

MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of
Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 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 Dobbs; Dave Tharp; Kathy Goodman;
Matt Zurcher; Owen Mills; Rick Anderson; Scott A Freitag;
Susanne Dixson

Remote Attendance

Nicolas Cornelius

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
Chief Freitag had nothing more to add.
4. REPORTS
 - A. Board Member Reports
There were no Board member reports.
 - B. Division Reports

Chief Freitag provided an update on ambulance issues, including that Staff is seeing good engagement on ambulance-related social media posts. He believes that AMR may have added one ambulance to the number of units in the system, but it is staffed only with EMTs certified in Basic Life Support (BLS). He explained that when AMR dispatches EMTs to a call requiring paramedic care, a CAFMA paramedic must provide the care and ride in with the ambulance to the hospital. He directed the Board to CAFMA's Facebook page to read an example of AMR billing a

mother and infant for ALS treatment that CAFMA provided.

He reported that the Department of Health Services (ADHS) continues to state that AMR is meeting their standards, even though AMR continues to go Level Zero or is unable to provide the treatment that is required for certain calls. He gave an example of an engine waiting on scene for an hour and thirty-five minutes.

He also shared that Staff is working on a few ideas for connecting with the community, including a new podcast, and that he recently met with Phoenix Fire Department. Phoenix Fire shared that they have taken data to ADHS because the issues that CAFMA has been experiencing are having an impact on the State system as a whole. Chief Freitag asserted that CAFMA must receive emergency authorization to alleviate these problems.

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

Director Dobbs inquired as to whether CAFMA must ride in with the ambulance every time AMR sends BLS to an ALS call and transport is warranted. Chief Niemynski stated that CAFMA can transfer a BLS patient to a BLS ambulance crew, or an ALS patient to an ALS ambulance crew; however, CAFMA cannot transfer an ALS patient to a BLS ambulance crew.

Chief Freitag stated that AMR has reached out again regarding signing an agreement. He questioned why AMR requires a signed agreement in order to provide the services they are already supposed to provide. He conveyed that the agreement states that CAFMA would not be able to speak negatively about AMR issues, and that the agreement will not make units appear. He noted that the City of Prescott is not receiving improved service since signing an agreement with AMR; exactly as Gilbert, Mesa, Glendale, and Avondale experienced. In the case of the City of Scottsdale, AMR walked away from over \$1 million in fines and had to go to court.

Director Mills stated that AMR would like to take a CAFMA-signed agreement straight to their current Certificate of Necessity (CON) hearing. Chief Freitag agreed, and specified that a CAFMA agreement would shut down any competition in the region. He also added that AMR is set to expand their services to include in-home care and transport to doctor's offices, but it does not appear that they will increase their resources.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

6. RESPONSE TO OCTOBER 25, 2021 PUBLIC COMMENTS AS DIRECTED BY BOARD

Chief Freitag provided a report on the Mingus West request for a new fire station, including a response analysis for the previous year. Over that time, CAFMA ran 53 calls to the Mingus West - Legend Hills area. CAFMA's response time to that area is outside of standards and Staff would like to improve those; however, Staff must look at the financial side as well. He reviewed the costs associated with building and staffing a station. He noted that though the Agency does not require the Net Assessed Value to cover all of those costs, the Agency does have to be able to justify the cost of staffing a station with call volume. Staff will continue to look at future options, including a possible relocation of Station 59 closer to Mingus.

Chief Tharp joined in-person at 5:16 p.m.

Chair Zurcher opened the floor to the public.

Robert Johnson stated that he was glad there were not more calls to the area, but that he was not happy to hear they would not receive a new station. He then related ambulance response time issues to two lengthy response times in the Legend Hills area, 22 and 24 minutes, respectively. He believes those residents would want a new station and better response times. He offered his help regarding the extended ambulance response time issues.

Chief Freitag reiterated that Staff is looking at the growth in the area and is aware that a fire station will be needed someday soon. He communicated that the numbers in the response analysis are averages, meaning a 22 minute response time is possible, but it was averaged with all response times. Staff can look into the calls mentioned to see why the response time was extended.

Mr. Johnson inquired as to how many calls CAFMA would have to run annually in order to warrant another fire station. Chief Freitag responded that the Agency is looking at the entire area, including Coyote Springs and out 89A, and though Staff does not have a specific call number at this time, they are considering the heat index, call locations, and reliability rating every month.

Mr. Johnson inquired as to when the GIS report was taken. Chief Tharp replied that the information from Yavapai County is the Net Assessed Valuation Report for individual parcels, received in March of 2021, and the

analysis was provided by CAFMA's GIS / Records Management Specialist in October 2021.

Chief Freitag encouraged the public to continue communicating with Staff, and expressed that Staff would be willing to meet regularly with a citizen's committee, if one was created.

There was an inquiry as to whether it is CAFMA's goal to take over EMS. Chief Freitag responded that the goal is to work with private partners in order to supplement the 9-1-1 system.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - October 25, 2021
- B. Approve Executive Session Minutes - October 25, 2021
- C. Approve General Fund Financial Statements
- D. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Ramos, Rennie, and McGahey

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

8. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was waived.

- A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding OSHA COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing; Emergency Temporary Standard

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding OSHA COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing; Emergency Temporary Standard

Chief Freitag stated that this agenda item was added when the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mandate was announced; however, at this time, there is an injunction halting the mandate.

Attorney Cornelius confirmed that Staff is on top of the issue. There is not a standing concern at this time. He recommended that the Board consider what they would like to see in terms of a plan in the event that action needs to be taken.

Chief Freitag expressed concern that the Agency will lose at least 10% of its workforce if a mandate becomes permanent. That would mean closing stations, which is not the in the best interest of the community.

Chair Zurcher stated that the Board will remain close to this issue.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:38 p.m.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

Signature indicating approval on next page.

**Signature Page For: 2021 11 18 CEA Regular Minutes - Approved - Central
Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors - CA Regular Meeting -
12/16/2021**

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 "P".

Darlene Packard , Board Clerk 12/17/2021