



# THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **Sept 17, 2021**

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“The culture of any organization is shaped  
by the worst behavior the leader is willing  
to tolerate.”

– Unk



Healing Field 2021

Photo Courtesy of Captain Karl Postula

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## The Chief's Desk

Happy Friday, everybody 😊 I figured I would start whimsical and allow things to play out as I type. This is an update edition on a few items of note within our Agency, as well as beyond.

We closed on our Certificates of Participation (COPs) yesterday, Thursday, September 16. Honestly, I see it as somewhat of a historical event. We have finally found a path to deal with our PSPRS debt. Zion Bank, the trustee managing our COPs, immediately wired the funds to pay our unfunded liability. That debt is now reassigned under the COPs. So, to be clear, we did not take out \$53 million of new debt. We took out approximately \$43 million to pay our unfunded liability, i.e. existing debt, along with an additional \$10 million that is now our PSPRS contingency fund. That means that we have a reserve we can access should PSPRS fall short of expectations, or change any of their assumptions negatively impacting our account. These monies can also be used to pay off the debt early if we get to a point where that is possible. The funds are in what's called an 'encumbered account' so they can only be used for PSPRS pension liability.

The new finance rate is 2.9% which is far better than the 7.3% rate we had been paying. Over the 17-year life of the loan we are projected to save tax payers north of \$21 million. Does this mean the pain is over? Unfortunately, no. We will see a few more years in which annual expenses related to our pension liability will increase. With the COPs our annual pension related contributions are projected to level out at an annual payment of \$5-\$5.5 million. While still a ridiculous number, it is far better than the projected \$12 million plus – depending on whose model you believe. In reality, the \$12 million estimate is far lower than our projections which pushed the number closer to \$17 million.

Are we in a better fiscal position moving forward? I would characterize it as a more stable financial outlook moving forward. We are by no means flush with cash as a result of the deal, but we aren't sinking and now have a bit more breathing room. In my mind, that's good, as long as we keep things in perspective. Remember, our costs will continue to increase over the next several years before we level off.

We had hoped to take our CON application to the Board at the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting; unfortunately, the financial part of the packet has been delayed. I have asked the Board to consider a special meeting in early October in order to seek final approval.

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### **Upcoming Events:**

Sept 20: PSPRS/PARS 115 Trust meeting, Meeting with Newport New, VA FD  
Sept 21: Recruit video recording all day, PRCC Liaison, Meet with PV Town Manager  
Sept 22: Recruit video recording all day, Meet with APS Lithium Ion Battery Storage  
Sept 23: Chief on Vacation

### **Board Meetings:**

Sept 27 Administration  
CAFMA – 1700-1830

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## **Thank you from the Central Arizona Honor Guard and Pipes & Drums**

By: Captain Jeremiah King



As you know we held the 5th annual Patriot Run on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. It was successful in both execution on the day of the event as well as with our fundraising efforts. None of this would be possible without the help of our volunteers many of which are CAFMA members and family. Please accept my sincerest gratitude for all you do to support us, our community, as well as your efforts to honor those lost on 9/11.

### **Volunteers:**

Kylee Burch  
Patty and Bill  
The Hudd  
Ivonne  
Erik and Cheryl Trujillo  
Ross and Suzette Prange  
Damian and Asher Lys  
Rob and Jamie Pruitt  
Rick Olson  
Brian Burch  
Jake McIntire  
Aaron Moore  
Steve Cruz

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## **The Power of Perspective Taking**

By: Joscelyn Duffy

What is one thing that each and every one of us has that is unique from all others? And how can we access this awareness to deepen our relationships and expand our worldview?

How we see our lives is how we live our lives. Our perspective is arguably the single greatest aspect of our uniqueness. It is also the foundation for one of the most powerful tools through which we can relate to and build relationships with others: perspective taking.

Do you know what a phoropter is? It's the device used by an optometrist to gauge your eyeglass prescription. Through an alternating series of lenses, you are asked: "Which one is better, option 1 or option 2?" There is no "right" answer, as the answer depends on the eyes of the person behind the lens.

We each have a uniquely valuable perspective on life—a lens through which we interpret our lives. Through our perspective, we define what makes sense to us, which is differentiated from how others see and experience life. However, we don't know what we don't know, and perspective taking provides a powerful tool to expand our own perspective by learning from the way others see life.

A Center for Effective Organizations study by Richard J. Boland Jr. suggests that when designing electronic communication in companies in the knowledge economy ("communities of knowing"), "the process of perspective taking may be the most crucial communication process to an organization's success."

[psychologytoday.com](http://psychologytoday.com)

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## **Chief's Desk Continued**

I understand the frustration with the current situation. It is certainly challenging for everyone. That said, thank you all for your efforts to ensure our patients continue to be our first priority. Please remember, the Lifeline/AMR crews in the field are getting their collective butts kicked as a result of the shortages. They are doing the best they can with the limited resources available to them. Please be patient when interacting, and do what you can to assist them for the best interest of the patient.

