

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RINCON VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING
HELD May 15, 2025**

A public meeting of the Rincon Valley Fire District Governing Board was convened on **May 15, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.** The following members were Present at the meeting: Chairperson Jennifer Spears, Clerk Kevin McKinley, Member Glen Rodriguez, and Member Chris Klasen.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided at the meeting:

1. Call to Order at 6:10 P.M. by Clerk Kevin McKinley

A. Roll Call –Chairperson Jennifer Spears	Absent
Member Chris Klasen	Present
Member Kevin McKinley	Present
Member Glen Rodriguez	Present
Member Lora Gruner	Present

- Fire Chief James Tucker, Assistant Chief Allen Yalen, Battalion Chief Eddie Cornejo, Captain Chris Jaegers, the On-Duty Crew, and Administrative Manager Laura Bucklin attended. Steven Rodriguez, with James Vincent Group, was also present virtually.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Fire Chief Tucker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

- Confirmed by all board members present.

4. Call to the Public

- No response.

5. Employee Recognition

A. Accreditation Recognition – Unit Citations for Captain Haller, Administrative Manager Bucklin, Administrative Assistant McMullen, Assistant Chief Yalen, Battalion Chief Cornejo, Battalion Chief Middleton, Battalion Chief Cassabaum, Captain Palette, Captain Mooney, Paramedic Barber, Paramedic Rodriguez.

B. Badge Pinning Ceremony – New Hires FF Maseeh, FF Sanchez, FF Severson, FF Glasser, FF Estrella, FF Cabera, and Paramedic Petho.

6. Consent Agenda – 2025-061 – Review, discussion, and possible action of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the April 17 Board Meeting.
- B. Boundary Change Resolution #25-020 – D’Agostino – 2471 E Wetstones Rd.

- C. Boundary Change Resolution #25-021 – Mt. View Ranch Lots 1 – 29 and Lots 92 – 122.
- D. Boundary Change Resolution #25-022 – Alhaurin, LLC. – 12183, 12175, 12167, 12159 E Los Reales Rd., and Parcel #205-81-009C).

- Motion by Member Klasen, seconded by Member Rodriguez, to approve the monthly consent agenda. The motion passed 4 to 0.

7. Reports and Correspondence

A. Board Member Report

- No comment.

B. 2025-062 - Fire Chief's Report – Reviewed by the Board. Report on file.

- Our bond sale closed, and the funds were transferred into our County Bond Account.
- Received a rate increase for ambulance transports from AZDHS.
- Applied for the FY 2026 Congressional Funding for new heart monitors.
- Paramedic 293 was placed in full-time service on May 1, giving RVFD three ambulances 24/7.
- We have completed the 2024 Annual Report, which is attached for your review.

For April, we had:

27 new housing permits, 267 incidents

117 transports

C. 2025-063 - April's Financial Reports—Review, discussion, and possible action for the district's financial status, including monthly summary reports for April 2025. Steven Rodriguez, with JVG, presented the financial report.

Key points:

Revenues for April were \$1,189,526, which was \$460,972 under budget.

- Pima County revenue for April is \$1,067,781, which is \$470,675 under budget.
- Non-Tax Levy revenue for April is \$121,745, which is \$9,703 over budget.

Expenses for April were \$608,492, which was \$11,767 over budget.

- Fiscal year revenue is \$6,463,216, under budget of \$292,948, and 79% of the total annual budget.
- Fiscal year expense is \$5,583,201, under budget by \$476,134, and 74% of the total annual budget.

Member Klasen moved, seconded by Member Gruner, to approve the monthly financial reports. The motion passed 4 to 0.

8. Unfinished Business

A. 2025-064 Review and discussion of ambulance transports and billing.

- Several months ago, the board asked Chief Tucker to investigate billing district residents for ambulance transports due to the \$114K increase in resident write-offs. GRFD billing believes the increase is due to stricter Medicare Regulations, the implementation of the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection System, and additional audits. To date, we have a 75% collection rate for FY 25. FY 23 and FY 24 had a 69% collection rate.
- Attached is a draft of the Hardship Policy for the board to review. No action taken. Discussion only.

