

MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Chino Valley Fire District Board of Directors
Monday, April 25, 2022, 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge
Drive, Prescott Valley**

In-Person Attendance

Cyndy Dicus; Cynthia Gentle; Dave Tharp; Kathy Goodman; Scott A Freitag;
Susanne Dixon

Remote Attendance

Lorette Brashear; Nicolas Cornelius

Not In Attendance

Dave Dobbs; Owen Mills

NOTICE OF MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Dicus called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Dicus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - March 28, 2022

B. Approve General Fund Financial Statements

C. Approve Bond Debt Service Financials

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Move: Cynthia Gentle Second: Lorette Brashear Status: Passed

Yes: Cyndy Dicus, Cynthia Gentle, Lorette Brashear

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Direction to Staff Regarding the Budget Process and Draft Budget Update

Chief Tharp reminded the Board of the four budget options, explained the percentage of Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), and asked the members for direction regarding a tax rate increase, or alternatively, for reductions in the

budget. He also reminded the Board that citizens have already incurred an increase due to the assessment ratio on their property taxes; a tax increase would be in addition to what they have been assessed. He recommended a 2-cent increase at minimum as that was what was forecasted; however, the amount of increase is at the discretion of the Board. Once a tentative budget is approved in May, it cannot be increased.

Chair Dicus inquired as to the dollar amount associated with the 2-cent increase. Chief Tharp responded that it would raise about \$30,000, but noted that this Board must work in conjunction with the Central Yavapai Fire District Board.

Director Gentle asked for clarification regarding the 3% COLA for a 3-cent tax increase. Chief Tharp noted that that would require that Central Yavapai to take on a 5.5-cent increase. He also explained that the Agency did not provide a COLA last year as the new wage scales were being implemented. Some employees received significant raises, while some did not receive anything above their regular merit increase as they were already in the new wage scale. He added that a health insurance subsidy and assignment pay for medics increased last year as well.

Chief Freitag added that the Agency started moving into the 75th percentile last year, but that was just to move into the market. CAFMA should have already been in the 75th percentile. He then reminded the Board of significant cost of living challenges in the area.

Chair Dicus asked the Board which COLA they would like the to consider. Director Gentle recommended the 3% option.

Chief Freitag articulated that the Board should recommend what they are comfortable with, and reminded members that this is the first year in a long time that Chino Valley has had capacity to increase the tax rate. He also commented that the Agency has seen a significant increase in costs, including fuel, workers' compensation, Dispatch costs, and more, and that the COLA is not the sole reason behind a tax rate increase.

Chair Dicus inquired as to what the tax rate increase would look like if the Board decided to go with a 2% COLA; Chief Freitag responded that a 3% COLA would be 3.28, and Chief Tharp answered that a 2% COLA would equal a 2-cent increase.

Attorney Cornelius reiterated that if the Board is interested in a higher number, then the Board should approve the higher number because members can always decrease the amount; however, members cannot increase after approval.

Director Brashear stated that she is comfortable with the 3% COLA.

Motion to continue looking at the budget for the 3% COLA.

Move: Cynthia Gentle Second: Lorette Brashear Status: Passed

Yes: Cyndy Dicus, Cynthia Gentle, Lorette Brashear

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 4:20 p.m.

Move: Cynthia Gentle Second: Lorette Brashear Status: Passed

Yes: Cyndy Dicus, Cynthia Gentle, Lorette Brashear

DRAFT