

## MINUTES

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority  
Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors  
CA Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 24, 2020, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Chino Valley Town Hall, 202 N. State Route 89, Chino Valley**

### **In-Person Attendance**

Darlene Packard; Dave Dobbs; Dave Tharp; Jeff Wasowicz; Julie Pettit;  
Kathy Goodman; Matt Zurcher; 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, February 24, 2020 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 5:20 p.m.  
Attorney Cornelius attended telephonically.**

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Chair Pettit led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Chino Valley Town Council Report

**A Town of Chino Valley representative was not present to report.**

#### B. Board Members' Reports

##### i. Prescott Regional Communications (PRCC)

**Director Wasowicz had nothing new to report, but stated that everything is going well and is on time and on budget.**

##### ii. Public Records Requests

**Director Zurcher had nothing more to add.**

##### iii. Legal Fees

**Director Zurcher had nothing more to add.**

iv. Labor / Management

**Director Dobbs had nothing new to report.**

C. Alarm Summary 2020

**Chief Bliss made note of a discrepancy in the year listed on the agenda as it should read Alarm Summary 2019.**

**Chief Bliss presented the annual CAFMA Alarm Summary Report. He stated that there has been a steady increase in calls over the past six years, with EMS increasing the most. He presented the calls by First-Due Area, Total Calls by Unit (engine) Response, and Station Response Reliability. He stressed that the 40-hour engine concept that is being presented at this meeting is necessary to cover peak hours and increase the Reliability Rating for CAFMA's busiest stations, 53 and 54. He expressed that CAFMA does not have a distribution problem, but a concentration problem, and the 40-hour engine will be a permanent solution. He continued with a Fire Incident Summary, Responses Outside the District, and a Response Time Analysis.**

**See presentation included in the agenda packet.**

D. Letters from the Public

**Chief Freitag stated that there are several nice letters from citizens and CAFMA is appreciative.**

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.

**Chief Freitag reported that CopperPoint has sent letters to municipalities with fire departments and fire districts that they cover cancelling coverage at the end of this fiscal year. He stated that the company CAFMA utilizes, 7710 Insurance, has indicated that their Districts will see a 170%-274% increase. He noted that there are two upcoming meetings, one set with Ashton Tiffany and others across the state to discuss the Workers' Compensation Trust Fund concept again, and the other with the Director of the Insurance Commission. He articulated that 7710 cannot arbitrarily raise their rates, and must go through the Insurance Commission.**

**Chief Tharp reported that there is a 10% increase in healthcare which is substantial, and a 3% increase in dental. He stated that over last four years the agency has seen small increases that, including the 10%, average out to 4.5% per year, which is way below the industry standard of 7%-9%. He noted that the agency is saving money overall.**

**Fire Marshal Chase was not present to report.**

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

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

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

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 - January 27, 2020
- B. Approve General Fund Financial Statements
- C. Approve Fire Protection Agreements - Cagliesi and Smith
- D. Approve Policy Amendments - Policy 620 Discipline

**Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented.**

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

6. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Legal Advice and Discussion Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) Regarding Ambulance Services

**Motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 5:40 p.m.**

**Attorney Cornelius corrected the listed Arizona Revised Statute on the agenda to 38-431.03(A)(4).**

**Executive Session adjourned at 5:54 p.m.**

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Matt Zurcher Status: Passed

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Motion, Discussion and Action to Select a Vendor to Fulfill the Arizona Department of

Homeland Security (AZDOHS) Grant #190503-01 for \$28,800 for Ballistic Personal Protective Equipment

**Chair Pettit reconvened into Public Session at 5:55 p.m.**

**Chief Polacek explained that CAFMA was awarded a grant for personal protective equipment, specifically ballistic vests, and the agency is looking for approval to purchase for the grant amount of \$28,000.00.**

**Motion for approval to select a vendor to fulfill the Arizona Department of Homeland Security Grant #190503-01 for \$28,000.00.**

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

- B. Motion, Discussion and Action Regarding Approval to Purchase Budgeted SCBA Compressors for Amount Not to Exceed \$90,000.00

**Chief Bliss stated that this purchase is budgeted in the Capital plan. He noted that the stations are mislabeled on the quote, but the equipment is correct.**

**Motion to approve purchase of budgeted SCBA Compressors for amount not to exceed \$90,000.00.**

Move: Darlene Packard Second: Matt Zurcher Status: Passed

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

- C. Discussion and Possible Approval of 40-Hour Engine for FY 20-21

**Chief Freitag stated that while the 40-hour engine concept is being requested prior to budget approval, the agency needs the engine to address the Reliability Rating issues in Prescott Valley and to keep from running two academies this year. He stressed that CAFMA is up against a logistical and timing issue, and CAFMA does have enough money in this year's budget to hire the four additional personnel.**

**Chair Pettit requested that the CYFD Board members share their opinions.**

**Director Wasowicz inquired as to timing, and when the academy will begin. Chief Freitag responded that the academy begins in March, but if the Board waits until the budget is approved, the second academy will begin late October. The 40-hour engine concept would then go into effect in January.**

**Director Wasowicz expressed concern regarding the tax rate and inquired about hiring the four immediately since there is money in the current budget, and then deciding the 40-hour engine concept after the budget is approved.**

**Chief Freitag clarified that if the Board chooses not to move forward with the 40-hour engine, then the agency only has one spot open for an additional hire.**

**Clerk Packard stated that Prescott Valley is growing and will need a new station.**

She stated that a new station would cost upwards of \$1 million just for the building, and that an increase of \$0.6 hurts, but queried whether or not it was better to spend a little to avoid spending a lot on a station.

Director Zurcher agreed with both Director Wasowicz and Clerk Packard. He stated that CAFMA has an immediate need that needs to be filled, and the Board's job is to make hard decisions. He declared that if the concept is going to benefit public safety and the public, he is all for it.

Director Dobbs affirmed that the need is now and kicking the can down the road will not help.

Clerk Packard stated that the Board is coming into election time, but the Board has to do the right thing for the right reasons.

Chair Pettit acknowledged that the Board has a tough decision to make. She reminded the Board that one of the benefits is offsetting the overtime expenditures. She noted that bringing new personnel in now will give them an opportunity to get used to the agency and what is expected of them.

Chief Bliss stated that the agency is trying to fix too many things at once, including staffing, the Capital plan, the ongoing PSPRS discussion, Workers' Comp, and other things that come up. He noted that in terms of tax rates the agency has been able to stick with the plan that has been presented. He stated that the new 40-hour engine concept is stressing that ability, but CAFMA has a projection that includes as much as the agency can foresee. He stressed that the agency is looking at a specific, focused problem that has been growing: the Reliability Rating in Prescott Valley. He affirmed that the cost will be about \$0.6-\$0.7 to the taxpayer, but that the agency may be able to put some of that in the existing plan. He noted that none of the projections go to the maximum rate.

**Motion to approve a 40-Hour Engine for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.**

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Darlene Packard Status: Passed

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

No: Jeff Wasowicz

D. Discussion Regarding Ambulance Update

**Chief Freitag stated that he will continue as directed by the Board.**

8. ADJOURNMENT


**Motion to adjourn at 6:14 p.m.**

Move: Matt Zurcher Second: Dave Dobbs Status: Passed

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

scheduled meeting.

**Signature Page For: 2020 02 24 CEA Regular Minutes - Approved - Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board of Directors - CA Regular Meeting - 3/23/2020**

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

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Darlene Packard , Board Clerk      03/24/2020