

Minutes for Meeting May 11, 2009
Monday @ 5:30 PM

Meeting held at Harquahala Fire Station-371
51501 W. Tonto St.
(The corner of Harquahala Valley Rd. and Tonto St.)

Charlie K: Reminds everyone to sign in and asks if everyone has picked up agenda's and any other paperwork.

Call to order and meeting presides at 5:36 pm

Roll Call-

Harry Thomas Present

Charlie Kooistra, Chairman of the Board Present

Frank Haas, Board Clerk Present

Bill Lawrence Absent

Charlie K: Pledge of Allegiance to the flag performed by everyone present.

Approval of Minutes: Renee H. explains that she scratched it off the agenda because of the wrong date and will have it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Reports and Correspondence – N/A

Business-

- A. Discussion and possible action re: Acceptance of VFIS Settlement Offer – Charlie K. explains that because of Randy Long's case, VFIS wants to settle. Charlie K. has opened this for discussion to the Board Members or the Chief. Chief Sandell explains that the amount of the settlement that VFIS is offering is \$24,503.84. This is based on several things but the initial amount was \$12,000.00 but went up to \$24,503.84. For Carl Long we will be getting \$6000. But the amount they are now offering is more than what he expected. The max would have been \$50,000.00 but the Chief feels that the department should take this offer due to the fact that it may cost more on Attorney Fees on our part and because we have no hard evidence, we may end up behind at the end. Charlie K. asked Harry T. if he had any comments. Harry T. would like to table this until Randy's sentencing. Frank H. said that it is his understanding that Randy has entered into a plea bargain. Chief Sandell indicates that is what his sources say. Then Frank H. thinks that if that is the case then there will be court case. Chief Sandell explains that it is pretty complex with the different facts that were given for the case. If everything was added up it would be on the high side, but again it is based on evidence and proof which are missing, not to mention the stuff that the Sheriff's department has. Charlie K. asked how long the Sheriff's has been on this and the Chief said longer than a year. Frank H. asked about restitution. Chief Sandell said that he initially asked for \$350, 00.00 but they wanted a more realistic number. There for after putting everything together including Sandra L. and Carl Long's, the amount would be a little under \$100,000. Charlie K. has asked who is representing us. Chief Sandell explains that Bill Wittington has sat in on a meeting regarding this with attorneys on VFIS's behalf. The Chief does not know how much the Board wants the attorney, Bill Wittington to be involved at \$150.00. Charlie would like to know if the acceptance that VFIS is offering is final. Chief Sandell said yes for the insurance but not the restitution part. Frank H. said if we don't accept this then it

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may go down it is his opinion that the board accepts the \$24,503.84. Chief Sandal explains that the Board or anyone in the district can represent the district at the sentencing. Chief Sandell explains how hard it got to this point to just argue this amount. Charlie K. explains that on the positive side we could get this settlement and pay the chiefs car off and still have money left or take the chance to pursue this and get less. The Chief still thinks it is the best interest to accept this. Charlie K. asked Harry T. if he understands what the thoughts are. Harry T. wants to know if there is a deadline on this. The Chief said he would have to look into that. Harry T. would like to have this tabled until the next meeting and Frank H. said that the next meeting will be this Thursday. Renee H. explains that an agenda can be done after the meeting and posted tonight. Charlie K. would like to see the meeting move forward for the budget and the S. Station could wait. Frank would like to see things move forward especially with a new board member. Renee H. asked Harry T. if the sun was bugging him and she could have the blinds closed. Harry T. said, "This meeting is over and I am going home, I have the worst headache, I'm sorry and I am leaving." Frank H. said, "Then this is an illegal meeting, Thank s Harry." Charlie K. "for the record, this meeting is adjourned at 6:02 pm for an illegal meeting; we cannot do this with two board members." Chief Sandell reminds everyone that there is less than two weeks to post the proposed budget.

No motion to adjourn was made.