

## MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority  
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors  
CA Regular Meeting  
Monday, July 25, 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. Letters from the Public and Board Recognition**

**Chief Freitag had nothing more to add.**

### **4. REPORTS**

#### **A. Board Member Reports**

**Director Dobbs reported that he was involved with the memorial for Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sergeant Lopez, and thanked everyone for their excellent work with the memorial.**

**Chair Zurcher reported that he and Director Gordon attended the Arizona Fire District Association (AFDA) opening ceremonies where Chief Freitag was awarded Fire Chief of the Year. The two of them also attended a recent Mingus West Homeowner's Association meeting to talk about the Agency and answer questions.**

#### **B. Division Reports**

**Chief Freitag reported that the Local 3066 has appointed a new Chapter President and trustees for CAFMA; Captain Dennis Brown is the new Vice President and Firefighter Jake Thompson and Engineer Gordon Dibble are the new trustees. Vice President Brown is currently under the weather; President Ben Roché is attending today on his behalf. He articulated that Prop 310 will be**

on the ballot this November and he has reminded all employees that as long as they are in uniform they cannot support the proposition; however, they are able to provide facts.

Chief Rose reported that there is now a 6-8 foot erosion on the south side at the Training Center, and that he took pictures and sent them to Attorney Cornelius. Attorney Cornelius reported that he forwarded photos to Len Erie and included the counsel for BlueScope. He will attempt to visit and photograph the site himself on Wednesday. He requested that Staff include a regular agenda item for CARTA drainage issues.

Chair Zurcher stated that he would like to be present when Attorney Cornelius completes a walk-through. He also inquired as to whether the repairs were within the last year; Attorney Cornelius answered in the affirmative. Chair Zurcher requested that the same agenda item be added to the Central Yavapai Fire District Board agenda as well.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

**There were no public comments.**

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - June 27, 2022
- B. Approve Executive Session Minutes - June 27, 2022
- C. Approve General Fund Financial Statements
- D. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Del Grosso, Eranio, Moore, and Bennett
- E. Approve Policy Amendments: 192 Social Media; 203.5 DUI Second Chance; 402 Compensation

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Dave Dobbs Status:

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

7. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Executive Session was waived.**

- A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(4) Regarding the SpeedConnect Sublease Agreement
- B. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(5) Regarding New PSPRS Legislation Extending the DROP Program to Seven Years

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the SpeedConnect Sublease Agreement

**Attorney Cornelius updated the Board regarding contract negotiations with SpeedConnect; specifically, that SpeedConnect has requested a reduction in the coverage limits on the insurance policy to which CAFMA would be added as a co-insured. CAFMA had requested \$3 million in coverage; however,**

**SpeedConnect's internal protocol is \$2 million. Attorney Cornelius advised SpeedConnect in writing that the matter would have to go before the Board.**

**Chair Zurcher reminded the Board that he has recused himself from this topic due to a conflict.**

**Chief Tharp articulated that \$3 million requirement is standard across all of the Agency's contracts, to decrease the amount would be unusual. Attorney Cornelius added that he believes CAFMA tower sites are mission-critical, and the insurance is in place to cover that mission-critical asset.**

**Clerk Packard recommended staying with the \$3 million amount. Director Dobbs concurred, stating that the Agency should follow the standard. Director Anderson voiced that he sees no reason to reduce the amount below \$3 million.**

**Attorney Cornelius stated that he has his instruction and will notify SpeedConnect.**

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion and Possible Approval of Strategic Plan with Associated Goals and Objectives**

**This item was taken after item 9.F.**

**Chief Freitag invited the Board to ask questions.**

**Chief Freitag commented that the goal to be more prepared for accreditation was not completed, largely due to COVID-19 and Staff's inability to attend the required class. He stated that one goal that was accomplished that was very important to our members was our behavioral health goal. He reported that membership has been more accepting of coming forward when help is needed. He also praised Chief Feddema's work with the Mighty Oaks Foundation.**

**Chief Freitag noted that the Goals and Objectives format has changed thanks to Administration Manager Dixon. Regarding the 22-23 objectives, in addition to the format being changed, he pointed out that Tech Services is impacted significantly by goals for every division. He will meet with Chief Rose to identify future needs for the Tech Services division.**

**He then explained the reasoning behind inviting Prescott Fire to the table regarding CAFMA's Strategic Planning.**

**Motion to approve the Strategic Plan and associated goals and objectives.**

**Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Rick Anderson Status: Passed**

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

- B. Discussion and Possible Approval to Purchase a Diesel Generac Generator Not to Exceed \$65,000**

**Chief Rose provided a brief history of the generators, and stated that this**

**generator is in the Capital Plan. He reported that there is a need for Tech Services to be able to remotely access the generators on the mountains; it can be a quick fix using a phone.**

**Chair Zurcher inquired as to if there are issues with supply chain. Chief Rose responded that it will be about a year.**

**Motion to approve the purchase of a diesel Generac generator not to exceed \$65,000.**

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

- C. Discussion and Possible Approval to Purchase Two LIFEPAK 15 Units for \$64,303.09

**Chief Freitag stated that it is now taking six months to a year to get monitors. This is a budgeted item and he would like to take advantage of a special price and supply chain issues. It is over the original budget number, which is why this is before the Board.**

