



Minutes

Special Meeting of the Central Yavapai Fire District and Chino Valley Fire District

Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration

8603 E. Eastridge Drive, Prescott Valley

Present:

Jodie Denike, Cyndy Dicus, Dave Dobbs, Lorette Stewart, Toby Ebarb, Gayle Pickett, Andy Reinhardt, Andrea Sansone, Troy Skipper, Lee Barnes, Nicolas Cornelius, Susanne Dixon, Denise Krizo, and Cody Rose

Absent:

Nick Plancich and John Feddema

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Clerk Dobbs, Attorney Cornelius, and Jon Lewis attended the meeting remotely via Teams.

A. Chino Valley Fire District

Chair Pickett called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Director Stewart conducted roll call for Chino Valley Fire District.

B. Central Yavapai Fire District

Clerk Reinhardt conducted roll call for Central Yavapai Fire District.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pickett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Dicus asked Attorney Cornelius if Labor Representatives could be present during executive session.

Attorney Cornelius answered that he did not recommend that and expressed that the Board has the responsibility to determine the best candidates. He also stated that Labor will be involved in the interview panels.

Director Denike questioned why Labor could not be a part earlier in the process to which Attorney Cornelius answered that the board's decision is separate and apart plus there is a concern about maintaining confidentiality. The panel interviews are different from this meeting; this is a preliminary review, explanation of the process and the selection process of the applicants.

Clerk Dobbs asked at what point the information becomes public.

Mr. Jon Lewis from Bob Murray & Associates, explained that the industry standard is that this is a preliminary discussion and candidates names are kept confidential. Typically, the public becomes aware at the point where the candidates are invited to in-person interviews; this gives candidates the opportunity to tell their employer.

Director Sansone asked if requesting Labor's involvement is typical. Mr. Lewis answered that he has not seen it before.

Director Denike asked the labor representatives what their expectations are if they were allowed to stay for executive session.

Local 3066 President Roche responded that he has been in various executive sessions with this board in previous versions and anybody in executive session should be held to the same standards as the board members, meaning he would not be able to talk with the members about the list. It will give Labor the opportunity to discuss all 32 candidates with the board regarding reputation, working relationships, or if Labor has heard bad things about a particular candidate. They are just asking to be a part of the conversation.

Director Ebarb asked if it is appropriate to bring Labor in at this time since Labor will be in the process at some point. Does the board make the list we

have received public or does Labor want to be involved in determining the final list?

Local 3066 President Roche said it's important because the intent is to remove some of the candidates. It would be more transparent if they saw who was eliminated and heard why.

Vice President Butler stated that he took over after everything went down. It has been a rebuilding process, but he is looking for a leader that will challenge him, so the thought of seeing someone eliminated who he could potentially partner with to push the agency forward seems like a missed opportunity.

Director Ebarb questioned what was the point of hiring a recruiter if we are going to add someone to the list that had already been eliminated by the recruiter?

There was ongoing discussion about whether to add to the finalist list or not.

Chair Pickett suggested that Mr. Lewis do his presentation, this may answer some questions and end speculation.

Mr. Lewis explained the process and criteria he used to determine the list of candidates that he recommends moving forward.

Attorney Cornelius advised that listing the names of candidates should only be done during executive session.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 5:28 p.m.

Moved by: Andrea Sansone

Seconded by: Toby Ebarb

Yes Jodie Denike, Cyndy Dicus, Dave Dobbs,
Lorette Stewart, Toby Ebarb, Gayle Pickett,
Andy Reinhardt, Andrea Sansone, and Troy
Skipper

Passed 9-0

4. 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)(1) Regarding List of Candidates to Move Forward in the Fire Chief Selection Process

5. OLD BUSINESS

Reconvened into Open Session at 6:40 p.m.

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding List of Candidates to Move Forward in the Fire Chief Selection Process

Director Ebarb confirmed that the boards are not allowed to discuss the candidates until Monday, July 14th at 5:00 p.m.

Chino Valley Fire District Director Stewart made a motion to move forward with the three candidates.

Motion seconded by Director Denike.

Central Yavapai Fire District Director Ebarb made a motion to move forward with the three candidates.

Motion seconded by Director Sansone.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Moved by: Andrea Sansone

Seconded by: Toby Ebarb

Yes Jodie Denike, Cyndy Dicus, Dave Dobbs, Lorette Stewart, Toby Ebarb, Gayle Pickett, Andy Reinhardt, Andrea Sansone, and Troy Skipper

Passed 9-0

Clerk CEY

Clerk CHV