

MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 25, 2021, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive,
Prescott Valley**

In-Person Attendance

Darlene Packard; Dave Tharp; Kathy Goodman; Matt Zurcher; Owen Mills;
Rick Anderson; Scott A Freitag; Susanne Dixon

Remote Attendance

Nicolas Cornelius

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, October 25, 2021 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. Members may attend in person or via remote methods of communication.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Zurcher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Zurcher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Letters from the Public and Board Recognition

Nothing further was added.

4. REPORTS

Reports are informational only. Any item articulated in the reports is subject to clarification, discussion, and direction by the Board; no action will be taken.

A. Board Member Reports

There were no Board member reports.

B. Division Reports

Chief Freitag had nothing further to add.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

In accordance with A.R.S. §38-431.01(H) the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board has decided to allow public comments as time permits. Those wishing to address the Board regarding an issue within the jurisdiction of this public body may do so by completing a *Call to the Public* form and submitting it to Staff. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes, but may submit written comments for Board records. Call to the Public shall not exceed 30 minutes per meeting. Board members shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public, but may ask Staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda.

Mr. Eliot Pickett addressed the Board with a request to build a fire station in the Mingus West area. He stated that response times and service levels in the Mingus West and Legend Hills areas have been discussed amongst residents, and he presented a petition with signatures to the Board.

Chair Zurcher directed Staff to respond to the petition and to place the matter on a future agenda. He requested that Staff prepare a brief synopsis including potential timing and placement of a new station in Mingus West.

6. 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 - September 27, 2021
- B. Approve Special Meeting Minutes - October 12, 2021
- C. Approve Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes - October 12, 2021
- D. Approve General Fund Financial Statements
- E. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Castillo, Warren, Benson, Stazenski, and Thompson

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Owen Mills Status: Passed

Yes: Darlene Packard, Matt Zurcher, Owen Mills, Rick Anderson

7. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Attorney Cornelius joined at 5:05 p.m. via Zoom.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 5:05 p.m.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Owen Mills Status: Passed

Yes: Darlene Packard, Matt Zurcher, Owen Mills, Rick Anderson

- A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Resolution 2021-09 Authority to Proceed with the Certificate of Necessity (CON) Application Process
 - B. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(4) Regarding The Radio Guy, LLC Sublease Agreement
 - C. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Obtaining Legal Counsel on an As Needed Basis for the PSPRS Local Board
8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2021-09 Authority to Proceed with the Certificate of Necessity (CON) Application Process

Reconvened into Open Session at 6:02 p.m.

Chief Freitag provided an update on extended ambulance response time issues, including that Level Zero is still a daily occurrence. He provided a few instances from radio traffic earlier in the day, including that a Prescott Fire engine reported that a family gave up waiting for the ambulance to arrive and had to take their personal vehicle. Another call had AMR / Life Line Ambulance (AMR) marking themselves on scene when they were not. Though the problems persist and worsen, AMR management continues to emphasize that no problem exists, and the Department of Health Services (DHS) continues to agree with AMR.

Director Mills asked for further explanation regarding the term 'Level Zero'. Chief Freitag explained that he is being told that there are 4-5 staffed ambulances working the entire area, so when all five ambulances are on calls and another call comes in, AMR is then at Level Zero: no ambulances available. Chief Niemynski reported that seven ambulances is the goal AMR is attempting to meet, but Staff has not seen seven available ambulances.

Chief Freitag shared that he listened to recent radio traffic and gave an example of a time when AMR went Level Zero and four calls stacked up. This is the type of example which led to the family from a Prescott Fire call to take their own personal vehicle to the hospital, as previously mentioned. He also listened to radio traffic where AMR was not reporting Level Zero because they had dispatched an ambulance from Wickenburg and from Williams; the ETA being an hour and 16 minutes. Director Mills stated that Wickenburg and Williams are not in the Quad City area. Chair Zurcher noted that both Wickenburg and Williams fall within Certificate of Necessity (CON) 62, AMR's CON that includes the Quad Cities.

Chief Freitag reminded the Board that when AMR goes Level Zero, there is an engine crew waiting on a non-critical scene, and sometimes two engine crews, if a Rescue must be dispatched. He shared an example of an engine crew waiting 51 minutes for an ambulance.

Director Mills inquired as to whether or not AMR must separate interfacility transfer units from emergency response units. Chief Freitag answered no, and gave examples of costs for interfacility transports compared to 911 transports; AMR makes more on interfacility transports. He noted that only AMR can originate interfacility transports in the region. He added that Yavapai Regional

Medical Center (YRMC) testified last week on behalf of Priority Yavapai that the hospital was receiving transport ETAs of 10 or more hours. YRMC has had to fly patients between facilities because ambulances are not available. Dignity has tried to obtain a CON twice, but the State has denied them both times.

Chief Freitag advised the Board of emails between John Valentine, AMR Regional Director, and Rob Barth, YRMC's Emergency Services Director, obtained through a public link to the Priority Yavapai hearings, wherein Mr. Valentine requests that YRMC stop asking questions about the number of units in the system and response times. Chair Zurcher encouraged the Board and public to visit CAFMA's website, www.cazfire.org, to view the emails. He further advised the Board regarding correspondence between Mr. Valentine and himself.

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-09 which is the authority to proceed with the Certificate of Necessity (CON) application process.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

Yes: Darlene Packard, Matt Zurcher, Owen Mills, Rick Anderson

- B. Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding The Radio Guy, LLC Sublease Agreement

Chair Zurcher directed Staff to reach out to the State in relation to the current lease, and to provide information regarding an intermodulation study.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Obtaining Legal Counsel on an As Needed Basis for the PSPRS Local Board

Chair Zurcher directed Staff to send out an RFP / RFQ for legal services for the PSPRS Local Board.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:17 p.m.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Rick Anderson Status: Passed

Yes: Darlene Packard, Matt Zurcher, Owen Mills, Rick Anderson