

As Chairman of the Board, I want to thank all those who participated in the Public Forum on January 08, 2014 at the Public Safety Training Center.

Below you will find all the questions obtained via email or social media by Mr. Butch Meriwether who moderated the Forum. The District was provided the questions so they could be prepared with data we collect to assure we provided up-to-date information to all interested parties.

**Please note:** Item 81 (a), § v should have read \$1,900, not \$19,000 and has been corrected below. We apologize for this error, and plan on addressing this in greater detail at the upcoming Board meeting which has been moved to January 22, 2014.

The Golden Valley Fire District takes our relationship with the community we serve seriously, and invite you to regularly attend the Board meetings, contact your elected officials or make an appointment with the Fire Chief to discuss any service we provide to you, our community.

Thank you,

*Mark Vanik*

1. How long does it take for the fire district to update its website normally after a board meeting?
  - a. *Within three (3) working days*
2. Who is responsible for updating the fire district website?
  - a. *Administrative Assistant*
3. How long in advance is it required by law for the fire district to post the agenda for a specific scheduled meeting?
  - a. *24-hours*
4. Who acts as the spokesperson for the fire district?
  - a. *Chief O'Donohue or others as directed by the Chief*
5. Who is the fire district Board of Directors spokesperson?
  - a. *Chairman of the Board*
6. Did the fire district recently get a new computer system?
  - a. *Computer "system", no. Computers; yes, some have been replaced or refurbished or scrapped.*
7. How many computers have been purchased for the fire district during 2013?
  - a. *Four*
8. Who are the new computers for?

- a. Staff;
    - i. Administrative Manager
    - ii. Administrative Assistant
    - iii. Fire Chief
    - iv. Mechanic
- 9. What was done with the old computers that were replaced?
  - a. Decommissioned or refurbished for re-use
- 10. How many ambulances did the fire district purchase?
  - a. Two
- 11. How much did the fire district pay for each of the ambulances?
  - a. 18,000
- 12. Who was the person or company the ambulances were purchased from?
  - a. Shoreline Fire Department, Washington State
- 13. When were the ambulances purchased?
  - a. September 2010
- 14. Who were the fire district board of directors when authorization the purchased of the ambulances was made?
  - a. Mark Frederick, Jim Kanelos, Bill McCarter, Barbara Samaniego, Curt Hardy
- 15. Are the ambulances currently being used as an ambulance, paramedic vehicle or are they being used for another purpose?
  - a. Used by staff for projects and transportation for projects or Contract work
  - b. They are sued to keep them moving, but not in-service as transport units yet
- 16. Where are the ambulances currently being stored?
  - a. Station-11, Shop
- 17. When did the GVFD start the paperwork to gain the authorization to operate its own ambulance service?
  - a. The process began in earnest when Paul Hewitt was hired in February 2010
- 18. Who was the fire chief when the CON started?
  - a. Paul Hewitt
- 19. How much has been spent on the CON?
  - a. Approximately \$347,310
- 20. What hourly rate does the attorney charge for his or her work on the CON?
  - a. Currently Ms. Steadman charges \$250.00
- 21. Who are the attorneys or law firm that represents the fire district?
  - a. BILL WHITTINGTON OF BOYLE, PECHARICH, CLINE, WHITTINGTON & STALLINGS, P.L.L.C.
- 22. There were two attorneys present at the last fire district board meeting. Who are they?
  - a. Bill Whittington, Kathy Steadman
- 23. Does the fire chief receive additional pay if he travels to Phoenix to meet with the attorney in regard to the CON?
  - a. No
- 24. How much was spent for attorneys last year by the fire district and what were the expenditures for?

