

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

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

MINUTES

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

Board Chairman Becker called the meeting to order on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 205 p.m. The meeting was held at the Sun Lakes Administrative Office at 25020 S. Alma School Road, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248. The meeting was held both in person and by video conference.

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

Members Absent: Board Member Jack Arend

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chairman Becker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the call to the public.

4. FINANCIAL SUMMARIES AND AUDIT REPORTS

A. South County Fire & Medical District Financial Reports for May, June, and July 2023.

Rebecca Chitwood, Finance Director reviewed the May, June, and July 2023 financial reports for the South County Fire & Medical District and answered all questions from Board Members.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Monthly Financial Reports.

B. 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.

C. Approve Board Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2023.

- D. Adopt Resolution No. SC23-0919-1 authorizing annexation request of Parcel No. 401-42-673D; located at 9054 S. 341 Ave., Arlington, Maricopa County, Arizona (Property Owner: Quatro Development LLC)
- E. Adopt Resolution No. SC23-0919-2 authorizing annexation request of Parcel No. 401-42-673E; located at 9008 S. 341st Ave., Arlington, Maricopa County, Arizona (Property Owner: Quatro Development LLC)
- F. Adopt Resolution No. SC23-0919-5 authorizing annexation request of Parcel No. 504-12-093E; located at 34776 W. Pima St., Tonopah, Maricopa County, Arizona (Property Owner: Todd Wyllie)
- G. Adopt Resolution No. SC23-0919-4 authorizing annexation request of Parcel No. 504-12-093D; located at 34766 W. Pima St., Tonopah, Maricopa County, Arizona (Property Owner: Todd Wyllie)
- H. Adopt Resolution No. SC23-0919-3 authorizing annexation request of Parcel No. 504-12-093C; located at N 365F N2 E2 SE4 NE4 SEC 18 EX W 478F TH/OF P/F 22-0393371, Tonopah, Maricopa County, Arizona (Property Owner: Todd Wyllie)
- I. Adopt Resolution No. SC23-0919-7 authorizing annexation request of Parcel No. 504-12-093G; located at 34751 W. Pima St., Tonopah, Maricopa County, Arizona (Property Owner: Todd Wyllie)
- J. Adopt Resolution No. SC23-0919-6 authorizing annexation request of Parcel No. 504-12-093F; located at W 239F OF S2 OF N 365F N2 E2 SE4 NE4 SEC 18 P/F 22-0393375, Tonopah, Maricopa County, Arizona (Property Owner: Todd Wyllie)

Board Clerk Crawford moved that the South County Fire & Medical District Governing Board approve all items on the Consent agenda with the exception of item 5C. Board Member Price seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

Board Member Price removed item 5C from the Consent agenda for separate consideration.

- C. Approve Board Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2023.

Board Member Price requested edits made to the June 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes, noting corrections to the attendance and vote counts throughout the document.

Board Clerk Crawford moved that the South County Fire & Medical District Governing Board approve the Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2023 as amended. Board Member Price seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Becker, Crawford, Gueltzow, Price

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Arend

6. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Possible Action relating to proposed bond election and community outreach efforts.

Legal & Intergovernmental Affairs Director Lee Miller presented the status of the proposed bond election noting the Authority budget for Fiscal Year 2025 will need to be developed without any bond proceed funds. Any funds approved by the voters at the election in 2024 will be included in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

Mr. Miller explained that once the Governing Board adopts a Resolution calling for a bond election, by law, Staff can no longer participate in any advocacy efforts. They can provide information, but not advocacy. Governing Board members and the labor organization are not bound by these rules. May 2024 is the deadline to notify the County Elections Department of the Boards decision.

Discussion ensued relating to the process for community outreach efforts, soliciting feedback and gauging voter interest prior to the May 2024 decision point.

Board Member Price expressed concerns relating to Board Members spearheading the effort with the Community and noted the importance of speaking to both the Republican and Democratic Clubs within Sun Lakes.

Board Member Becker expressed concerns relating to compounding tax bills for residents both with the property taxes and with the proposed bonds, and requested changes to the community presentation emphasizing the positive aspects of joining the Authority and the need for community support.

Board Member Crawford noted his preference for investigating lobbyist services to obtain government funding before taking a bond measure to the residents for a vote.

Board Chairman Becker opened the floor for public comment.

Jeanne Becker, Sun Lakes Resident, requested the Governing Board investigate whether it would be ultimately less expensive in the future for residents to approve a bond or potentially raise taxes even higher.

Assistant Chief Mary Dalton noted that lease-purchase options for apparatus or facilities could be ultimately more expensive in the long run considering the current interest rates for bonds

Chief Mark Burdick discussed current legislative challenges to fire district funding and noted that efficiencies and cost savings are often seen in years 2-5 following a merger. Chief Burdick reminded the Governing Board that if bond authorization were to be approved by the voters, each project would still come before the Board for final approval.

B. Discussion and Possible Action relating to the revised Fire-Up Board Goals.

Director Christopherson presented the updated Fire-Up Board Goals and noted that the Governing Boards held a joint retreat in February 2023 where the topic of establishing Governing Board goals was discussed. The Governing Board feedback along with feedback from the Labor-Management Retreat, the Administrative Retreat, Senior Staff and the Fire Chief were all compiled into the draft F.I.R.E. UP. Strategic Roadmap. This document represents phase two of this goal setting process and incorporates and furthers initial areas of interest, while detailing strategies by which to achieve these goals. The end result will be used to strengthen the official Strategic Plan document which will be needed for the upcoming accreditation process. The AFMA Governing Board will review these goals at their meeting on September 26, 2023.

Board Member Gueltzow requested an edit to the external goals to include Tonopah staff attending formal firefighter academy trainings so that they can participate in the automatic aid system.

C. Discussion and Possible Action relating to leadership training & development opportunities for the Management Team.

Chief Burdick noted that in the summer of 2022, the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority participated in a regional grant opportunity to take part in the West Valley Leadership training opportunity provided by Dr. Brian Crandell. This training was targeted at company officers and focused on supervisory and leadership skills for those in the fire service. A second round of grant funding was awarded in July 2023 to provide this type of training to all “move up” company officers.

Recently, interest was expressed in providing this type of training opportunity to the Management Team, specifically those serving in a supervisory capacity within the administration. Chief Burdick explained that this Administration training would take place in the Fall, include 8-10 individuals, be taught by Dr. Brunacini and would focus on team building, team behavior, and individual strengths. The total cost to provide this training is \$25,000. Chief Burdick noted that this cost will also include Dr. Crandell providing the results of his 360 reviews of the Chief Officer’s to those who wish to meet with him.

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

Board Chairman Becker requested an item placed on the Governance & Legislative Committee meeting agenda to discuss where to hold future meetings of the South County Fire & Medical District.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.



John Crawford

John Crawford, Board Clerk


09.19.23 SCFMD Board Meeting Minutes - Final


Final Audit Report


2023-12-28


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