

**Minutes of the Oracle Fire District public meeting held on August 31st 2009 at 1800 hours.**

Roll call: (12) Firefighters (4) Explorer(s) (10) CERTs (1) Public

Minutes of the past meeting were read and accepted by the Governing Board:

Operations Reports: Treasurer's report: General account \$162,277.57, Payroll account \$21,992.97, Recreation account \$2,454.76, Volunteer Pension account \$194,435.76

Drill schedule: Sept. 3rd and 8th at 1800 hours and Sept. 20th at 0800 hours.

Explorer report: Update on current issues.

Call load report: August calls 45. Year to date: 418 calls.

**New Business:**

We are having conversations with Southwest Ambulance (our dispatching agency) regarding the possibility of replacing digital pagers with cell phone text messaging for dispatching. We are hoping that this will make dispatching more efficient and will reduce the costs of providing digital pagers to our responders.

We discussed the Neighborhood Firewise evaluation project. About half of the 2100 properties have already been evaluated. Albert Jr. Traci and Jason are coordinating the project. The completed project will be posted on the OFD web site. The purpose of this project is to help in obtaining fuel reduction grants and to identify high risk neighborhoods for future fire prevention projects.

West Linda Vista residents held a meeting on August 15th to discuss the possibility of purchasing a fire hydrant(s) for their neighborhood. At this time no decisions have been made by the group.

An EMT Refresher class has recently been completed. Five OFD firefighters attended the 4 day class. The costs were a little higher than we expected. In the future we will explore less expensive methods to take these classes.

A CERT class began on July 25th. Eight local citizens have taken the 20 hour class and have joined the Oracle CERT team.

Neighborhood Firewise Workshops are scheduled to begin on October 10th. We will provide two workshops per month for the remainder of 2009.

New tee-shirts have been ordered. The front chest logo has been modified. The Oracle ship will remain, but the rope circling the ship has been replaced with two solid lines and the clouds and waves have been modified. Fire Explorers will be wearing red color shirts to differentiate them from the firefighters.

We discussed the CERT's wearing uniform apparel that will identify them as CERT's, especially by wearing the green vests and green helmets when responding to an incident.

We discussed the progress of the parking lot project. A \$20,000 budget for the project was approved by the Governing Board in 2008. The low bid contractor could not hold to his bid amount when the price of asphalt nearly doubled during the summer and fall of 2008, so the project was put on hold. Asphalt prices have remained high, while concrete prices fell. D&B Concrete of Oracle provided a bid of \$18,100 to surface the same area in concrete. The bid was awarded on August 7th and work commenced on August 10th. The project is expected to be completed during September 2009.

Fire Explorer Bryant Thomas was promoted to a Firefighter and was given an OFD arm patch.

Doug Johnson provided an update on the weather station. Information will soon be provided to the National Weather Service through the internet.

Chief Ramsay requested the use of the classroom for a Hunters Safety Education class to begin on September 21st.

Next meeting: October 5th at 1800 hours. Meeting adjourned at 1852 hours

Minutes approved by: Chief Albert Ortiz Secretary Larry Southard