

MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Central Arizona Regional Training Academy - 9601 E Valley Road - Classroom 1-
Prescott Valley
In Attendance:**

Darlene Packard; Dave Dobbs; Dave Tharp; Jeff Wasowicz; Julie Pettit; Laura Mowrer; Matt Zurcher; Nicolas Cornelius; Scott A Freitag; Susanne Dixon

NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors and the general public that the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority will hold a meeting open to the public on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Central Regional Training Academy, 9601 E. Valley Road, Classroom 1, Prescott Valley, Arizona. The Board may vote to go into Executive Session on any agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) for discussion and consultation for legal advice with Authority's Attorney on matters as set forth in the agenda item. The following topics and any variables thereto, will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items are set for possible action.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair Pettit called the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority (CAFMA) Board of Director's meeting to order on March 21, 2017 at 6:15 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Wazowicz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Prescott Valley Town Council Report

Town of Prescott Valley Council Member Grossman mentioned that there will be some apartment complexes built within Prescott Valley.

B. Board Members' Reports

Board Member Wasowicz stated that he spoke with Chief Polacek regarding Prescott Regional Communications Center (PRCC). He would like to focus on drafting the new agreement. He was satisfied with their reports. He stated that he is looking forward to touring the center.

Chief Freitag mentioned that he had received a few requests from Board Members to tour PRCC, and he will follow-up and confirm date and time.

Attorney Cornelius stated that he is working on the PRCC agreement.

Board Member Dobbs stated that he attended the Labor/Management meeting regarding the budget process and explained that Labor voiced frustration with the

economy. He believes that Board should start looking at wages as the previous Board made a commitment to try and keep them at the 50 percentile and hopefully shooting for the 75 percentile and the wages are substantially below that. He stated the other agencies were very comparable; all agencies are going through the same problems. The wage compression issue needs to be resolved. He explained that new entry-level firefighters and firefighters that have been employed for 8 years should not be paid the same. Our employees are our most valuable asset. He mentioned that management and Labor are working well together to resolve issues.

Board Member Zurcher stated that there have been three public record requests: Two were EMS reports and one was for public records. We received \$20.00 for one, one was a no charge, and the fee for the third has not been determined yet. Board Member Zurcher reviewed legal expenses to date: Central Yavapai \$12,958.79, ACE was \$11,228.34; Chino Valley \$245.00; and CAFMA \$4,050.00.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Those wishing to address the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board need not request permission in advance. However, we ask that you complete a Call To Public Form for the record. The Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on any item raised in the Call to the Public due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law; however, individual Board members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board may direct the staff to review the matter or the matter may be placed on a future agenda. Individuals may be limited to speak for three (3) minutes with a total of 30 minutes allotted for Call to the Public per meeting.

Board Chair Pettit opened the meeting for public comments.

There were no comments.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under consent agenda are considered to be routine by the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately for discussion and possible action.

- A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - February 21, 2017
- B. Approve General Fund Financial Statements
- C. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Buchan, Shackleford, Wendlandt

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Matt Zurcher Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Darlene Packard, Julie Pettit, Jeff Wasowicz, Matt Zurcher

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letters from the Public

Chief Freitag mention the letter that we received from Daisy Mountain Fire Chief Nichols for the support our members provided them when they lost one of their members. He also mentioned a note we received from a grateful resident for the

crew members from Engine 59 for assisting him with his disabled vehicle. Chief Freitag informed the Board that several members read to students for the Read Across America event.

- B. **Monthly Division Reports from the Fire Chief and staff in regard to current activities of the Fire Authority and the status and progress relating thereto**

Chief Freitag explained that Senate Bill 1329 deals with fire and life safety codes, and one of the Yavapai County Supervisors informed him that they have changed their position to opposing the bill. Chief mentioned that the appeals process would allow a city, town, or county to overturn the fire agency's ruling. The concern is that those other entities do not have fire code expertise, and their ruling would place liability on their specific entity.

Chief Freitag mentioned bills that are being discussed by legislators related to firefighter cancer. He explained that the bill would expand the number of cancers covered and move the burden of proof to the employer instead of the employee. Employers are spending significant time documenting all fires. Chief explained that this is not much of a change as the agency will take the hit on the medical insurance or worker's compensation. This bill will allow the employees to get the medical treatment they require. There are differences between other industries and firefighting as the firefighter's environment cannot be controlled; other industries can control their environment. This bill was approved by the Senate; it goes to Rules next. If no problem is found in Rules, it will go to the third reading and then will be sent to the Governor.

Chief Freitag stated that we have new ISO ratings, and the numbers have improved slightly. Chief Polacek was able to use Chino Valley's rating as leverage in obtaining an improved rating for Central Yavapai. Central Yavapai was able to improve from an ISO 4 to a 3 for properties with hydrants. Other areas requiring a water shuttle changed from an ISO 5 to 4. The outlying areas are still an ISO 10.