- a. 2012 – 2013:
    - i. Whittington: \$10,590.62
    - ii. Steadman: \$217,247.45
- 25.If the fire district is authorized to operate an ambulance service, how many more employees will have to be hired?
  - a. *Potentially three positions will be created*
- 26.If the fire district does operate an ambulance service, will the residents within the district have to pay extra for the service through their property taxes?
  - a. *No*
- 27.Will residents within the fire district have to pay if they use the ambulance service?
  - a. *Yes, but a reduced charge for the service. This will be re-evaluated after the first year of operations.*
- 28.Will the fire district only charge what an insurance company pays or will additional funds be charge to the residents of the district if they use the ambulance service?
  - a. *Yes, but a reduced charge for the service. This will be re-evaluated after the first year of operations.*
- 29.Will the ambulances only be used for emergencies or will they also be used for non-emergency medical transports?
  - a. *The Application submitted to DHS outlines for emergency transports only*
- 30.What is the maximum purchase (checks and credit cards purchases) fire district employees are allowed to make without prior approval of the board of directors?
  - a. *All expenditures are pre-approved via the annual budget, or in the case of expenditure in excess of \$5,000 where the Chief must receive approval*
- 31.It has been reported that in the last four months, fire district employees have spent more than \$6,000 for individual purchases. Is that a violation of the bylaws for the GVFD?
  - a. *Employees have not made individual purchases in excess of \$6,000.*
  - b. *There was a service offered (Human Resource Strategies) that exceeded the \$5,000 limit, however the Chairman was notified of this unanticipated disbursement.*
  - c. *If that expenditure were correct, it is not in violation of Bylaws*
- 32.Does the \$5,000 cap on purchases relate to one specific purchase or does that relate to the cumulative purchases for the month?
  - a. *Single purchase*
- 33.How many EMT's work for the fire district?
  - a. *EMT's*
    - i. *11, paid*
    - ii. *3 volunteers = 14*
  - b. *Paramedics*
    - i. *12, paid*
    - ii. *5 POC's = 17*
- 34.What employees of the fire district are not EMT's?

- a. Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, Mechanic, Fire Marshal, Administrative Assistant and Administrative Manager*
35. Who was on the fire board of directors when Fire Station #11 was approved?  
*a. Curt Hardy, Jeff Morcom, Mark Vanik, Jim Kanelos and Bill McCarter*
36. How much did it cost to build the new Fire Station #11?  
*a. Approximately \$830,000*
37. Why was Burroughs Construction awarded the construction project for Fire Station #11 and were their bid the lowest for the project?  
*a. Burroughs Construction was the low bidder*
38. How much was the actual cost of the building itself?  
*a. \$566,495 approximately*
39. Did the cost of the building include the concrete the building sits on?  
*a. Yes*
40. How much did the property cost?  
*a. \$19,355*
41. How much was spent for furnishings (appliances, etc.)?  
*a. All furnishings were moved from the old fire station into the new fire station. We added stools (5) TV (1). There was a new dishwasher installed as part of the construction project and we are in the process of adding bed frames to the extra rooms.*
42. There are two figures floating around about the cost of Fire Station #11- \$526,000 and \$300,000. Please explain that those figures represent.  
*a. There is a continued misconception that there was a \$300,000 cost overrun on the fire station, NOT true*  
*b. The \$526,000 was the bid amount for the construction of the fire station, NOT including the property, permits, landscaping, concrete driveways front and back, etc.*
43. Was there a cost overrun in regard to the new Fire station #11?  
*a. No*
44. How much did it cost for the concrete and landscape at Fire Station #11?  
*a. Landscaping; approximately \$5,000 – added plants when some died*  
*b. Concrete for front and back lots / driveways; \$114,061*
45. Was there anything done to Fire Station #11 that wasn't approved by the fire district board of directors?  
*a. There was no direct list of specified items created when constructed, rather this project was completed with the overall goal, and some changes occurred during construction such as:*  
*i. Compressor room*  
*ii. Front entry door awning*  
*iii. Additional bedrooms*  
*iv. Moved the generator*  
*v. Trash enclosure*  
*vi. Back yard separation wall*
46. How long is it anticipated the new Fire Station #11 will be used prior to its replacement?  
*a. 35-40 years*
47. What is the salary of the fire chief?  
*a. \$94,500*

48. How long is the fire chief's contract for?
- 1-Year contract*
49. Does the fire chief or other fire district officials have a golden parachute and if so, who and how much?
- This question probably refers to what professionals call a "Severance Package".*
  - The current Agreement included 6-months' Severance Package under the current compensation package, and if similar employment is not obtained within the first 6-months, an additional 3-months' severance is granted.*
50. How does the fire chief's salary relate to other salaries of fire chiefs in Mohave County?
- The following is the local chiefs annual compensation, minus benefits:*
    - Golden Valley Fire 94,500*
    - Kingman Fire 103,500*
    - Northern AZ Fire 96,700*
    - Average 98,233***
51. How does the fire chief's salary relate to other salaries of fire chiefs in Arizona?
- A statewide comparison has not been made.*
52. Does the fire district board of directors believe there has been any Abuse of authority by Fire Chief Tom O'Donohue?
- The Board of Directors have had no complaints or concerns about the management of the District by the Fire Chief. We believe Chief O'Donohue manages in a fair, but firm manner.*
53. Does the fire district board of directors believe there is an existence of a hostile and retaliatory work place within the fire district?
- The Board of Directors have had no concerns, in fact a recent all-department interview process revealed a well-managed organization with the vast majority of staff supporting the direction, management style and overall vision.*
54. Has there been any type of noise machines installed in any of the fire district offices so no one can hear what is being said in an office?
- Yes, it's reasonable to assure private conversations with employees are kept confidential. In our mobile home office, discussions can be heard in the lobby if it weren't for the "White noise" machine". Employees would be very upset if others were privy to their expected confidential information via thin walls*
55. Has any of the fire district vehicles had their governors or similar devices taken off them in order for the vehicle to go faster than recommended?
- No*
56. How many employees does the fire district have?
- 29 Full Time employees*
  - 5 Paid on Call employees*
  - 4 Volunteer members*
57. Of the number of employees of the fire district, how many and who are the ones who are not firefighters?
- Three*

