

**SOUTH COUNTY FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

**MINUTES**

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

Board Chairman Becker called the meeting to order on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 10:23 a.m. The meeting was held in person and by video conference.

Members Present: Board Chairman Bill Becker, Board Clerk John Crawford, Board Members Jack Arend, Karen Gueltzow and Diane Price

Members Absent: None

**2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

North County Fire & Medical District Board Member David Wilson requested the South County Fire & Medical District Governing Board to table Item 5A relating to adoption of the AFMA Member District Governing Boards' By-Laws and Rules of Procedure until the May 2023 Joint Governing Board meeting to allow each Board Member of each member District to comment and offer amendments.

**3. FINANCIAL SUMMARIES AND AUDIT REPORTS**

A. Receive status update on Finance 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 South County Fire & Medical District to Arizona Fire & Medical Authority (AFMA) in accordance with the AFMA Joint Power Authority Intergovernmental Agreement.

B. Approve Board Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023.

- C. Adopt Resolution No. SC23-0425-1 authorizing annexation request of Parcel No. 401-42-669, located at 9111 S. 343<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Tonopah, Maricopa County, Arizona (Property Owner: Sandra K. Valdez)

**Board Clerk Crawford moved that the South County Fire & Medical District Governing Board approve all items on the Consent agenda. Board Member Price seconded the motion.**

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Arend, Becker, Crawford, Gueltzow, Price  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

**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.

Administrative Director Christopherson presented the AFMA Member District Governing Boards’ By-Laws and Rules of Procedure noting that the amendments contained were discussed at the Joint Governing Board Retreat on February 25, 2023 and have been reviewed by legal counsel. The AFMA Governing Board adopted their updated Bylaws at their Board meeting in March 2023 and the Buckeye Valley Fire District adopted these updated By-Laws at their meeting on April 18, 2023.

In response to an inquiry, Director Christopherson noted that one benefit of tabling these By-Laws until May 2023 as requested under Call to the Public would be to eliminate the need to bring them back before this Governing Board, should there be further amendments requested by another member District.

**Board Clerk Crawford moved that the South County Fire & Medical District Governing Board approve the AFMA Member District Governing Boards’ By-Laws and Rules of Procedure. Board Member Gueltzow seconded the motion.**

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Arend, Becker, Crawford, Gueltzow, Price  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

- 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 3.25 to a proposed rate of 3.42. 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.

Discussion ensued relating to the national and local economy, inflationary rates, the failing of Proposition 310, and efforts by the Legislature to shift the tax burden from commercial businesses to residents and how these changes have impacted fire districts specifically.

Staff reviewed alternate funding options with the Governing Board including alternate tax rates.

Discussion ensued relating to the impact of the average homeowner in the South County Fire & Medical District, and using the average home value in the District, the average homeowner can anticipate seeing a tax impact of \$50.13.

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

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**


AYES: Arend, Becker, Crawford, Gueltzow, Price  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

**6. SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AGENDAS**

There were no suggested items for future meetings.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

  
John Crawford (Jun 26, 2023 16:58 PDT)

John Crawford, Board Clerk

# 04.25.23 SCFMD Board Meeting Minutes - Final

Final Audit Report

2023-06-28

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