

MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors
CA Regular Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2019, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority,
Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive, Prescott Valley**

In Attendance

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

Not In Attendance

Dave Tharp

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 **Monday, March 25, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at **Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive, 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

Chair Pettit called the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board meeting to order on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Attorney Cornelius attended telephonically. Chief Bliss was also in attendance.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pettit led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Prescott Valley Town Council Report

Prescott Valley Town Council Member Grossman was not able to attend; however, he provided Director Packard with a list of Town activities which she read.

B. Board Members' Reports

i. Prescott Regional Communications (PRCC)

Director Wasowicz informed the Board that the February PRCC invoice is similar to January's, and the next Chief's meeting is scheduled for the middle of April.

ii. Public Records Requests

Director Zurcher informed the Board that everything is routine, and he had nothing to add.

iii. Legal Fees

Director Zurcher had nothing to add.

iv. Labor/Management

Director Dobbs had nothing to add.

C. Union Wage and Benefits Proposal for Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

Union President Mike Kontz informed the Board that the Union conducted a wage and benefit study with like-sized agencies and conducted an employee survey to determine priorities. The areas that were determined to be priority included the paramedic stipend, insurance subsidiary, and the firefighter starting wage.

He explained that the current paramedic stipend is \$1.62 per hour (\$5,000 annually) which is below 50% when compared to other agencies. The stipend has not been increased in 10 years. Personnel are asking for an increase to \$2.23 per hour (\$6,500 annually). He explained that the increase would help with recruitment and retention of paramedics. Last year there were only two employees and this year only one that chose to pursue certification. He also mentioned that we only received 28 applications for 6 full-time positions compared to the City of Prescott receiving over 100 applications for 2 positions. If this is approved, it would increase the budget by \$169,737.

Union President Kontz explained that some of the firefighters are eligible for and are on AHCCCS. The Agency currently pays 49% of the employee's dependent insurance premium, and he is asking the Board to increase that to 70%. Labor used Kaiser Family Foundation's wage and benefit survey which shows an average subsidy of 71-72%. This subsidy increase would have a \$236,000 budget impact and would also help with firefighter recruitment and retention. He mentioned that depending on the insurance plan, the monthly premium are about \$650 with a \$7,500 deductible.

Chief Freitag mentioned that firefighters are taking home the same amount that he did in 1995.

Union President Kontz shared that last year's wage adjustment brought everyone to 50% except for firefighters. He proposed that the starting firefighter wage be increased 2.5%, and all current firefighters be moved up one step. This would increase the budget by \$90,540.

He mentioned that there was a projected revenue increase of \$788,390 due to the increased net assessed values and PSPRS not increasing; these requests would cost \$479,940.

The Board consensus was for Chief Bliss to include these requests in the budget for the April workshop.

D. Budget Update and Schedule Budget Workshop for Second Week of April

The Board consensus was to hold the budget workshop on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at CAFMA Administration.

E. Letters from the Public

Chief Freitag mentioned the thank you notes from the snowmageddon; he expressed his appreciation for all members that assisted. Chief Freitag also shared that Captain Ben Buchanan assisted while off duty with an injury at a wrestling match. Captain Buchanan even rode in the ambulance to the hospital to ensure the patient was okay as they were from out of town. Chief Freitag also voiced appreciation of the Fire Prevention staff.

F. 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. Any item discussed in the Division

Reports is subject to discussion and direction by the Board; no action will be taken.

Chief Freitag informed the Board that staff recently discussed re-accreditation. With two assistant chiefs retiring soon, we have a target date of January 2022 to start the process. He also mentioned that during the budget workshop he will request a formal wage survey be conducted.

Chief Bliss mentioned that the State has paid a majority of the wildland invoices leaving a balance of about \$200,000.

Fire Marshal Chase shared that in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal's office and with the assistance of Inspector Mills and Admin Manager Dixson, forms were developed and a process has been created that allows owners of mobile food trucks to obtain one annual inspection which will be valid for all jurisdictions within Arizona.

Fire Marshal Chase expressed his appreciation of Captain Niemynski for completing a grant application in which we received \$17,000 from Fire House Subs for two mobile CPR units. These units have already been used three times over the past weekend.

Chief Bliss added that the water tanks have been installed in the Blue Hills area and will soon be operational.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

In accordance with A.R.S. §38-431.01(H) and as a matter of policy, the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board has decided to allow public comments as time permits. Therefore, those wishing to address the Board regarding an issue within the jurisdiction of this public body may do so in an orderly manner that includes completing a Call to the Public Form and submitting it to staff for the record. If a written statement is being read, please provide a copy to ensure it is entered into the record accurately. Individuals will be limited to speak for three (3) minutes and Call to the Public shall not exceed 30 minutes per meeting.

John Bostwick with one of his young Marines presented a certificate of appreciation for the members of CAFMA for their support and utilization of the training facility. He explained that the Young Marines accept male and female members, and they currently have 34 members.

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. Any item may be removed by a Board member and will be considered separately for motion, discussion and action.

- A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - February 25, 2019
- B. Approve General Fund Financial Statements
- C. Approve Fire Protection Agreement: Simpson
- D. Approve Amended Fee Schedule

Motion to approve.

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Matt Zurcher Status: Passed

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion Regarding Ambulance Update

Chief Freitag explained that we have been experiencing longer than normal response times from AMR for years, but it is getting worse. We have been told that the data that

AMR is providing to the Town of Prescott Valley and to DHS indicates that they are meeting and even surpassing their certificate of necessity (CON) requirements. This data is not consistent with our data. There are no checks and balances with the Bureau of EMS. When we file complaints, we are informed that they are meeting their CON; however, the CON is outdated.

