

MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors
CA Regular Meeting
Monday, June 27, 2022, 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;
Rick Anderson; Scott A Freitag; Susanne Dixon

Remote Attendance

Nicolas Cornelius

NOTICE OF MEETING

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. County and Town Current Events Summaries

Together, Town of Prescott Valley Councilmen Packard and Kinsinger presented an update on the Town of Prescott Valley, which included a report on housing permits, preliminary and final development plans, and rezoning information. New businesses include Lindo Mexico, Crumbl Cookie, Joint Chiropractic, and C-A-L-Ranch. Businesses that are coming soon include Bosa Donuts, Five Guys, Jersey Mike's, and Credit Union West. They also reported that the Town of Prescott Valley and Yavapai County will work together to resurface the Prescott East Highway. Along with the resurfacing, they have received complaints that speeders seem to be an issue on Prescott East Highway, so speed bumps are being considered. There will not be a Council meeting in July; meetings will resume in August.

B. 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 congratulated Firefighter Kyle Lund (in attendance) for completing his Acting Engineer packet. He then reported that HB2609, the ambulance reform bill, passed last week. He thanked Senate President Fann for her help. He also reported that the ballot referral for the 1/10 cent sales tax was successful and it will be on the ballot this November. He will coordinate with the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona (PFFA) regarding the best way to disseminate information moving forward. He also added that the entire Executive Board for the Union Chapter resigned, so the Union Local is searching for replacements. President Ben Roché and Shaun Jones will be Agency contacts for the time being. He conveyed the importance of maintaining a good Labor/Management relationship.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - May 23, 2022

B. Approve General Fund Financial Statements

C. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Hayes, Savage, Wall-Friedel, Crayton, Martinez, and Saul

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

7. PUBLIC HEARING - FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET

Chair Zurcher opened the Public Hearing at 5:11 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Chair Zurcher closed the Public Hearing at 5:11 p.m.

8. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session at 5:12 p.m.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Rick Anderson Status: Passed

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

A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) Regarding Fire Chief's Evaluation

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Fire Chief's Evaluation

Reconvened into Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

Chair Zurcher thanked all Board members that submitted applications, including Director Gordon of the Central Yavapai Fire District, and then gave direction to

Staff that Chief Freitag is eligible for a merit increase. He also announced that Chief Freitag will be receiving the 2022 Chief Officer of the Year Award from the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA).

- B. Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board Vacancy

Chief Freitag reported that Director Mills resigned from the Chino Valley and CAFMA Fire Boards. He stated that the Chino Valley Board has decided that applications will be due by July 20th, 2022 and candidate interviews will be held at the Administration building on July 25th at 4:00 p.m. He reminded the Board that Chair Dicus and Director Gentle both have family members that work for CAFMA so they are ineligible for appointment to CAFMA.

Clerk Packard inquired as to whether it is a requirement for CAFMA to have two members from one District Board and three from the other. Chief Freitag responded that the agreement states that there must be two members from each District, with CAFMA appointing the 5th member. Chair Zurcher confirmed the process the Board takes when appointing a member.

- C. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2022-03 and FY 2022-2023 Final Budget and 5-Year Projection

Chief Tharp explained that the final budget before the Board has not changed since last month's tentative budget approval. He further explained the State of Arizona is requiring all Fire Districts to use a new form for budget submissions which auto-calculates the District's 5-year projection. He reported that the new form does not correctly calculate the Agency's 5-year projection, so Staff has also included the Agency form that has been used in previous years. He noted that there is a 7% increase over the next couple years, which is due to a projected increase in personnel needed to staff stations.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-03 and Fiscal Year 2022-2023 final budget and 5-year projection.

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

- D. Discussion and Possible Approval of Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Fiscal Certification for Fiscal Year Budget 2022-2023

Chief Tharp stated that Fiscal Certification is required by law and specifies that the Agency is not spending more money than it brings in, that the budget is balanced, and that the Agency is fiscally responsible. He also noted that the auditors will review the documents as well to ensure the Agency has not overextended itself.

