Subj: **ENOUGH MONEY TO OPERATE THE FIRE DISTRICT? EXPLOSIVES! [Test Email]**
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KEEPING THE NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMED!

TRI-NEWS CENTRAL
J·6 Mescal Skyline

WILL INCREASING TAXES KEEP THE FIRE DISTRICT OPERATING?

Monday is the time to ask the Fire District Governing Board.

Will the Mescal-J6 Fire District Governing Board be looking at sustainability as they approve a 2016-2017 projected budget at a special meeting on Nov. 2nd – a task they neglected to do before submitting to Cochise and Pima Counties in August.

A CDO representative will be present at Monday's 6:30 p.m. meeting to be held at 98 N. Oak Street to ask for an explanation for several numbers used on the projection. **In order for the security presented in next year's projected budget to be reasonable, it would appear that approximately $80,000-$110,000 of THIS year's expenses would have to be eliminated……**explanations are needed so that the community does not have a false sense of security that the current level of operations can be maintained with a sufficient surplus in Reserve to implement the adopted 5-year plan.

When we finally received this 2-year budget comparison as a public record 54 days after it was requested, CDO brought the lack of Board approval to the Fire District's attention at the Call to the Public on

MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT MEETINGS
NOVEMBER 2, 2015
6:30 P.M. Ratification of Projected Budget.
Agenda
7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Mtg.
Agenda

SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESPONDS TO EXPLOSIVES FOUND IN MESCAL

(posted on CCSO Facebook- October 26th)

October 12th. CDO requested that an agenda item be scheduled where all five board members had an opportunity to review next year's projected budget with the community having an opportunity to ask about the reasonableness of numbers submitted to the County by Chief John Moran. Click here for budget comparison.

Since this Fire District has not implemented a 12-month cash flow projection as stated in state statutes, taxpayers are unable to easily monitor this year's financial planning, decisions and adjustments on a monthly basis. We are dependent upon the Board answering the following questions now in order to understand the reasonable basis for next year's projected numbers:

1. What $40,000 of expenses are expected to be eliminated from this year's Fiscal M & O Budget to allow for $ 60,000 to be carried over to next year rather than the $20,000 as originally anticipated in June?

2. With listed expenses, this year's Reserve Budget is anticipated to have an ending balance of $34,246.00. Since approximately $12,000 of this amount is restricted, leaving $22,000 in the account seems prudent for emergency repairs or to be applied toward implementing the District's 5-year plan. Does the $75,000 mentioned in the proposed 2016-2017 budget as a possible transfer include this $34,000 carry over? Where is the extra $40,000-$75,000 suggested safety net to come from?

3. Will the increased tax rate recorded in the projected budget provide sufficient revenue to cover operating costs if the inflated carry over account balances are not attainable?

On Saturday October 24, 2015 at approximately 1:00 pm, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office Explosives Ordinance Technician responded to N Mountain View Road in Mescal in regards to possible explosives being discovered in a utility trailer on the property.

Sheriff's Office Patrol Units secured the area and initiated immediate evacuations. Mescal Fire/Rescue responded to assist as needed.

The initial person reporting had been hired to cut grass and clean the property and also clean out the utility trailer that was reportedly left on the property for the past seven to eight years.

The trailer is identified as belonging to a previous co-worker of the property owner who stated that the owner had asked to store the trailer on the property until such time as it could be picked up. The property owner identified that attempts to contact the owner of the trailer were unsuccessful. The property owner noted that due to the deteriorating condition of the trailer that the decision was made to dispose of the contents and trailer.

Reasonableness is a realistic expectation suggested by State Statute 48-805.02 D For each of the items listed in the budget summary approved pursuant to subsection A of this section, the district shall estimate the revenue or expense for the next two fiscal years. *Estimates shall be based on the average increase or decrease of the item for the previous two fiscal years unless more certain information is available to the district.* Estimates shall include any applicable levy or rate limitations.

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Upon arrival it was determined that the explosives were viable and identified as IREMITE 40 (ammonia nitrate based high explosive). One fifty (50) pound case and three chub (tubes measuring 1" x 16") were seized from the trailer. The three separate chubs were discovered in an US Military surplus satchel/bag. The total number of chubs is identified as seventy eight (78). The total net explosive weight of all item is approximately sixty three (63) pounds.

AZ DPS EOD responded to assist as well as Units of the Pima County Regional EOD Unit (Marana PD/Oro Valley PD). US ATF was also contacted and forwarded the LOT NUMBER/DATE, TIME GROUP on th case of explosives and imprinted on the chubs.

The explosives were packaged and moved to a safe location and disposed of by counter charge/high order detonation.

The investigation is being continued by the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

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