

# **Mormon Lake Fire District Board Meeting**

## **February 7, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes**

- 1. Call to order By Chairperson Lewis at 10:02am**
- 2. Roll Call** – Chairperson Lewis, Clerk Haupricht, Member Verdino via Zoom at 10:05, Member Nahass via Zoom, Member Morgenthal; Chief Western- PRESENT; Attending Community Members Leonard Biehl Present and Several members of the Stoneman Lake Community present via Zoom. Verde Valley Fire Chief Danny Johnson
- 3. Topics of Discussion and Possible Action**
  - A. Stoneman Lake Annexation- *Chief Western presented the steps for the meeting, including public notice in the newspaper, resident notices, and the Board of Supervisors response, nothing to add, County Assessor's Office sent updated map; Chief Western addressed the concerns presented to him; one was out of district responses, the AFDA, the County Attorney and our Insurance company all stated there was no requirement to respond outside of the district. What about increment weather or we are tied up on other traffic, we have never missed a response to any call for help in the five years I have been here, our personnel are sent to traffic as needed, and our area covers 45 Square Miles, but run about 90 square miles. Six times we have had multiple calls over the last five years and were able to take care of them. Chief Western introduced Fire Chief Danny Johnson. Thanking him for his time to be here today. Meeting opened to the public for comment; George Caldwell asked about their roll and voice. Chief Western explained they can request annexation, provide personnel and a place for apparatus. County would request signatures from 50 percent plus 1 for petition. Danny Johnson provided some information about annexation and the use of Home Owners Associations. Each property gets a signature, so multiple lot owners would sign for each lot. Tax liability was discussed and the potential of lower insurance rates. Questions regarding code enforcement were addressed. Support from the Stoneman Lake community was voiced by several community members and start with a summer brush truck and build from there. We are not looking for a full-time staffed station. Discussion regarding ISO ratings; Mormon Lake is a 6/10; If you are within 5 miles of a "station," you get a lower ISO rating, and we may not be able to get Stoneman Lake to a six, but we might get an 8. Discussion regard Medical coverage; Stoneman Lake falls under Copper Canyon Ambulance Service via the CON. Discussion on the length of time for securing signatures and the annexation would not even take affect until 2024 or 2025. Mormon Lake has no desire to raise the MIL Rate; Mormon Lake Fire provides the insurance for our apparatus and volunteers working for the department. Board Member Comments: Clerk Haupricht commented our trucks are old, road is rough, and manpower is low. He is not inclined to move forward with this; Chairperson Lewis wants to offer coverage but does not feel we can. Chairperson Lewis made a motion to table annexation discussion for at least a year; Seconded by Clerk Haupricht; Member Nahass stated we respond to emergencies down and let's continue to do so. Member Morgenthal states our taxpayers should have a say; Discussion regarding billing Stoneman Lake for responses. Member Verdino made the suggestion to table for 11 months; Clerk Haupricht stated they can move forward with whatever they want; The community could not collect signatures without the ability to move forward; in one year we would know what personnel and how many of the residents would be on board; All Members Present Voted AYE; Motion Passed*
- 4. Fire Board Comments – No Further Comment**
- 5. Adjournment-** Clerk Haupricht made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Chairperson Lewis; All members present voted AYE; Motion Passed  
**Meeting Adjourned at 11:01 am**