Motion to approve the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Fiscal Certification for Fiscal Year budget 2022-2023.

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

- E. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2022-04 Assignment of Equity for Fiscal Year 2023

Chief Tharp explained that this document helps codify what each District Board has already agreed to as the equity assignment at the end of the fiscal year. The Chino Valley Fire District is 19.31% and the Central Yavapai Fire District is 80.69% of a \$35,294,331 budget.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-04 Assignment of Equity for Fiscal Year 2023.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

- F. Discussion and Possible Approval of 100% of Vacation and Sick Leave Retirement Distributions be Placed into Employee's Post Employment Health Plan (PEHP) for FY 2022-2023

Chief Tharp reminded the Board that the membership gets to decide annually how much of their funding is allocated towards Post Employment Health (PEHP) and sick leave payout upon separation from the organization. After polling the members that are looking to retire, or will be eligible to retire, all have unanimously requested that 100% of sick leave and vacation time be allocated into the PEHP account that is for premium only.

Motion to approve 100% of vacation and sick leave retirement distributions to be placed into employee's Post Employment Health Plan (PEHP) for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

- G. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2022-05 Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Pension Funding Policy

Chief Tharp stated that as required by law, the Agency must put forward a proposal for paying off PSPRS. He noted that he included the most recent actuarial report that shows that the two District's totals were only 69% funded; however, after the distribution of the Certificates of Participation (COP) in September, the funding level is now at approximately 94.6%. He expressed that due to the support of the Board, the organization was able to get out from under the PSPRS debt and maintain financial viability.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-05 PSPRS Pension Funding Policy.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

- H. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2022-06 and Adoption of Fee Schedule

Chief Freitag reported that from July 1, 2021 to mid-week last week, CAFMA had to provide a paramedic for patient care and transport in an AMR/Life Line Ambulance (AMR) 998 times. He explained that this number is specifically for when an AMR unit shows up staffed only with EMTs to a call requiring paramedic-level care, and explained the difference between a CAFMA paramedic riding in along with an AMR Paramedic in order to provide the appropriate level of care, and a CAFMA paramedic riding in because AMR is not properly staffing ambulances.

A CAFMA paramedic does not get to decide when to turn patient care over to an EMT; medical control makes that decision and the paramedic on scene has to have that approval. He reported that he inquired of Attorney Cornelius as to whether or not the Agency is in violation of the State gift clause by subsidizing a private company in providing a paramedic each time that AMR does not. AMR charges their rates with no differentiation between Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS), and charge mileage, but it is a CAFMA paramedic providing care that AMR is not providing and the Agency is not being reimbursed. He further reported that CAFMA crews that must ride into the hospital are spending 2 - 2.5 hours out of service.

He noted that there used to be a good faith paramedic ride-in fee years ago, but it has not been in place for some time. He worked with the Chief of Prescott Fire to decide upon a market rate charged for paramedic ride-in due to an assigned BLS ambulance transport requiring a paramedic. Staff based the CAFMA's market rate off of the Agency's contract with the State for a Type 1 engine and associated crew members.

He explained the two choices before the Board, an hourly rate or a flat rate, and the differences between the two. In speaking with Attorney Cornelius, he does not believe that there needs to be an agreement between CAFMA and AMR; instead, Staff may invoice the company. He further stated that there will not be a back charge, but suggested choosing a date of July 15, 2022 to begin moving forward with invoicing. If the Board approves a change to the Fee Schedule, he recommended direction to Attorney Cornelius to send notice to AMR.

Clerk Packard stated that if AMR is not running their business, and it creates a problem for CAFMA, then CAFMA needs to be sure that AMR understands what it is costing the Agency.

Chief Freitag stated that AMR is aware of the Fee Schedule conversation as it has been public, and Mr. John Valentine of AMR was included on an email regarding the issue.