**Motion to approve the purchase of two LIFEPAK 15 units for \$64,303.09.**

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

- D. Discussion and Possible Action to Purchase Three 2022 Dodge RAM 2500 4x4 Pickup Trucks as Outlined in the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Plan

**Chair Zurcher inquired as to how long it will take to get the trucks once ordered. Chief Rose responded that the trucks are currently in stock; one is at the dealership, and the two others should be available at the beginning of August. One is for the Tech Services Manager and the remaining two are for Prevention. He reported that these vehicle are slightly higher than Staff budgeted, but they are available and it has been difficult to locate available vehicles over the last two years.**

**Chief Tharp requested that the motion include not to exceed \$210,000 for all three vehicles, and for any amount over the budgeted amount to be from contingency.**

**Motion to approve the purchase of three 2022 Dodge RAM 2500 4x4 trucks not to exceed \$210,000 for all three, with any additional funds above the budgeted \$180,000 to come from Contingency.**

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

- E. Discussion and Possible Approval to Purchase a 2022 UTV and Trailer Not to Exceed \$40,000

Chief Rose stated that the overall plan was to get four UTVs, two for Battalion 3 and two for Battalion 6; the Agency currently has three, this will be the fourth. Those will then be placed on a 10-year replacement schedule. This trailer has almost tripled in cost from a year and a half ago. He requested approval to purchase in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, with any funds over the budgeted amount to come from Contingency.

Chief Freitag added that Staff will be looking at the Agency's Capital Replacement plan and will delay any purchases that are not necessary.

Motion to approve the purchase of a 2022 UTV and trailer not to exceed \$50,000, with any additional funds above the \$33,000 budgeted amount taken from Contingency.

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

- F. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding New PSPRS Legislation Extending the DROP Program to Seven Years

**This was taken directly after item 8.A.**

Chief Freitag advised the Board that PSPRS has extended the DROP program from five years to seven years. CAFMA has 18 members in DROP currently who would be eligible for a waiver to extend their current contract from five to seven years. He invited Local 3066 President Ben Roché to speak on the matter.

President Roché advised the Board that the DROP legislation was driven by law enforcement to assist with recruitment and retention and firefighters were in favor of the change; it was endorsed by the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona (PFFA). The intent of the legislation was to offer the extension to all members, and while he recognizes that this new law creates disparity between CAFMA member groups, he asserted that disparity already exists due to ever-changing retirement laws. He has had conversations with past and present members and voiced that the Agency should take advantage of every benefit for its members. He recommends that the Board allow the DROP extension, as well as allow the promotions that have already been offered to stand.

Chief Freitag stated that the DROP was put into place so that organizations could plan, which is what CAFMA has done. Prior to hearing about legislation, the Agency hired for Captain Prange's position. CAFMA has lost more people than it has hired, so this does not impact staffing levels from that perspective. Captain Prange is the only person that meets the new extension requirements.

He continued, stating that Staff is leaning towards the Union recommendation; however, the Agency cannot move forward in promoting to positions that do not exist. He asserted that those that promoted immediately prior to the legislation will have positions available to them, but they will be delayed. He suggested that the other members in DROP would be given a 30-day window to opt-in. He further requested that if the extension is approved, the 10-10 match program would not follow, it would end at five years, per policy. To summarize his

**recommendation:**

- 1. Decisions regarding promotions remains with Fire Chief.**
- 2. Members have 30-days to opt-in.**
- 3. 10-10 match stays at five years, per policy.**

**Attorney Cornelius stated that the Chief's suggestions fall within his purview as the Fire Chief. He suggested to the Board that Administration should have the authority to make those changes, to the extent that it does not negatively impact the budget. These are not mandatory changes to the statute; some agencies are not offering the extension to members already in the DROP. He recommended consistency.**

**Chair Zurcher asked if a resolution is necessary. Attorney Cornelius advised that Staff can present a resolution for signature at a future meeting, if the Board so chooses.**

**Chief Freitag asked for direction from the Board as to whether or not they are agreeable to offering the waivers to the 18 members currently in DROP. PSPRS does not have the accounts set up, but expects it to be complete next January.**

**President Roché clarified that Labor is not looking to take away the Fire Chief's authority; instead, they would like the opportunity to sit down and discuss other options before the promotions are rescinded. Chair Zurcher asserted that that is between Labor and Chief Freitag. President Roché further stated that he has spoken with many fire districts and they are all considering offering the waivers.**

**Director Anderson stated that he does not feel the Board has a place in any personnel issues, as those are under the Fire Chief's purview. He agrees with the Chief and the Union's stance. They have an opportunity to extend it, and 30 days is a fair amount of time to opt-in.**

**Clerk Packard stated that she knows that Chief Freitag and Senior Staff have put a lot of thought into it.**

**Director Dobbs is in favor of offering the opportunity to extend, and believes that Labor/Management should work towards a solution. He hopes that those in the promotional process would not lose their spot. Chief Freitag responded that the eligibility list is good until January, and there should be three openings before November.**

**President Roché thanked the Board for listening. Chair Zurcher inquired as to if President Roché is on board with Staff's recommendation; he responded in the affirmative.**

**Motion to extend the DROP program to seven years (waivers to 18 existing) with the two Staff recommendations, a 30-day decision period and dropping the 10/10 match after five years.**

**Move: Darlene Packard Second: Rick Anderson Status: Passed**

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn at 6:06 p.m.**

Move: Dave Dobbs Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

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