

MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors
CA Regular Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2019, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Chino Valley Town Hall,
202 N. State Route 89, Chino Valley, Arizona**

In Attendance

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

Not In Attendance

Dave Dobbs

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, August 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the **Chino Valley Town Hall, 202 N. State Route 89, Chino 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 of Directors' meeting to order on August 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
Attorney Cornelius attended telephonically.**

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pettit led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Chino Valley Town Council Report

Chino Valley Town Manager Cecilia Gritman updated the Board on Chino Valley activities including that Scooter's Coffee just opened; they are about to break ground for Burger King; and new housing developments are in the works. She also shared that the Territorial Days are planned for this weekend, and they are working on a temporary sign ordinance.

B. Board Members' Reports

i. Prescott Regional Communications (PRCC)

Director Wasowicz stated that there is a chiefs' meeting next month; otherwise, everything is inline.

ii. Public Records Requests

Director Zurcher stated that there are some ongoing requests.

iii. Legal Fees

Director Zurcher stated the fees are routine.

iv. Labor / Management

Director Dobbs was not present.

Chief Freitag informed that Board that Labor and Management have been meeting regularly and are creating wage and benefit committee in order to include all members whether union or nonunion.

v. **Alarm Summary January - June 2019**

Chief Bliss is on a fire in Alaska.

Chief Freitag reviewed the Alarm Summary that was provided in the Board packet and explained that the automatic aid agreement with Prescott Fire Department (PFD) is a financial benefit to both organizations. Without the agreement, another station would need to be built, equipped, and staffed to handle the calls.

He mentioned that we do respond to a few snake calls and recommended bee keepers to relocate bees instead of the fire department killing them. Staff will be meeting with Prescott Regional Communications Center (PRCC) and will review how turnout times are calculated as currently the call time is being added. He shared that we are beating the standard.

Chief Freitag explained that we are responding to over 1,000 calls per month and discussed the reliability ratings. Adjustments are being made with move-ups to improve reliability.

Director Pettit confirmed that we responded to 65% of the automatic aid calls into PFD's jurisdiction, and they responded to 35% in our jurisdiction. She mentioned growth in the unincorporated areas and how Prescott Valley's calls were lower in 2019.

Chief Freitag stated that Michael Freeman is doing an excellent job with all the statistics.

Chief Freitag explained that the response times have been better this year which is attributed to Chief Polacek working with the Battalion Chiefs and crews. Chief Polacek is working with the Town of Prescott Valley to determine if Opticom traffic preemptors can be installed in Prescott Valley as they are helping in Chino Valley. Opticom's turn traffic lights red to assist emergency vehicles with a safer response.

C. **Letters from the Public**

Chief Freitag thanked the Yavapai Toy Makers for donating their handmade wooden toys for crews to give to children.

D. **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 Sun City Fire District donated a 1997 Ford Rescue to CAFMA and Chief Polacek and Captain Niemynski are developing a plan on how it will be utilized.

Chief Tharp explained that staff is working through the audit preparation process and a couple large public records requests that include thousands of documents. He expressed appreciation for all the behind-the-scenes work accomplished by members of Finance, Human Resources, and Administration.

Chair Pettit also expressed appreciation for all support personnel and read the last paragraph of Chief Tharp's report for the public record.

Chief Freitag shared that the plan review turnaround time is about 1-2 weeks. There was an internal issue with one permit, and it was resolved. Fire Prevention staff interviewed a third-party contractor; however, they did not have the required credentials. Chief Freitag explained that he has asked Yavapai County Contractors Association staff to direct contractors with concerns through the property channels, ie. to the fire inspector, assistant fire marshal, fire marshal, and then to the fire chief if unable to resolve the issue.

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.

There were no public 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. Any item may be removed by a Board member and will be considered separately for motion, discussion and action.

- A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - July 22, 2019
- B. Approve General Fund Financial Statements
- C. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Barraza, Good, Justice, Martin, Morton, Owensby, Spellins
- D. Approve Policy Amendments for Policy 221 Full Time Firefighter Preliminary / Probationary Requirements
- E. Approve Addendum to Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid with Williamson Valley Fire District

Motion to approve consent agenda as printed.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Matt Zurcher Status: Passed

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Motion, Discussion and Action Regarding Approval to Expend Budgeted Funds for the Purchase of Three Vehicles for Operations Use not to Exceed \$257,918.00

Chief Freitag explained that these are budgeted funds for replacement vehicles; however, the amounts are above his approval level.

Fleet Services Manager Scaife explained the savings with purchasing different models and how the vehicles would be used for the battalion chiefs, on and off district wildland fire fighting, and as a command vehicle. The vehicles are 2019 or 2020 models and are being purchased under the State contract.

Motion to approve expending budgeted funds for the purchase of three vehicles for Operations use not to exceed \$257,918.00.

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Jeff Wasowicz Status: Passed

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

- B. Discussion Regarding Ambulance Update

Chief Freitag informed the Board that there has been some changes in the approach to the ambulance issues. He explained that the problem is the State of Arizona's certificate of necessity (CON) process that was constructed 30-40 years ago and has never been updated even after the Auditor General's 1999 report stating the standards were antiquated and needed to be updated.

Chief Freitag asked the public if a 75 minute response is acceptable in a populated area. The current CON states that the ambulance is required to respond within 75 minutes 100% of the time. He mentioned that there have been 30 to 40 minute responses and they have had some untoward outcomes as a result. The State won't do anything, because these response times fall within the CON requirements. Chief Freitag suggested that population density be determined and then apply the appropriate response times accordingly; however, the State believes this is a difficult task. It's the State's responsibility to provide real response standards. He explained that

Williams is carved out, and they have better response time requirements than the Prescott basin. Chief Freitag suggested applying pressure on the State to provide real response standards. He stated that our data does not match AMR's data and the State has an obligation to complete an audit.

Chief Freitag explained the intent is to utilize the donated rescue unit from Sun City when AMR indicates a 30 minute response or goes into Code Red indicating they have no ambulances available. There is no additional cost to the Agency as equipment from the engine and on-duty personnel would be used. DHS is okay with us transporting as long as we do not charge the customer. Other agencies throughout Arizona are also utilizing these options including those that have contracts with AMR.

Chief Freitag shared that there are meetings scheduled including some of the Board members to develop a plan. He has encouraged members of the Prescott Valley Development Foundation to contact local legislative officials to let them know that they are not okay with the current CON and response times. If the state still refuses to do anything, the community will have to tell us what they want.

Director Wasowicz voiced his concerns regarding the unacceptable 30 minute response and asked for a coordinated effort listing possible solutions for change. He stated that if the County Board of Supervisors and the town counsels were on the same page things would progress.

Chair Pettit voiced her frustration with the lack of action taken by community representatives that had attended a quad city meeting with DHS. She explained that meeting went well and a regional plan was developed; however, there was no follow through. She agrees that the public needs to be educated and also voiced concern with the affects on the budget when engines must respond to calls outside their normal area due to the closer engine waiting for an ambulance to respond.

Chief Freitag stated that he is working with members at the State level to improve the CON process. He explained the current process that could require a potential ambulance company to expend over \$1 mil submitting a CON request to the courts and then to the DHS director to determine if there is a need for a new CON.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:47 p.m.

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed
Yes: Darlene Packard, Julie Pettit, Jeff Wasowicz, Matt Zurcher

Clerk / Date

**Signature Page For: 2019 08 26 CEA Minutes-Approved - Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Board of Directors - CA Regular Meeting - 9/23/2019**

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

Darlene Packard , Board Clerk 09/24/2019