Attorney Cornelius stated that Mr. Valentine responded to Chief Freitag's email, wherein Mr. Valentine points out that CAFMA has never invoiced AMR, AMR's billing department codes calls based on the level of treatment provided and the documentation provided in what is called an 'encounter form'. He asserted that if a CAFMA paramedic has to ride in due to AMR staffing only EMTs, and it is disclosed on an 'encounter form', then AMR can bill it as an ALS call, and if CAFMA invoices for that service, then AMR can pay it. Depending on the Board's

decision today, he will correspond with Mr. Valentine accordingly.

Director Dobbs inquired as to whether or not CAFMA paramedics are using CAFMA or AMR equipment and supplies on these calls. Attorney Cornelius responded that Agency paramedics are using Agency equipment and supplies.

Engineer/Paramedic Smith stated that the primary differentiation between ALS and BLS is the drug box and the tubes; paramedics administer a number of medications that an EMT cannot. An AMR BLS ambulance may have a drug box, but it will be locked and inaccessible as no paramedic is on board, so CAFMA paramedics are using CAFMA medications and some equipment. Chief Freitag noted that though he is not privy to how AMR charges, he believes that AMR charges for EKG paper and leads, as well as the actual cost of a CAFMA paramedic. At no time has CAFMA been reimbursed for these services or equipment. He reiterated that CAFMA medical control makes the decision as to whether or not a paramedic can transfer patient care to an EMT.

Engineer/Paramedic Smith concluded by stating that AMR BLS ambulances have become so common that he now must assume that one will show up for all calls, and he shared a story of attending a call where he pulled one of his crew to ride in the ambulance with him, only to get in and realize that the AMR ambulance did have a paramedic and his additional crew member was not needed. He also noted that there are times when the ambulance is showing as an ALS unit, but when they arrive on scene, it is staffed only with EMTs.

Director Anderson confirmed that CAFMA crews must account for the medications and supplies that they use, and that the fee options before the Board cover those amounts. Chief Feddema added that the Agency has an agreement with YRMC to pay for medications.

Engineer/Paramedic Smith verbalized that in covering for AMR's lack of a paramedic, fuel is also an added expense, as well as wear and tear on the engine. He shared that from his Station, his crew has about a three-hour turnaround in a Type 1 Engine and must refuel each time. Battalion Chief Davis reiterated the amount of time and resources that it takes to have a CAFMA paramedic ride into the hospital on an AMR ambulance due to AMR staffing only EMTs.

Director Anderson stated that CAFMA should be paid for the services the Agency is providing.

Chair Zurcher inquired as to whether or not Staff will also be sending the invoices to the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS). Chief Freitag stated that AZDHS will be made aware of the invoicing, and added that he has already spoken to the EMS Bureau Chief.

Chair Zurcher stated that he prefers the \$550.00 flat rate option. All Board members agreed.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-06 and the adoption of Fee Schedule using option two (2) \$550.00 flat rate.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

- I. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Use Contingency Funds for our Workers' Compensation Assessment for FY 2022 in the amount of \$375,730

Chief Freitag stated that the legislature put forward some money towards workers' compensation; however, those monies were solely related to COVID and went to the Industrial Commission. Securis will notify Staff as to how much of the rate is related to COVID, and at that time the Agency can go to the Industrial Commission to request reimbursement. Until such time, Staff is recommending that the Board approve these contingency funds now as the assessment payment is due by the end of the month.

Chief Tharp added that the funds that the legislature put forward are purely based on ARPA funds; the money is not coming from the State's General Fund. It may be three to six months or more before the Agency has the funds in hand.

Motion to approve the use of contingency funds in the amount of \$375,730 for the Fiscal Year 2022 workers' compensation assessment.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

10. ADJOURNMENT


Motion to adjourn at 6:06 p.m.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Rick Anderson Status: Passed

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

Signature indicating approval on next page.

Signature Page For: 2022 06 27 CEA Regular Minutes - Approved - Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors - CA Regular Meeting - 7/25/2022

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 07/26/2022