Chief Freitag and Prescott Fire Chief Light's approach is the three C's: CON, Competition, and Contract. They believe the CON is outdated and it needs to be updated to reflect current standards, growth, and population density within CAFMA and Prescott areas. Chief Freitag stated that the stakeholders have been working on this. There needs to be competition for services from another for-profit provider. Currently, this is a monopoly with very little oversight. With competition, we can require a contract that will allow us to hold them accountable. There are contracts across Arizona; however, we do not have a contract nor can we gain access to their data.

Chief Freitag explained that this is not just a local issue. AMR is losing contracts in the valley, and they have issues in other states including California and Georgia. AMR has been fined millions of dollars, but they deny any problems. There is a valley agency that may share their AMR experience with the Town of Prescott Valley.

Chief Freitag mentioned that the CON is reviewed every three years; however, nothing changes unless there are enough complaints filed. Someone may request a CON; however currently, it is a very costly court process, and then if the administrative judge approves it, it still goes to the Department of Health Services director for review.

Chief Freitag confirmed that CAFMA is looking for a private for-profit ambulance provider that will be willing to sign a contract for our area. We may consider borrowing an ambulance or two in the interim to be used as rescue units and only transport patients in an emergency situation when there is a delay from AMR. There would be no additional cost to CAFMA other than fuel, and there would be no cost to the patient that is transported to the hospital. We don't want to do this, but we can't leave patients sitting on the scene for 15 to 45 minutes waiting for an ambulance to arrive.

Chief Freitag and Chief Light will be meeting with AMR representatives on Friday.

Chief Freitag shared that AMR provided him with a document with statistics from July 2018 to February 2019 stating that the fire department within Prescott Valley proper arrived after their ambulances 335 times with an average of 14 minutes and 20 seconds delay. Chief Freitag had Captain Niemynski and Chief Bliss review our data, and they could only find 7 calls during that timeframe where that might fall within that response time; however, we do not know when the ambulance arrived on scene. The ambulance may arrive on scene prior to us. We do not know when their ambulance is dispatched, partly because they are handing out cards and requesting residents call AMR's seven digit phone number instead of 911. After AMR arrives on scene, they determine if the fire department is necessary, and then they call us. They have done this a lot in Mesa and have started doing it here also.

Director Zurcher asked that this item remain on the Agenda for continual updates.

- B. Motion, Discussion, and Action Regarding Approval of Station 57 Drainage and Parking Lot Repair Expending \$25,000 of Unbudgeted Funds**

Chief Bliss informed the Board that there is a water drainage issue that we have been working with DeCarol Company to resolve. The \$48,000 is within Chief Freitag's approval limit, and it is budgeted. The asphalt on the west side of the station needs to be replaced after the drainage issue is resolved. We received bids from DeCarol and Anderson Asphalt to replace the asphalt with concrete as the concrete will last longer. We intend to accept the lower bid from Anderson Asphalt's for the west side which is within the Chief's approval limit; however, the project is about \$25,000 over the

budgeted amount. We are asking for approval to expend \$25,000 of unbudgeted funds.

Motion to approve expending \$25,000 of unbudgeted funds for Station 57 parking lot repair.

Motion: Darlene Packard Second: Dave Dobbs

Attorney Cornelius advised that this may be normal wear, but the insurance policy can be reviewed to determine if it is covered.

Chief Bliss informed the Board that there are some time constraints with the budget cycle and asked the Board to approve with the condition that the insurance policy is reviewed prior to making the expenditure.

Chair Pettit asked staff to provide a followup next month.

Amended motion: Approve expending \$25,000 of unbudgeted funds with the condition that we go back and take a look at the possibility of filing an insurance claim.

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

C. Motion, Discussion, and Action Regarding Approval to Purchase Apparatus

Chief Bliss asked for approval to purchase two Type 1 engines and a utility. He explained that these are on the long-term Capital Expenditure Plan and are budgeted items. This is an HGAC government contract; however, pricing from two other companies were reviewed to verify we are getting the best price.

Fleet Services Manager Scaife confirmed discounts of \$28,000 for purchasing multiple vehicles.

Motion to approve purchase of apparatus.

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

D. Motion, Discussion, and Action Regarding Approval of Capital Expenditure Plan

Chief Bliss informed the Board that reviewing the Capital Expenditure Plan is part of the regular budget process. He explained that two water tenders were purchased in the 1980's and are older than normal; however, they will be refurbished due to low mileage. The life was extended on a few staff vehicles. There were two vehicles totaled; one was added for replacement and the long-term plan was adjusted to cover other instead of purchasing it next year.

Chief Bliss provided the history behind the Expenditure Plan and shared that only engines were originally listed. Staff vehicles were added and then non-vehicles such as defibrillators and extrication tools. This year, we have added facilities to cover items such as water heaters that are 20 years old and HVAC units. The commercial grade water heaters can cost as much as \$10,000. We have also added some aspects of Technical Services for communications / IT equipment.

Chief Bliss explained that these items will be included in the budget if approved.

Motion to approve the Capital Expenditure Plan

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Matt Zurcher Status: Passed

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

E. Discussion and Direction to Staff Regarding Holding May Board Meeting on May 23
Board consensus was to hold the May Board meeting on May 23, 2019.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:04 p.m.

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

Clerk / Date

Signature indicating approval on next page.

Signature Page For: 2019 03 25 CEA Regular Minutes-Approved - Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors - CA Regular Meeting - 4/22/2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darlene Packard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a distinct "P".

Darlene Packard , Board Clerk 04/23/2019