

TEMPORARY SLEEPING QUARTERS AT FIRE STATION

Two bunk rooms illegally constructed at Tubac Fire Station No. 1, 2227 E. Frontage Rd., last October and November were removed in December. Since then, a new solution has been sought.

At the March 28 meeting of the five-member Tubac Fire Board, Chief Kevin Keeley said he wanted direction about whether the district should hire an architect to design new sleeping quarters.

Board members said that they first want him to talk with employees about their concerns about where they might sleep during overnight shifts, and to talk further with Santa Cruz County Building Director Dan Menefee about meeting regulations.

One suggestion from Board Clerk Mary Dahl was that the offices of the fire chief and the assistant fire chief be moved to one of the district's other three fire stations. Then, a single wide mobile home now used next to the brick fire station might be retrofitted for the necessary sleeping area.

Last November, two new bunk rooms were opened for employees but it was learned by this writer during an interview that no building permit was applied for, the work was not done by a licensed contractor, and the work wasn't inspected by the county.

The bunk rooms, which had new electric wiring and heating and cooling vents, lacked smoke detectors, lacked a required second exit location and had insufficient fire wall separation from the garage for emergency vehicles.

The emergency responders' sleeping location was moved to the conference room as a temporary solution at that time.

FIRE BOARD CHANGES MEETING DATES, TIMES

The board of the Tubac Fire District voted on March 28 to change their meeting time from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The location will be Tubac Fire Station No. 2 in Rio Rico at 1360 W. Frontage Rd. Meetings, open to the public, are held on the last Wednesday of each month unless a holiday or other reason occurs to have a change made. The next meeting will be on April 25.

The change was made, board members said, to make it easier for interested individuals to attend the meetings.