

MINUTES OF THE  
BUCKSKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT DISTRICT FIRE BOARD

3/22/17 –**Open Meeting** Minutes to be approved at open public meeting on April 12, 2017. A public Open Meeting of the Buckskin Fire Board was convened on March 22, 2017 at 6:00pm in the classroom of Station I of the Buckskin Fire Department located at 8500 Riverside Drive, Parker, AZ 85344. The following matters were discussed at the Open Meeting. The Board may vote to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.(A.3) on any item of the agenda.

1. **Call to Order:** 6:00pm

2. **Roll Call:**

Members Present: Chairman Jeff Daniel, Secretary/Clerk Wayne Posey, Board Member Glenda Gerson, Robert Gory, and Don Rountree

Staff Present: Chief Chris Chambers,

Guest Speaker: Bill Whittington, legal counsel

Public Present: Barry Gerson, Gary Svider, Pat Jones

3. (Discussion) and Action Item for **Possible motion to vote to go into Executive Session to discuss Chief Chambers employment and employment contract** pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.1; as requested by the Buckskin Fire Board; and seek legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.3.

\*\* Tape did not record who made the motion to go into Executive Session, but the assumption is that it was voted on and passed based on the recording and minutes below.

4. Convene into Executive Session if so voted to do so.

5. Adjourn Executive Session; convene into regular session at 8:10p.m.

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Chief Chambers' employment and employment contract. Chairman Jeff Daniel: Three people from the audience indicated they would like to speak; Barry Gerson, Gary Svider and Pat Jones. Barry Gerson: Read a statement on his opinion of Chief Chris Chambers and the Buckskin Fire Department; how much Chief Chambers has accomplished for the community and the leadership he provides to the department. A letter was written to Chairman Jeff Daniel from Marlene Sullivan, RN who could not be present. Chairman Daniel asked Board Member Glenda Gerson to read the letter. Marlene Sullivan's letter also stated how the community appreciates the level of service and training the Buckskin Fire Department provides to the community under the direction of Chief Chambers; and her personal experience with our paramedics; their skills; their knowledge; and professionalism. It is both Don and Marlene Sullivan's opinion that it would not serve the community well to remove Chief Chambers from his position as Fire Chief on many levels. Chairman Daniel continued to ask if the board members wanted further discussion of the topic. Glenda Gerson: Referring back to the meeting when Chief Chambers was changed to a senior captain but acting interim Chief; and she understood the need at that time due to family circumstances. Bob Gory: No, I think everyone in here knows what we are doing; just wait for the motion and whatever comes up.

Don Rountree: This discussion in executive session with Chief Chambers and the attorney was long overdue and was a very constructive meeting and feels that they all have the same goal in mind which is to better the department. He continued to say that should the board decide to seek a new Fire Chief, he highly suggested that Chief Chambers apply. Wayne Posey: Boards can make decisions and other boards can reverse those decisions. To clarify from the meeting on 11/9/16, the motion to make Chief Chambers

Senior Captain and interim Fire Chief. He continued by saying it was a good thing and that the community loves Chief Chambers but also stated he was seeking a different administration level for a different direction with the department and to work somebody new as a Fire Chief. Chief Chambers asked to speak to let his guys know that he is okay with whatever their decision is. Wayne Posey: My motion is to follow from the November 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting: To assign Chris Chambers to Captain; and to currently continue to serve as interim Fire Chief until the Board finds the replacement. Once that Fire Chief is brought on board Chris Chambers position would be a Senior Captain and his pay would revert to Merit 10 on BFD's Captains pay scale in accordance with BFD personnel policy manual and earnings to include Merit 10 salary and IEMT (Medic) Stipend. I need to continue to read this – Chris would maintain a Captain's shift schedule will be assumed and as such he would be entitled to same benefit packages offered to all BFD line personnel; vacation days and sick days to correspond with accumulative years of service as per BFD Policy Manual. The additional benefit package recently award to Chief Chambers regarding dependant insurance would be relinquished at the time of reassignment to Senior Captain. Bob Gory: I'll second. Chairman Jeff Daniel: There has been a first and a second. Any other discussion in reference to the motion? Glenda Gerson: I obviously don't agree and feel that we should bring the Chief back to his original position of being the Chief of the Fire Department. I know this is what the community wants, I know this is what the fireman want, and obviously some of the board members do not. Don Rountree: I would like to say that regardless how this turns out, and if it turns out we are going to be looking for a Fire Chief, I hope that Mr. Chambers applies. The hard part is we really don't know who is going to apply for a job like this, we really don't know who the next Chief could end up being and who we can get and that's the danger, However it turns out I hope you apply if it turns out that's the way we're going to go. Chairman Jeff Daniel: Please vote by raising your hand.

Ayes: 3, Chairman Jeff Daniel, Wayne Posey and Bob Gory

Nayes: 2, Glenda Gerson and Don Rountree

Absent:

Abstain:

7. Adjourn 8:28pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Daniel, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pattie Lonnee  
Administrative Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
3/27/17  
Date

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY MAY REQUEST A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION BY CONTACTING, CHRIS CHAMBERS, FIRE CHIEF OF BUCKSKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT (928) 667-3321 PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING. FACILITIE ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.