



**NORTH COUNTY FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS / AFFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Board Chairman Bookie called the meeting to order on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 10:58 a.m. The meeting was held in person and by video conference.

Members Present: Board Chairman Richard Bookie, Board Clerk James Young, Board Members Tony Sambol and David Wilson

Members Absent: Board Member Russell Smith

2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

3. FINANCIAL SUMMARIES AND AUDIT REPORTS

A. Receive status update on Financial Report reconciliations and reporting schedule.

Rebecca Chitwood, Finance Director reminded the Governing Board that the March 2023 financial reports will be reported out at the May 2023 meeting. The change in schedule by moving the Budget & Finance Committee meeting to the second Tuesday of the month, has necessitated this change.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Transfer of Revenues from North County Fire & Medical District to Arizona Fire & Medical Authority (AFMA) in accordance with the AFMA Joint Power Authority Intergovernmental Agreement.

B. Approve the following meeting minutes:

1. Executive Session - March 21, 2023
2. Regular Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2023
3. Regular Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2023

Board Member Wilson moved that the North County Fire & Medical District Governing Board approve all items on the Consent agenda. Board Clerk Young seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Bookie, Sambol, Wilson, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Smith

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Possible Action relating to the adoption of the AFMA Member District Governing Boards’ By-Laws and Rules of Procedure.

Board Member Wilson stated that he disagrees with certain changes made to this document and prefers to table this item until Board Members are able to propose amended rules for consideration.

Board Member Wilson moved to table this item to a future meeting. The motion died for lack of a second.

Board Clerk Young moved that the North County Fire & Medical District Governing Board approve the AFMA Member District Governing Boards’ By-Laws and Rules of Procedure. Board Member Sambol seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Bookie, Sambol, Young
NAYS: Wilson
ABSENT: Smith

B. Discussion and Possible Action relating to the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Tentative Budget & Operational Plan and approval of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Gabe Buldra, James Vincent Group and Director Chitwood presented the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan Options including an overview of revenues totaling \$57.5 million, (property tax, Fire District Assistance Tax, Ambulance Services, Wildland, grants, and other revenues) and an overview of personnel expenditures totaling \$44 million. Mr. Buldra and Director Chitwood provided an overview of divisional budgets and explained the Staff Recommended Budget which includes a request for a property tax rate increase of \$0.17 from the current rate of 2.91 to a proposed rate of 3.08. Mr. Buldra and Director Chitwood noted that without the approval of the tax rate increase, Staff will be forced to lower the Capital and Contingency Funds to levels that could pose risks to the organization in the future, as well as reduce services to residents by limiting the overtime budget by 27%, a rate that is lower than has been seen in over 4 years. For an agency that is mandated to provide emergency services on a 24-hour basis through the

Automatic Aid System, this could pose a significant risk to the organization. Staff explained that with the inflation in the economy (supplies, gas, equipment, vehicles) and the need to improve wages for first responders to match our closest jurisdictions competing for employees, it is necessary to increase property taxes.

Board Member Wilson stated his approval for funding salaries and benefits to the 75% range of the neighboring jurisdictions salary schedules but is not in favor of tax increases for residents as his concern is that many homes in the North County district will realize a more than \$30 increase to their taxes and believes there are other alternatives that should be explored as a way to fund the CIP.

Mr. Buldra reviewed the cost allocations among all member districts and noted that Staff is working on a tool to make this breakdown process easier in the future.

Board Chairman Bookie expressed his frustration with the legislature for their efforts in limiting fire district funding and for shifting the tax burden from commercial properties to residential properties and noted that each member district of the Authority would be hard pressed to continue to survive on their own in this funding economic climate.

Board Clerk Young noted that no one is pleased to be raising taxes but does not want to see any reductions in services either, therefore he is supportive of the Staff recommended budget.

Board Clerk Young moved that the North County Fire & Medical District Governing Board approve the Staff Recommended Tentative Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Board Member Sambol seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Bookie, Sambol, Young
NAYS: Wilson
ABSENT: Smith

6. SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AGENDAS

There were no suggested items.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

James Young
James Young (Jul 5, 2023 13:20 PDT)

James Young, Board Clerk






04.25.23 NCFMD Board Meeting Minutes - Final

Final Audit Report

2023-07-05

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