Chief Tharp stated that he was privileged to have Board Clerk Packard join him in a meeting with the County Assessor. The Assessor provided historical information and also explained that they are using a new program in order to verify property improvements in a more timely fashion. This year's significant increases may not continue; our future depends on our ability to accurately forecast. The Assessor explained that it is very positive if a special district is receiving a net assessed value (NAV) increase of 4.4% or greater; there is still growth potential with vacant land. Maricopa County has minimal vacant land, and they are very limited in their increase.

Fire Marshal Chase informed the Board of the "Bigs in Blue" program that works in conjunction with Big Brother Big Sisters in which police officers are becoming mentors with students. James Edelstein from Prescott Valley Police Department approached us, and we now have two of our members getting involved.

Chief Polacek stated that the financing was discussed for the new PRCC CAD system. PRCC stated that if we finance the purchase over 3 years they will charge us 3% interest. Chief Polacek recommends paying the full amount upfront. He will provide the Board with details at the budget workshop.

Chief Polacek mentioned that Fire Ops 101 will be held next month.

Chief Polacek explained that the 3% interest is not contractual; it is something new. The last capital purchase was paid up front and there were a lot of billing mistakes asking for payments that had already been made. This time we were wanting to pay as all others to alleviate the billing confusion. The past purchase was spread over 10 years; this purchase is expected to be paid in 3 years.

Chair Pettit asked for clarification if PRCC was financing the purchase. Chief Polacek stated that as far as he is aware the City of Prescott is paying the bill up front. Chief Polacek will verify if the City is financing the purchase.

Chief Freitag stated that he expressed his concern to the City of Prescott since we have been talking about this purchase for a year, and the finance fee is now being mentioned. He copied Prescott Valley Police Chief Jarrell in his email; Chief Jarrell was not aware of the 3% fee either. We can pay it up front; Chief Polacek will follow-up.

Chair Pettit asked if there was language in the contract regarding capital expenditures. Attorney Cornelius stated there is; however, he did not remember seeing a 3% fee mentioned. He is reviewing the contract and will provide the draft to Chief Freitag with a copy to Board Member Wasowicz for initial review.

Chief Bliss stated that the AZ Wildfire Academy was held last week, and we had a lot of members participate as instructors, managers, and students. It's the second cheapest way to obtain training; the first is to respond to an off district fire and be paid. He explained that some of our members were able to attend due to scholarships provided by a nonprofit organization.

Chief Feddema stated that we had three firefighters graduate the academy last month, and they are doing good. We are focusing on wildland training. Chief Feddema mentioned that Training Captain Kelley which also volunteers for the L.A.S.T. team is retiring, and Captain Dustin Parra will be the new Training Captain. Captain Parra will be shadowing Captain Kelley over the next few months.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve Amended Policy 223 Captain Promotional / Probationary

Chief Freitag explained that in order to promote to Captain, the member had to be an Engineer. We are one of the few agencies that still had that requirement. This change is needed as we have fewer members wanting to promote to Captain. We only had four members that wanted to promote during the last testing process; we are not getting enough qualified candidates for captain. We have worked with Labor over the past year and have created an appropriate path for members to test for Captain. In addition increasing the requirements for Firefighter, we have also increased Engineer requirements; the members must attend the Captain Academy. We have also added language stating there is a two-year transition.

Motion to approve amended Policy 223 Captain Promotional / Probationary.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Matt Zurcher Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Darlene Packard, Julie Pettit, Jeff Wasowicz, Matt Zurcher

B. Discuss Budget Progress

Discussion was not required.

8. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Attorney Cornelius asked for Board approval for Central Yavapai Fire District Board Member ViciLee Jacobs to attend the Executive Session to address two agenda items and for Fire Marshal Chase to attend the Inscription Canyon agenda item discussion. The Board was in agreement.

Chair Pettit formally invited Central Yavapai Fire District Board Member ViciLee to join Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:56 p.m.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Darlene Packard, Julie Pettit, Jeff Wasowicz, Matt Zurcher

- A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Re: Items of Concern Raised by Board Member ViciLee Jacobs
- B. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Formal Complaint Submitted by Chief Freitag
- C. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Re: Grant of Fire Lane Easement and Notice of Abandonment of Easement Re: Summers/ Inscription Canyon

Motion to reconvened into Public Session at 8:08 p.m.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Matt Zurcher Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Darlene Packard, Julie Pettit, Jeff Wasowicz, Matt Zurcher

9. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Related to Concerns Raised by Board Member ViciLee Jacobs

No action.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action Related to Formal Complaint Submitted by Chief Freitag

Chair Pettit provided direction for Attorney Cornelius to obtain a third party investigator and to insure there are no conflicts of interest associated with the Phoenix Police Department or other interested parties that are located here in northern Arizona.

- C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Grant of Fire Lane Easement and Notice of Abandonment of Easement Re: Summers/ Inscription Canyon

Motion to approve the form of extinguishment and the form.

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Darlene Packard, Julie Pettit, Jeff Wasowicz, Matt Zurcher

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Darlene Packard, Julie Pettit, Jeff Wasowicz, Matt Zurcher

Darlene Packard 4/18/13
Clerk Date