action on this matter unless the specific matter is properly identified on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as a result of the Chief's report will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.)**

**a. Fire Chief's report:**

- 1. Current and expected Fuels Reduction & Equipment Grants**
- 2. Call / Run reports**
- 3. Station upgrades**

Grant season is opening for many grant programs. The district applied for a rural fire grant for \$10,000 (maximum allowed) for wildland related equipment. It is designed for volunteer fire departments. We will be applying for a SAFER grant which is for staffing and an AFG grant which is for equipment. SB 1720 makes available \$5 million for 144 fire districts in Arizona for station construction, apparatus, and equipment. It will be very competitive. Awards will range from \$100,000-\$400,000. We will apply for a Type 6 brush truck. Congressionally Directed Spending should open sometime in March. Being election year many of the grant requests may not be funded.

New fuel tanks at federal work camp are in operation and have been filled. The old tanks will be pulled off the property and go back to the owner. Several new volunteer applications were received. Should have four volunteers in place in two weeks.

Seasonal pile burning is slow but steady. He is working with the state to get an air curtain incinerator. It is fed with a front end loader to move material into the incinerator quickly. CK members will get trained to operate. There may be Federal money to help pay for those who are running and feeding the incinerator and pay for tractor and fuel. The piles have been mapped out and there are over 1,000. The incinerator can make a good dent in less than a year. It will take 2+ years if we are not able to use the incinerator.

The UTV ambulance is coming along. It is the number one priority for our mechanics if no emergency vehicle needs repaired.

**b. Fire Board Chairman's Report:**

**1. Arizona Fire District Association (AFDA) Conference**

Board Member Beck indicated he was approached by contractors who knew we were building a new station. One contractor, Willmeng, said they could provide a step by step approach with little cost to us up front.

## **2. County grant**

Chairman Drye noted a defensible space plan is needed on how to use the \$4,000 grant PAWIC awarded the district. It could be used to help with defensible space work on private property and get rid of piles around town.

## **5. Report from the Crown King Fire Auxiliary**

Not present

## **6. Call to the public (Public comments are limited to two minutes each. The Fire Board can only respond to items on the agenda)**

Someone asked about the incinerator. Chief Smith explained it is an incinerator air curtain that burns at 3000 degrees only within the confines of the incinerator itself so it is safe to use around trees. It is fed by a front end loader as it burns fast. It is self-contained and clean burning so it does not make much of a smoke problem. It will be placed on federal property and can be maneuvered to get close to the piles. If we get the \$500,000 three-year grant it can be used on those piles also.

## **7. District Strategic Planning and Budgeting items:**

### **a. Moving Station #1 to United States Forest Service (USFS) Work Center**

Chairman Drye had a conversation with HUD and Senator Kelly's office. They are working behind the scenes to expedite our project.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **8. Out of District properties**

No progress on annexations.

## **9. Fuel depot**

Moving forward.

## **10. Fire Marshal inspections**

Members attended training and Fire Marshal LaGreca has a comprehensive list of those who can do inspections. Chief Smith will follow up on the scheduling of dates and times to start inspections.

## **11. State surplus truck**

Our mechanics will negotiate with state mechanics on what the state will fix.

## **12. Prescott National Forest crew house:**

### **a. Shed**

### **b. Wi-Fi cameras**

### **c. Repairs**

Chairman Drye noted PNF did an inspection and was happy with it. The district bought new appliances and PNF indicated they might be able to kick in money to help fix the place up. Routine visits should be scheduled so it doesn't decay further. Wi-Fi will be set up and cameras installed.

Chief Smith ordered the Wi-Fi and should have it installed within 1-2 weeks. He was not aware cameras were to be ordered but he can order them.

Quotes for needed repairs were received and we can move forward. Chief Smith noted a decent shed is \$6,000. A Conex might be an option but the price might be the same and it is not as nice.

## **13. Volunteer list**

Chief Smith indicated orientation/training meetings are being set up. Fire academy will start late February for anyone who needs it. It will be T/Th on-line and in person on the weekends. Students will also get wildland certification.

Chairman Drye asked if the Chief was hiring one to two on list as part time employees and Chief Smith said that is the plan.

Ben Johnson asked if his application was among them. Chief Smith will check.

#### **14. Future meeting dates & items**

February 26

#### **15. Adjournment**

The Board started to adjourn at 12:33 p.m. but at this point in the meeting an audience member began asking about a number of things. She brought up the five-year MOU with PNF to which Chairman Drye indicated in the MOU CKFD agrees to send it to HUD.

She requested copies of the Profit/Loss statements.

She cannot find an application for the 2024 election that is coming up and asked for a copy of the by-laws. Chairman indicated CKFD does not need by laws and Chief Smith said if she were trying to be elected to the fire board, she would need to go to the County Registrar and pull an election packet. She would not apply directly to the Fire Board.

Next was staffing losses and what grade would the Chief give CKFD given the 24-7 response problems. He noted it would be a "C+ or B-". They are interviewing candidates. Those hired will have one year to get through provided training that is free as did previous hires. There will also be another EMT class after the fire academy. One does not have to be a volunteer to attend and anybody in the community can take the class. Shane has picked up shifts to help cover. It is not just CK that has staffing problems but every fire department in Arizona is running short. If there was funding for three shifts, it would ease the problem but the tax base does not support payroll now without wildland revenue.

Board Member Beck asked if the district could get money from other counties for their residents who need services while in the district.

Chief Smith replied the purpose of FDAT is to offset responses on those who do not pay taxes directly. It is based on 20% of the overall budget and amounts to \$20,000 per year for CKFD. CK has no City sales tax or other tax revenue other than property tax. About the "weed" tax he explained it was distributed to districts in PSPRS and CKFD is not. It is in ASRS.

She next asked about ambulances.

Chief Smith explained if a call originates on PNF we can bill them \$500. This year we have received \$2,000. If the call is in town, we can only transport the patient part way down the hill where they are met by Mayer Fire who does the transport to the hospital. Mayer Fire kicks back \$500 for meeting them for the transport. We get a couple of those a year.

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

APPROVED

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Board Chairman

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Board Clerk