

Public Hearing on the North Sahuarita Block Annexation
Headquarters / Training Center
April 20, 2011

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dave Appleton called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 1000.

ROLL CALL: Members of the Board present included Mr. Dave Smith, Mr. Bill Katzel, Mr. Bruce Howell, Board Clerk Mikel Shilling and Chairperson Dave Appleton.

WELCOME / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: For staff and members of the public present see attached sign-in sheets. Mr. Howell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Mr. Appleton noted there were no requests from the public comment.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Mr. Appleton began by noting the article in this morning's Green Valley News; the effort by the Green Valley Fire District to complete the annexation of Sahuarita was unable to be completed to this point. That is, during the past year property valuations have dropped about 12%, and the County Clerk's tally of the signatures collected fell short of the required property valuation. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors delayed their final validation of the petitions until their next meeting on May 3, allowing the Fire District two additional weeks to reach the required goal for Assessed Value. The District Board and staff are confident that we will complete this goal before the 3rd.

Mr. Appleton went on to say that the desire of the Green Valley Fire District to complete this annexation goes back to 1975, when a group of concerned residents recognized the necessity for a centralized source of emergency fire and services in the Green Valley area. The Green Valley Fire District was formed that year and hired the Rural Metro Corporation to perform the needed services. In 2001, the District decided to become a full-fledged, independent organization, so they purchased the local Rural Metro assets and hired most of their assigned personnel.

Since then, the Town of Sahuarita was incorporated and has grown dramatically. In 2005, the Sahuarita residents voted against forming their own municipal fire department. In response, the Town leaders then entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (or IGA) with Green Valley and Rural Metro, with the understanding that the Green Valley Fire District would eventually annex the rest of the Town. With the completion of the new fire station in Quail Creek, the District is now taking that final step to complete the annexation of the Town.

Mr. Appleton concluded by saying that having a single provider of fire and rescue services in the entire area will provide all residents with the quality services which are our trademark. The District will also be able to provide better regional planning regarding emergency response needs and support town prevention activities such as fire inspections and code reviews. As a public entity, there will be full transparency in accordance with statute with local control of decision-making. One of the current District Board members is from the Town already.

PRESENTATION OF THE NORTH SAHUARTIA BLOCK ANNEXATION IMPACT STATEMENT, LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND MAP DETAILS: Captain Melissa Smith, Sahuarita Annexation Coordinator: Chief Davis said that Captain Smith could not be present for the meeting. For the record we will enter the documentation of the legal description as it has been submitted to Pima County and attached to every petition.

REVIEW OF ANY FURTHER COMMENTS FROM THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Chief Davis said that the Pima County Board of Supervisors has granted a continuance of their petition validation based on the variations that were found in the property valuations.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE NORTH SAHUARITA BLOCK ANNEXATION:

- A. Ms. Shilling moved to open the Public Hearing for discussion on the North Sahuarita Block Annexation. Mr. Howell seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
After hearing no comment at this time, Mr. Appleton reported that the Public Hearing would remain open and continue at the next Special Meeting scheduled for May 5, 2011.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2011-2:

- A. Mr. Howell moved to table discussion on Resolution 2011-2 that would amend the Green Valley Fire District's boundaries until the completion of the North Sahuarita Block Annexation Public Hearing on May 5, 2011. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURN REGULAR BOARD MEETING: Mr. Howell moved to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Ms. Shilling, and the meeting adjourned at 10:07 after a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mikel Shilling, Board Clerk
Green Valley Fire District

