

MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors
CA Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 23, 2024, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive,
Prescott Valley**

In-Person Attendance

Cody Rose; Dave Dobbs; Denise Krizo; Gayle Pickett; Lee Barnes; Lorette Stewart; Matt Zurcher; Rick Anderson; Scott A Freitag; Susanne Dixon

Remote Attendance

Nicolas Cornelius

NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors and the general public that the **Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority** will hold a meeting open to the public on **Monday, May 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at **Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Administration, 8603 E. Eastridge Drive, Prescott Valley, Arizona.** The Board may vote to go into Executive Session on any agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) for discussion and consultation for legal advice with Authority's Attorney on matters as set forth in the agenda item. The following topics and any variables thereto, will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items are set for possible action. Members may attend in person or via remote methods of communication.

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 mentioned that we have had a lot of support from the community regarding the Legado fire.

4. REPORTS

Reports are informational only. Any item articulated in the reports is subject to clarification, discussion, and direction by the Board; no action will be taken.

A. Board Member Reports

There were no Board member reports given.

B. Division Reports

Chief Freitag shared that he was at the Baggers meeting earlier this week where he had the opportunity to share some very positive things with the group. He added that despite the challenges we have faced in the last few years, if you look around at what we have done collectively, you should be very proud of where we are. Ours is a story of resilience and perseverance.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

In accordance with A.R.S. §38-431.01(H) the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board has decided to allow public comments as time permits. Those wishing to address the Board regarding an issue within the jurisdiction of this public body may do so by completing a *Call to the Public* form and submitting it to Staff. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes, but may submit written comments for Board records. Call to the Public shall not exceed 30 minutes per meeting. Board members shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public, but may ask Staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda.

There were no public comments.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under consent agenda are considered to be routine by the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items. Any item may be removed by a Board member and will be considered separately for motion, discussion, and action.

- A. Approve Regular Session Minutes - April 22, 2024
- B. Approve General Fund Financial Statements
- C. Approve Fire Protection Agreements: Hoback, Huerta, Moon

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Move: Gayle Pickett Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

7. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was waived.

- A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Lawsuit Filed by Alvin R. Yount
- B. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Civil Litigation Between CAFMA and AMR in Maricopa and Yavapai Counties
- C. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding CAFMA Complaint Against PSCS
- D. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Potential Improper Disclosure of Authority Confidential Information

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Lawsuit Filed by Alvin R. Yount

Attorney Cornelius stated that we received notice today that Yavapai County

Sheriff's Office and Yavapai County are out of the suit, however, Mr. Yount has been given until July 22, 2024 to file an amended complaint.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Civil Litigation Between CAFMA and AMR in Maricopa and Yavapai Counties

Attorney Cornelius stated that the action in Yavapai County has been stayed until the matter is resolved in Maricopa County. Motions to dismiss by the three parties involved have been filed; a response from AMR is due May 28, 2024.

- C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding CAFMA Complaint Against PSCS

Attorney Cornelius has not received any response to his request for an update. In his experience, this is typical when dealing with administrative agencies.

- D. Discussion and Possible Approval of Central Arizona Fire and Medical Tentative Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget, Not to Exceed \$47,098,338

Chief Rose stated that nothing has changed in the budget since the May meeting. He explained why the amount does not equal to the amounts of the Central Yavapai Fire District and Chino Valley Fire District budgets.

Motion to approve Tentative Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget, not to exceed the amount of \$47,098,338.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Lorette Stewart Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Potential Improper Disclosure of Authority Confidential Information

Attorney Cornelius notified the Board that there may have been a breach of some portion of confidential Fire District data. He has been in touch with the involved parties, and suggested we go to Executive Session if the board has questions.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 5:15 p.m.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Gayle Pickett Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

- B. Discussion and Possible Acceptance of the 2024 Joint Statement of Principles

Reconvened into open session at 5:40 p.m.

