



**Camp Verde
Fire District**

**Montezuma Rimrock
Fire District**



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**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL JOINT BOARD SESSION
OF THE
CAMP VERDE AND MONTEZUMA RIMROCK
FIRE DISTRICTS GOVERNING BOARDS MEETING HELD
February 5, 2016**

Pursuant to notice, a regular meeting of the Montezuma Rimrock & Camp Verde Fire District was called to order at 9:00 am on Friday, February 5, 2016.

Present: Carol Keeton – MRFD Chairperson; Robert Satran – MRFD Clerk; Jane Harrington – MRFD Board Member; Lou Lane – MRFD Board Member; Jerry Taylor – MRFD Board Member; George Kleindienst – CVFD Chairperson; Linda Welsch – CVFD Board Member; Ken Krebs – CVFD Board Member; David Curtis – CVFD Clerk; Steve Darby – CVFD Board Member;

Staff: Terry Keller – Fire Chief; Robyn Cook – Administrative Manager; Misty Weatherford – Administrative Accounts Assistant; Daniel Elliott – CVFD Firefighter; Taylor Hammond – CVFD Firefighter; Tyler Rezzonico – CVFD Firefighter; Dale Duns – MRFD Captain; Kyle Mathews – MRFD Firefighter; Cory DeWulf – MRFD Firefighter; Josh Good – MRFD Firefighter; Patrick Moran – MRFD Firefighter;

Others Present: Bonnie Reay; Janet Aniol; Ron Melcher; Rick Ayers

Salute to the flag of the United States of America and Moment of Silence to Honor all American Men and Women in service to our Country, Firefighters, and Police Officers: led by Carol Keeton

Call to the Public: Janet Aniol MRFD resident and Board Member of the Lake Montezuma Property Association stated that Robert Melcher will act as a liaison between the MRFD Board and the Lake Montezuma Property Association.

Janet Aniol read a letter to the Boards that expressed her own concern that Montezuma Rimrock Fire District would lose its identity with the JPA and maybe it was time to stop sharing services between MRFD and CVFD.

5) Presentation from Staff and joint discussion on the current status of both organizations working together, and whether to explore pursuing the possibility of creating a single entity from the two districts: Chief Keller presented a power point to the Boards that reflected the two agencies coming together to create one entity.

Chief Keller gave an overview of the MRFD tax override and also explained the differences between merger, consolidation and Joint Power Authority (JPA).

Chief Keller stated that in the event of a JPA, both districts will transfer all savings, assets and employees to the new authority and with a JPA each district will continue to receive the allotted FDAT.

Chairperson Kleindienst stated that relabeling all the apparatus and getting new uniforms could be very costly and the districts would lose their identity.

Chief Keller expressed he would like to see the relabeling through attrition.

Clerk Curtis stated that if the relabeling and uniforms was a slow process the authority may lose identity.

Chairperson Kleindienst stated that in his opinion a merger or consolidation would be out of the question, but he likes the idea of a JPA.

**** 5 minute break****

Ms. Cook presented various budget scenarios that included CVFD & MRFD separately, merged projection without hiring 3 replacement firefighters, merged projection with hiring 3 replacement firefighters as well as 3 JPA projected scenarios.

The JPA projections reflected a significant cost savings with combining health insurance, PSPRS, workers compensation and liability insurance.

Daniel Elliott stated that as a taxpayer of the MRFD and an employee of CVFD he thinks that a JPA is common sense and gives an opportunity to build a bigger, better organizations that benefit both communities.

Dale Duns stated that there are so many shared services and similarities between the two districts that there is a potential to save so much more with a JPA.

Bonnie Reay stated that a JPA is the only way to go. She also stated that each agency may lose their identity a little, but with all the changes over the years you will lose some identity anyways and must move forward.

Clerk Satran wondered if the Town of Camp Verde understands the Lake Montezuma/Rimrock community.

Josh Good stated that CVFD and MRFD are already working so closely and intertwined with training and the reserve program.

****Board Member Darby left at 11:23am****

Rick Ayers stated that he was amazed with all of the communication that has gone on between the fire districts and see's the advantage of the JPA and supports it.

Board Member Welsch believes that the Town of Camp Verde understands the Lake Montezuma/Rimrock community and sees a JPA between the two districts as a natural course. She stated that she has confidence in both agencies.

Ron Melcher stated that the most important is maintaining professionalism and the level of service. He stated that he was upset that more of the community isn't at the meeting to be educated.

Clerk Curtis stated that if the only reason to do the JPA is to save a dime, then it will not work.

Chief Keller stated that we will be able to deliver more service for less cost.

Clerk Satran stated that by joining services we will be twice as strong.

6) Discussion and/or staff direction on whether to gather further information concerning creating a single entity from the two districts:

Clerk Curtis stated that he didn't want to 'jump the gun' and thought we needed to have aggressive community outreach and would like 100% support from labor.

Board Member Krebbs stated that the more accurate information we can provide upfront to the communities, will be more beneficial to community education.

Chairperson Keeton stated that the only negative comment's she has received from the Lake Montezuma/Rimrock community is they don't want to become the Town of Camp Verde.

Chief Keller stated that the communities will maintain their own individualities and they are still part of the larger fire authority.

Board Member Welsch stated that we need to prioritize what needs to be done and educate the communities on how the JPA will work.

Board Member Harrington stated that it would be helpful to know exact costs and savings.

7) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

David Curtis – Clerk Camp Verde Fire District

Robert Satran – Clerk Montezuma Rimrock Fire District