

MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors
CA Regular Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2019, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Chino Valley Town Hall, 202 N. State Route 89, Chino Valley, Arizona**

In-Person Attendance

Darlene Packard; Dave Dobbs; Dave Tharp; Jeff Wasowicz; Julie Pettit; Matt Zurcher; Scott A Freitag; Susanne Dixson

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, October 28, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the **Chino Valley Town Hall, 202 N. State Route 89, Chino 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Pettit called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pettit led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Chino Valley Town Council Report

No presentation was provided.

B. Board Members' Reports

i. Prescott Regional Communications (PRCC)

Director Wasowicz stated he attended the last Chief's meeting with Chief Feddema. He informed the Board of some changes coming soon, including a link with AMR's dispatch center in Phoenix, which will improve service in this area. Additionally, the Text 911 tool is expected to be fully launched throughout the state by June 2021. Director Wasowicz reported the billing was within budget and in normal range, with just over 1,000 calls at approximately \$35/call.

ii. Public Records Requests

Director Zurcher made note of three requests from April that are still in progress; they are very large requests for financial documents.

iii. Legal Fees

Director Zurcher reported that legal fees were routine and in the normal range.

iv. Labor / Management

Director Dobbs informed the Board that he will be meeting with Labor before November 5th, and will report on that meeting next month.

C. Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Unfunded Liability Review

Chief Tharp provided the Board information related to our PSPRS Funding Plan. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

At the end of his presentation, Chief Tharp opened the floor for questions.

Director Wasowicz asked if we have the power to develop alternative funding options?

Chief Tharp stated he would suggest using their positions as elected officials to provide education from the Board level. He has also suggested a pension bond previously; the City of Prescott passed a sales tax for pension funding, which indicates the idea of a pension bond may go well with public.

Director Wasowicz inquired if all of our funding has to come through property tax?

Chief Tharp answered yes, unless we can affect changes legislatively.

Chief Bliss clarified, adding that State law is that we can only collect property tax; he believes Chief Tharp is suggesting we have discussions at the State level to change those requirements. It's time to come up with new ideas, think outside of what we know now.

Chief Freitag added that he and Packard have been vocal with Senator Fann. He stated this is absolutely a State problem; they are assigned with the duty of overseeing the plan. A statewide tax may be more palatable as it is a State problem; however, the State wants local jurisdictions to fix the issue. We need a combined effort at the State level. The system is not fixed because of Tier 3 because they are using the same assumptions, which are wrong. There is time to fix this, but it will take legislative changes; taxpayers will need to understand we cannot continue to operate in this manner.

Chair Pettit asked Chief Tharp if he had a time frame for workshop?

Chief Tharp stated the budget process starts in December; he would like to have workshop prior to then so we can develop a funding policy prior to creating the

budget. He reminded the Board that the actuarial reports are from 2 years ago. He also reminded the Board that they have in the past requested talking points; this would be a good point for them to be knowledgeable in.

Chair Pettit expressed she is trying to avoid an additional meeting in December and asked if we can add the workshop to the meetings in December. She requested the topic be added to the November agenda to discuss further.

Director Wasowicz asked if raising the tax rate to the maximum allowed and applying all of those monies to PSPRS would resolve our funding issues?

Chief Tharp stated that is a hard sell to the public. He added that there are areas where PSPRS can change, areas we can change internally, and legislative changes we can recommend.

D. Letters from the Public

Freitag made note of an email from Andie Smith to one of our crews; a resident stopped her on the street and asked her to thank the crew for the assistance they provided to her friend. He added that our Training Division continues to do excellent work, which is seen across the State.

E. Monthly Division Reports from the Fire Chief and staff in regard to current activities of the Fire Authority and the status and progress relating thereto. Any item discussed in the Division Reports is subject to discussion and direction by the Board; no action will be taken.

Freitag reported that the meeting for the ad hoc committee that is looking at ways to reduce firefighter exposures has been moved; he will keep the Board notified when it gets scheduled. He added that the Prescott Area Leadership spent some time at CARTA; we now have 18 new advocates for our agency.

Chief Tharp had nothing to add to his report.

Chief Freitag noted for Fire Marshal Chase that we recently met with YCCA and B&W; it was a good conversation with them.

Chief Feddema stated he has a new appreciation for what Chief Polacek does, having walked in his shoes for the past month. He reported a large part of the month was taken up with physicals. We're looking at ways to continue to improve screenings, etc. to ensure the health & wellness of our employees. He added that the Training Division continues to be busy, and informed the Board that we recently held an extrication class, in which 16 outside agencies participated.

Chief Bliss had nothing to add to his report.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

In accordance with A.R.S. §38-431.01(H) and as a matter of policy, the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board has decided to allow public comments as time permits. Therefore, those wishing to address the Board regarding an issue within the jurisdiction of this public body may do so in an orderly manner that includes completing a Call to the Public

Form and submitting it to staff for the record. If a written statement is being read, please provide a copy to ensure it is entered into the record accurately. Individuals will be limited to speak for three (3) minutes and Call to the Public shall not exceed 30 minutes per meeting.

There were no public comments.

5. 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 - September 23, 2019
- B. Approve General Fund Financial Statements
- C. Approve Fire Protection Agreement -- Brandon, Anklam
- D. Approve Policy Amendments - Policy 714 Incident and Medical-EMS Reports

Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented.

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Matt Zurcher Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Darlene Packard, Julie Pettit, Jeff Wasowicz, Matt Zurcher

6. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Legal Advice Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Processing Fire Protection Agreements

Attorney Cornelius stated there was nothing new to present and Executive Session was not required.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding Processing Fire Protection Agreements

Chief Tharp reminded the Board that we asked last month for the Fire Chief or his designee to have authority to sign fire protection agreements rather than placing them on the consent agenda. The Board has approved the contract and there have been no changes. He added he hopes to get direction or a resolution allowing the Fire Chief to sign those agreements.

Attorney Cornelius explained there are some instances where renewals or contracts being are being cancelled for non-payment and need to have new contracts established; these are not new customers. He confirmed that we are talking about a form the board has already approved.

Chair Pettit stated that since the Board has approved standard contract, they should be managing exceptions, not the everyday.

Director Wasowicz added that staff does good job vetting these contracts; however, he wants to be sure this is a responsibility the Board is allowed to delegate.

Chair Pettit stated she has not seen anything that is contrary or explicitly prohibits this in Board Policy.

Attorney Cornelius will check statute to be sure nothing prohibits this.

Chair Pettit expressed she would like monthly report if we go this route.

Chief Freitag confirmed we will put this on the November agenda; staff will check the by-laws, and Attorney Cornelius will provide a statutory review.

B. Discussion Regarding Ambulance Update

Chief Freitag reported that the white paper is drafted and out for peer-review for accuracy and current relevance. He will send it to Board members once it has been reviewed and updated so they can review it in advance of the next board meeting.

He added that the Bureau opened a survey on Article 9, which closed last week. The feedback was largely along the same lines we've been requesting: basically that they need better practices.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

Yes: Dave Dobbs, Darlene Packard, Julie Pettit, Jeff Wasowicz, Matt Zurcher

Signature indicating approval on next page

Signature Page For: 2019 10 28 CEA Regular Minutes-Approved - Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors - CA Regular Meeting - 11/25/2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darlene Packard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

Darlene Packard , Board Clerk 11/26/2019