



**ARIZONA FIRE & MEDICAL AUTHORITY  
BUCKEYE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT  
NORTH COUNTY FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT  
SOUTH COUNTY FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT  
JOINT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**June 27, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / AFFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Board Chairman Bookie called the Joint Governing Board Meeting to order on Tuesday, June 11, 2023, at 9:03 a.m. The meeting was held in person and virtually.

Members Present: South County Fire & Medical District Board Members Bill Becker, John Crawford, Karen Gueltzow, and Diane Price; North County Fire & Medical District Board Members Richard Bookie, Tony Sambol, Russell Smith and David Wilson

Members Absent: South County Fire & Medical District Board Member Jack Arend; North County Fire & Medical District Board Member James Young; Buckeye Valley Fire District Board Members Melanie Hardy, Gary Benson, John Heiden, Paul Hunter, and Daniel Richardson

*Board Chairman Bookie led a moment of silence in honor of the fallen Granite Mountain Hotshots.*

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Board Chairman Bookie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Jean Dodie, Sun City West resident, spoke of her concern relating to the proposed property tax increase and asked the Governing Board to keep it reasonable.

*On order of the Chairman, the agenda was taken out of order.*

**5. CURRENT EVENT SUMMARIES AND REPORTS**

- A. Operations Division (Including Operations/Deployment and Emergency Medical Services/Training) – Current Event Summary for May 2023.

*North County Fire & Medical District Board Member James Young arrived at 9:11 a.m.*

Assistant Chief Chris DeChant presented the Operations Division monthly report and the Emergency Medical Services Section report update. Battalion Chief Spencer Snyder presented the Training Section report update for the month of June 2023.

Board Member Crawford noted the high interest value of the drone program to the community and encouraged its use in resident communications.

*Buckeye Valley Fire District Board Member Gary Benson arrived at 9:18 a.m.*

- B. Community Risk Management Division – Current Event Summary for May 2023.

Division Chief/Fire Marshal Eric Kriwer presented the Community Risk Management Division Monthly Report for May 2023 and answered all questions from Board Members. Fire Marshal Kriwer updated the Governing Board on the investigation of the fire at the Tin Top Restaurant in Tonopah.

- C. Business Division (including Planning/Tech Services/Emergency Management/Support Services, Financial Services, Administration, and Human Resources) – Current Event Summary for May 2023.

Assistant Chief Mary Dalton provided the Governing Boards with an update on recent legislative activities. Human Resources Director Shauna Fisher, Administrative Director Dusty Christopherson, Finance Director Rebecca Chitwood, and Division Chief Kane Nixon presented their individual Business Division Monthly Reports for May 2023 and answered all questions from Board Members.

Discussion ensued relating to the employee benefit plans offered to employees as a result of the negotiation with health insurance pool providers used by the Buckeye Valley Fire District, noting that as of July 2024 all employees will be under the same employee benefit plans but in the mean time changes have been made to the employer contributions to ensure equity across all employees.

- D. Arizona Fire & Medical Authority Chapter of the United Sun Cities Firefighters Association – International Association of Firefighters Local 3573 Updates.

Captain Johnny Padilla provided updates on the activities and events of Local 3573 for the month of May 2023 and thanked the Governing Board and the Senior Staff for increased communications between these groups, and expressed deep gratitude for those staff members who worked on and brought the cancer screening grant funding to the Authority,

as it is making life saving differences for the front-line staff.

- E. Correspondence Review – Correspondence received or sent by the Governing Boards/Fire Chief which would be of interest to the Governing Boards will be reviewed by the AFMA Board Clerk.

Board Clerk Gueltzow reviewed the correspondence received during the month of May 2023.

#### 4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Discussion on matters pursuant to ARS 38-431.03(A)(1) relating to personnel matters. (If authorized, adjourn to Executive Session)

**South County Fire & Medical District Board Member Becker moved that the Joint Governing Boards convene into Executive Session to discuss issues relating to ARS Section 38-431.03(A)(1) relating to personnel matters. North County Fire & Medical District Board Member Sambol seconded the motion.**

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Becker, Benson, Bookie, Crawford, Gueltzow, Price, Sambol, Wilson, Young  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Arend, Hardy, Heiden, Hunter, Richardson, Smith

*The Joint Governing Board convened into Executive Session at 10:38 a.m., and reconvened in open session at 11:06 a.m.*

#### 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

*Karen Gueltzow*  
Karen Gueltzow (Aug 8, 2023 10:03 PDT)

Karen Gueltzow, Board Clerk

# 06.27.23 Joint Governing Boards Meeting Minutes - Final

Final Audit Report

2023-08-08

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