



Central Yavapai / Chino Valley / Central Arizona Fire and Medical

Monday, April 28, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive, Prescott Valley

Present:

Dave Dobbs, Nick Planch, Lorette Stewart, Toby Ebarb, Gayle Pickett, Andy Reinhardt, Andrea Sansone, Troy Skipper, Lee Barnes, Nicolas Cornelius, Susanne Dixon, John Feddema, Denise Krizo, and Cody Rose

Absent:

Jodie Denike and Cyndy Dicus

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Chino Valley Fire District
Director Stewart conducted roll call for Chino Valley Fire District.
Chair Dobbs attended remotely via Teams.
- B. Central Yavapai Fire District
Clerk Reinhardt conducted roll call for Central Yavapai Fire District.
- C. Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Clerk Reinhardt conducted roll call for Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pickett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

4. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session at 4:03 p.m.

Moved by: Lorette Stewart

Seconded by: Nick Plancich

Yes Dave Dobbs, Nick Plancich, Lorette Stewart,
Toby Ebarb, Gayle Pickett, Andy Reinhardt,
Andrea Sansone, and Troy Skipper

Passed 8-0

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Attorney Cornelius admonished the Board and those in attendance that matters discussed in Executive Session are to be maintained as confidential and should not be discussed outside of Executive Session. Executive Session is an opportunity for the Board to consult with legal counsel regarding legal matters related to the function of the Agency and to request legal advice. Executive Session is not an opportunity to poll the Board or to hold a vote.

- A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Amending the Joint Powers Authority Agreement (JPA) to Extend Authority for Hiring/Firing of the Fire Chief to All Board Members
- B. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) Regarding Performance Evaluation for Interim Fire Chief John Feddema

6. OLD BUSINESS

Public session reconvened at 4:18 p.m.

- A. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Central Yavapai Fire District Resolution 2025-02 Amending the Joint Powers Authority Agreement (JPA) to Extend Authority for Hiring/Firing of the Fire Chief to All Board Members

Chair Pickett asked if there was any discussion before a motion would be made.

Director Ebarb stated that after hearing from legal counsel and a few other members, he believes all the members would like to approve the new Joint Powers Authority Agreement (JPA) allowing all 10 members to have a vote in hiring, firing or disciplining of the Fire Chief.

Chair Pickett disagreed; she is against it and believes having too many involved would create havoc. It should be up to the CAFMA Board.

Director Sansone questioned if the right to vote on the hiring, firing or discipline of the fire chief is supported by statute. Attorney Cornelius answered in the affirmative. That is the language in statute related to fire districts.

Director Plancich asked what the process was when CAFMA was created. Attorney Cornelius answered that Chief Freitag was originally employed by Chino Valley Fire District; Central Yavapai Fire District entered into Joint Management Agreement (JMA) with Chino Valley Fire District, hiring Chief Freitag on a part-time basis. Tax rates were too far apart to combine the agencies, so the JPA was created. At that time, all 10 board members participated in bringing him on as the Chief for CAFMA.

Director Ebarb commented that he's heard comments about bringing the two agencies together. Attorney Cornelius said that would be a matter for the boards to discuss.

Chief Feddema added that we have been discussing merging the two agencies, however, the priority at this time is to get through the budget process. The rates are still at a discrepancy, but we will seek guidance from the boards after the budget has been approved.

Director Ebarb asked how many board members would be involved if a merger were to happen. Attorney Cornelius answered that the boards will make that determination at a later time, it is something to be addressed after the budget is completed. He conveyed that Chair Dobbs texted that we are off the agenda.

Director Ebarb pointed out that it relates to the JPA because the merger will be moved down the road to a different board that some current members will participate in, while some won't.

Chief Feddema noted that a merger or consolidation is a goal but not necessarily something that may happen.

Attorney Cornelius verified that the next board elections are in November 2026.