Union President Ben Roche provided printed copies of the document to the board. Chief Freitag explained how the document came into existence, and stated that a group met in 2023 to update the document. He and Union President Roche participated as contributors, and now both are asking for the board to accept these principles.

Motion to accept the 2024 Joint Statement of Principles.

Move: Gayle Pickett Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

C. Discussion Regarding Fire Chief's Evaluation

Chief Barnes noted that the Chief's self-evaluation is attached for their review.

D. Discussion and Possible Approval to Post the Facilities Technician Position Prior to July 1, 2024

Chief Rose explained that we are hiring a lot of people this year, but have no office space for them. We would like to build out space in the Administration building, this may be a two to three year process due to funding. We are looking to hire and on board for this position as quickly as possible. He added that we currently pay approximately \$30,000 on landscaping each year, and adding this position would reduce some of those expenses.

Motion to approve posting the position prior to July 1, 2024.

Move: Lorette Stewart Second: Gayle Pickett Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

E. Discussion and Direction to Staff Regarding the Development of a Fee Schedule Related to Lithium-Ion Battery Fires

Chief Freitag said that he spoke with legislators who were unaware of the dangers of lithium ion battery fires. He explained that Chief Barnes has a background in the standards for extinguishing these fires with new chemicals that work more effectively than water. However, use of these chemicals, which is similar to hazmat situations, contaminates the turnouts as does investigating a battery fire. This brings additional expenses such as cleaning turnouts, and currently there is only one place in the country that can properly decontaminate them at about \$1000, per set. As there is no cost funding for cleaning turnouts, Chief Freitag said he is seeking permission to research and add the cost of decontaminating gear to our fee schedule. Adding this fee would enable CAFMA to submit a bill for the incident, possibly recovering funds to offset costs. He would like to explore adding it under hazmat or a new resolution for a unique fee due to chemicals in the smoke.

F. Discussion and Possible Approval of Community Relations Manager and Multimedia Specialist Job Descriptions and Wage Scale

Chief Rose explained that these are new positions and include the wage scales; both are part of the staffing plan for the next two years.

Motion to approve the Community Relations Manager and Multimedia Specialist Job Descriptions and Wage Scales.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Lorette Stewart Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

- G. Discussion and Possible Approval to Purchase Two (2) New Rescues, Not to Exceed \$400,000 Each

Chief Freitag noted that we have applied for congressional funding to cover the cost of two units, however, it takes up to nine months to receive their notification. Right now, it takes two years to receive an order, so we need to make the purchase regardless.

Chief Rose explained that we have learned how much use our rescues are getting, and the timeframe from request to delivery so we need to move forward on the order. The grant amount stated includes everything except soft supplies.

Motion to approve the purchase of two new Rescues, Not to Exceed \$400,000 each.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Gayle Pickett Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

- H. Discussion and Possible Approval to Use the FY 2025 Wage Scale For the Next Firefighter Hiring Process

Chief Freitag explained that we had noted in this year's budget to hire personnel and would like to open the job posting before the new fiscal year. It is not effective to post at our much-lower rate then raise the pay rate after the board approves the final budget in June. He continued that if the board is confident with the wage scales as proposed, we would like to post the position with the new wages.

Directors Pickett and Anderson expressed their agreement.

Motion to approve use of the FY 2025 Wage Scale for the next Firefighter hiring process.

Move: Lorette Stewart Second: Gayle Pickett Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

- I. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Selection of New Audit Firm

No discussion is required at this time.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:08 p.m.

Move: Rick Anderson Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Matt Zurcher, Lorette Stewart, Rick Anderson, Gayle Pickett

Signatures indicating approval on next page.

Signature Page For: FOR SIGNATURE - 2024 05 23 CEA Regular Minutes - Approved - Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors - CA Regular Meeting - 6/24/2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Dobbs', written over a horizontal line.

Dave Dobbs , Clerk 06/25/2024