The Northwest FD loaner rescue is in service at Station 58. It's bright red, so it will be hard to miss 😊 Hopefully we can get a couple more from Mesa in October or November. As an aside, I asked Chief Niemynski to visit with Stryker about a short-term lease for four stair chairs, and a couple battery-operated stretchers. It's a work in progress, and I'm not sure of the feasibility, but it's definitely something we need to consider.

Let's shift a bit and talk about the elephant in the room – vaccine mandates. As I've said before, we are not now, nor will we mandate that you get the shot. The original edict for businesses over 100 does not apply to us because we are not a business. In addition, the State of Arizona has passed a new law as part of budget reconciliation that prohibits governmental entities from mandating the shot.

I spoke to attorney Cornelius this week. The legal recommendation he has provided to his clients is that they not immediately implement a mandate. He believes that Biden's edict is unconstitutional, and his expectation is that there will be a flood of lawsuits – a boon for the legal industry.

People need to apply the brakes and slow their roll. It's not that I don't believe "the" science; in fact, I do believe in science. That said, science is not perfect, and is continuously evolving. Decisions are being made without the necessary time or effort spent to complete thorough and thoughtful research. Everything is being done as an *emergency*. Science does not do emergencies well – it takes time. It also requires thoughtful debate where all research and theories are brought to the table in a spirit of collaboration. That has not, and is not, taking place in relation to COVID. In place of collaboration we have censorship, edicts, pressure, and fearmongering.

Do I believe in science? Yes. I believe there is significant science relating to the magic of the human body's immune system. I also believe there have been significant studies and data collected over the years to show obesity is a serious health threat. In fact, obesity is known to cause diabetes, cardiac, respiratory, and other significant ailments. Let's talk about exercise and being outside in the sun – there is science related to the positive health impacts of healthy eating and exercise.

There is significant science that existed pre-COVID which found that masks are not overly effective. In fact, after the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, a study was completed to answer the question, "Why didn't the masks work." There have also been a significant number of studies completed during COVID that show the masks have not had an impact on the spread of COVID. Interesting, and yet here we are wearing little blue masks that come from a box which clearly states, "may not, or does not prevent the spread of viruses." There is science showing that cloth masks can increase the spread of disease, as I've mentioned before, and yet, we are told to WEAR THE MASK! Why? Show me the science that suddenly contradicts years of science. If it exists, shouldn't the manufacturers remove the warning on the side of the box?

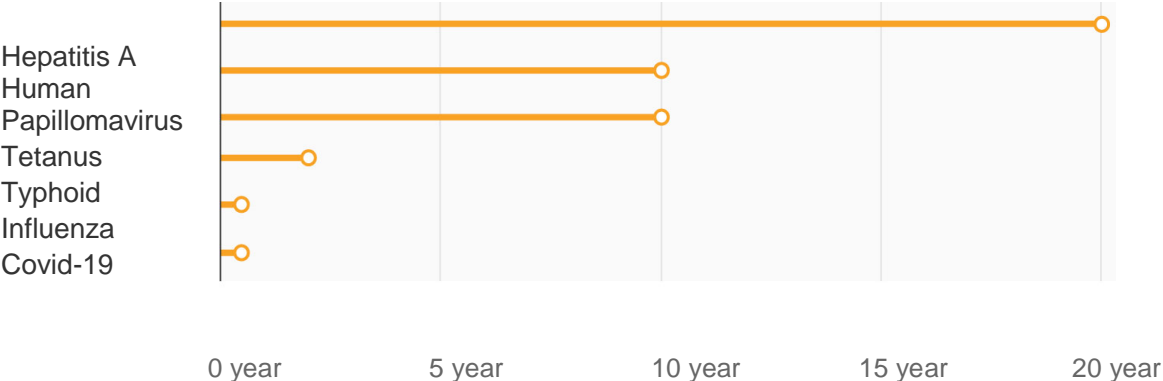
There were a couple of other questions regarding Biden's mandate, including whether or not we are considered a contractor when responding to wildfires on federal land, and will DHS move to require paramedics to get the shot. In response to the first question, our contract is with the State of Arizona, not the feds, so you will not be required to get the shot. As for the second question, no, DHS is part of State government and is therefore prohibited from mandating anyone get the shot.

Ultimately, we are staying the course. Our plan has worked better or on par with those agencies that have enacted strict mandates and lockdowns. To that end, there is no reason to change our approach. We were looking at creating our own church for the religious exemption piece, but I have not figured that one out – yet 😊 I mean, other people are making stuff up as they go, why shouldn't we?

If you want to learn more about history, follow the link below and read a doctor's take on the response to the influenza pandemic of 1918. The individual that wrote the report served on the California Health Board. Reading his findings regarding that pandemic really makes you feel like he wrote the document yesterday. I'm telling you folks, either learn from history or we are doomed to repeat it. As of today, we are repeating it by using the same half-baked ideas in response to COVID that didn't work in 1918. Guess what, it didn't work in 1918 and it doesn't work in 2020/2021 either. "Experts" "Science"

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.31378008030317&view=1up&seq=22>

**Windows of immunity for selected vaccines**



Sources: San Francisco Department of Public Health (hepatitis A); National Institutes of Health (human papillomavirus); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (tetanus, typhoid, influenza, Covid-19)