- i. Administrative Manager*
- ii. Administrative Assistant*
- iii. Mechanic*

58. Does the fire district use volunteer firefighters?  
*a. Yes*
59. Do the volunteer firefighters receive pay if they are used?  
*a. Yes*
60. What is a call-back?  
*a. A system utilized to bring back off-duty personnel to fill community needs during an emergency.*
61. When firefighters are called into work when it is their day off, do they receive additional pay such as time and a half or what?  
*a. Yes, call-back is compensated for at the overtime rate*  
*b. Chief officers do not receive overtime*
62. Is there money still owed to firefighters for their past work?  
*a. Not determined yet, the Fire Chief reported to the Board he was looking at the possibility...not that it was a certainty.*
63. If there is money still owed to the firefighters, why hasn't it been paid to them?  
*a. Not determined yet*
64. What is the total amount of money still owed to firefighters?  
*a. Not determined yet*
65. What is a mutual aid agreement is?  
*a. A pre-arranged agreement between emergency response agencies to respond into another district to provide coverage or additional emergency resources*
66. Who does the fire district have mutual aid agreements with?  
*a. All local Mohave County fire agencies*
67. If the fire department responds to emergency medical aid or for fire protection for those living within the boundaries of the fire district, does the homeowner pay additional fees for the service.  
*a. No*
68. Does the fire district charge individuals who receive emergency medical aid or fire suppression and do not live within the boundaries of the fire district?  
*a. Medical responses = No*  
*b. We bill State Lands for fire responses into their areas*
69. If the fire district does charge individuals living outside of the fire district, what are the fees based upon?  
*a. State adopted rate*
70. The wreck on Christmas Eve on Highway 68 involved people who do not live within the district. Has the fire district send a bill to the insurance companies of the drivers or billed the people involved in the accident?  
*a. No*
71. Does the fire district always bill for services outside of the fire district?  
*a. Highway accidents, no*  
*b. We bill State Lands for responses into their areas*
72. When was the latest audit conducted on the fire district?  
*a. October 2013*
73. Who conducted the latest audit of the fire district?

- a. Saunders Co. LTD*
74. What were the results of the latest audit of the fire district?  
*a. Golden Valley Fire passed the audit with "Flying colors"*
75. How many open meeting law violations did the fire district have during 2013?  
*a. None*
76. Does the fire district charge individuals who live inside the fire district boundaries for emergency medical service is provided outside the fire district such as auto accident on I-40?  
*a. No*
77. Is there a buyer for the old Fire Station #11 and administrative offices on Mayer Road?  
*a. Yes*
78. What is the purchase price of the fire station and administrative offices on Mayer Road?  
*a. Agreement not completed yet, so this cannot be disclosed until approved by the attorney and approved by the Board of Directors.*
79. When will escrow close on the sale of the fire station and administrative offices on Mayer Road?  
*a. The exact date isn't known yet*
80. Once sold and escrow closes, where will the fire district offices be located and when do you anticipate the move will take place?  
*a. The plan under discussion is moving them to this facility at 423 S. Colorado Road*  
*b. The move will take place once approved and construction is completed*
81. How much has been spent on the regular fire district attorney / legal counsel in total and by the current sitting board members?  
*a. The records indicate approximately the following has been spent in 2013 for each individual Board member contact with legal counsel*
- |                      |                 |  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--|
| <i>i. Vanik</i>      | <i>\$125.00</i> | <i>One-Hundred-Twenty-Five Dollars</i>   |
| <i>ii. Hardy</i>     | <i>\$ 0.00</i>  | <i>zero</i>                              |
| <i>iii. Robinson</i> | <i>\$28.00</i>  | <i>Twenty-Eight-Dollars</i>              |
| <i>iv. Gorham</i>    | <i>\$0.00</i>   | <i>zero</i>                              |
| <i>v. Brooks</i>     | <i>\$1,900</i>  | <i>One-Thousand-Nine-Hundred-Dollars</i> |