Clerk Reinhardt commented that last week Mr. Lewis from the recruitment firm, Bob Murray & Associates, discussed forming a sub-committee with four (4) board members, but he was unable to complete his question due to Chair Pickett advising him that he was off topic.

The board members were given a few minutes to review the amended language in the JPA.

Director Sansone asked for clarification regarding the wording in the last paragraph of the resolution; Attorney Cornelius specified that all of the standard administrative functions that the fire chief participates in and are overseen by the fire board would remain with the CAFMA board. He concluded that the JPA can be amended as laws change, it is not carved in stone.

Motion to approve the JPA to Extend Authority for Hiring/Firing of the Fire Chief to All Board Members.

Moved by: Toby Ebarb

Seconded by: Troy Skipper

Yes	Toby Ebarb, Andy Reinhardt, Andrea Sansone, and Troy Skipper
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No	Gayle Pickett
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Passed 4-1

- B. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Chino Valley Fire District Resolution 2025-07 Amending the Joint Powers Authority Agreement (JPA) to Extend Authority for Hiring/Firing of the Fire Chief to All Board Members

Director Stewart asked if there was any discussion.

There were no comments.

Motion to approve the JPA to Extend Authority for
Hiring/Firing of the Fire Chief to All Board Members

Moved by: Nick Plancich

Seconded by: Dave Dobbs

Yes Dave Dobbs, Nick Plancich, and Lorette
Stewart

Passed 3-0

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Performance Evaluation for Interim Fire Chief John Feddema

Director Ebarb stated that although his involvement is limited, he completed an evaluation. He believes Chief Feddema is doing a fantastic job. He thanked the members that did submit an evaluation and asked about a comment written by Chair Pickett.

Chair Pickett briefly explained her comments and concluded that although Chief Feddema was put into the position on very short notice, she thinks he has done a good job.

Chief Feddema answered that the "reversing" comment Director Ebarb is referring to was probably a comment from Clerk Reinhardt. He would be happy to discuss it separately.

Director Ebarb noted that he recognizes that Chief Feddema works well with other chiefs and the community at large; he appreciates anyone who takes the initiative to learn and undergo training.

Director Sansone asked whether "reversing" is the right word, or if it is more accurate to describe the process as considering the committee's opinions, their recommendations, and

incorporating all of that into the final decision. She began another question but was unable to complete her question due to Chair Pickett stating that she didn't use the word "reverse" in her evaluation. Director Sansone said she understands and clarified that she was simply making note for general discussion so that no one takes that word as gospel regarding Chief Feddema's actions.

Chief Feddema stated that he appreciates the input from the board members. None of the final decisions were made lightly; each was carefully considered over time and ultimately reflected what he believed to be an appropriate close.

Chair Pickett asked if she could resubmit her evaluation because she felt she did not have enough time to complete it appropriately.

Director Stewart thanked Chief Feddema for his communication and for being available.

Director Sansone stated she will be submitting an evaluation since she had not previously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 4:51 p.m.

Moved by: Lorette Stewart

Seconded by: Nick Plancich

Yes Dave Dobbs, Nick Plancich, Lorette Stewart,
Toby Ebarb, Gayle Pickett, Andy Reinhardt,
Andrea Sansone, and Troy Skipper

Passed 8-0

Approved on: 05/23/2025 12:28AM UTC

Gayle Pickett

Clerk CEA

R. H.

Clerk CEY

Dave Dobbs

Clerk CHV

Document Reference : 43825076-b7fb-45e5-b2f5-87a5468a30ee

Document Title : 2025 04 28 Joint Regular Minutes - Approved

Document Region : Northern Virginia

Sender Name : Denise Krizo

Sender Email : dkrizo@cazfire.gov

Total Document Pages : 7

Secondary Security : Not Required

Participants

- 1. Susanne Dixon (sdixson@cazfire.gov)
- 2. Dave Dobbs (ddobbs@cazfire.gov)
- 3. Andy Reinhardt (areinhardt@cazfire.gov)
- 4. Gayle Pickett (gpickett@cazfire.gov)

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