9. New Business

A. 2025-065 - Review, discussion, and possible action to approve the Fiscal Year 25-26 Proposed Budget.

- The tax rate will remain \$2.7834, the same as last year. The bond rate will increase to \$0.3313.
- The combined tax rate is \$3.1147.
- Budget forecasting through FY 2031 does not indicate any shortfalls.
- We will have a public hearing at the board meeting on June 17, 2025, to formally adopt the proposed budget.

-Motion by Member Rodriguez, seconded by Member Klasen, to approve the Proposed Budget for FY 25/26. The motion passed 4 to 0.

-Motion by Member Gruner, seconded by Member Rodriguez, to set the Public Hearing for the adoption of the budget to June 17, 2025. The motion passed 4 to 0.

B. 2025-066 – Review, discussion, and possible action to transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Fund.

- We transfer funds from our county general fund to our capital fund at the end of each fiscal year. Our initial plan was to transfer \$500,000; however, due to our current year budget performance, I would like to transfer \$1,000,000. Will bring our Capital Fund balance to approximately \$2.2M

-Motion by Member Klasen, seconded by Member Rodriguez, to approve the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund. The motion passed 4 to 0.

C. 2025-067 – Review, discussion, and possible action regarding setting a Public Hearing for adopting the 2024 International Fire Code.

- The Northwest Fire District Prevention Services Division recommends adopting the 2024 edition of the International Fire Code, with our local amendments specific to the Rincon Valley Fire District, as attached.

After reviewing the 2024 International Fire Code, Chief Tucker recommends setting up a Public Hearing for June 17, 2025, at 6:00 PM during the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Adopting the most recent International Fire Code provides compatibility with the latest edition of the International Building Code and related codes that are being adopted throughout the region. Adopting the 2024 edition also provides compatibility with the proposed adoption of the 2024 International Fire Code with the other major jurisdictions to provide consistency for architects, designers, and contractors working in the region.

-Motion by Member Gruner, seconded by Member Rodriguez, to set a Public Hearing for adopting the 2024 International Fire Code on June 17, 2025, Board Meeting. The motion passed 4 to 0.

D. 2025-068 – Review, discussion, and possible action to renew the Workers' Compensation Insurance through Securis.

- The district has been with Securis for several years now, and there have not been any significant issues. Fire Districts have representation on their board of directors. Currently, Chief Brad Bradley (NWFD) is on the board. The FY 25-26 expense is \$403,995.

-Motion by Member Rodriguez, seconded by Member Klasen, to approve the renewal of Workers' Compensation Insurance through Securis Insurance Pool. The motion passed 4 to 0.

E. 2025-069 - Review, discussion, and possible action to renew General Insurance through VFIS.

- Our premium increased 6.6% or \$3,665. Our broker advised that the increase is primarily due to the ambulance claim paid out in 2023. VFIS provides free training for our employees both online and in person.
- FY 24-25 premium was \$54,704.
- Account 7080 - \$58,369

-Motion by Member Klasen, seconded by Member Rodriguez, to approve the renewal of General Insurance with VFIS. The motion passed 4 to 0.

F. 2025-070 - Review, discussion, and possible action to order two F-150 trucks.

- Chief Tucker is requesting we order the two F-150 Super Crew trucks now. These are planned expenses for the FY 25-26 Capital Budget. The trucks will not be delivered for approximately 3 months. He has provided three quotes for the Board to review.
- Peoria Ford came in the lowest at \$54,055.06 per unit.
- The next closest is Jim Click Ford, at \$54,208.60 per unit. However, Jim Click did not include window tint in its quote.
- Approximately \$108,000 from the FY 25-26 Capital Budget.

-Motion by Member Klasen, seconded by Member Gruner, to approve the purchase of the two F-150 Trucks from Peoria Ford. The motion passed unanimously, 4 to 0.

10. ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Clerk McKinley, seconded by Member Klasen, to adjourn. The motion passed 4 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Dated this 16th day of May 2025.

Rincon Valley Fire District Governing Board

Chairperson, Jennifer Spears



Clerk, Kevin McKinley

Board Member, Lora Gruner



Board Member, Christopher Klasen



Board Member, Glen Rodriguez