

**GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 0900 hrs  
3885 East Golder Ranch Drive, Tucson, Arizona

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Fire Board Chairperson Vicki Cox Golder called the meeting to order on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Board Chairperson Vicki Cox Golder, Board Vice-Chair Steve Brady, Clerk David Dahl, Board Member Mark Clark, Board Member Richard Hudgins

Staff Present: Fire Chief Randy Karrer, Assistant Chief Patrick Abel, Assistant Chief Tom Brandhuber, Finance Manager Dave Christian

**2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

**3. FIRE BOARD REPORTS**

Mark Clark mentioned he took a tour of the new Fire and Life Safety office on his day off. He thanked the staff for being so cordial. He thinks it is a great asset to the department. Chairperson Cox Golder said the ribbon cutting for FLS had a great turnout and we (GRFD) had great coverage for the event. Chief Karrer noted Manager Anne-Marie Braswell was in charge of organizing the event. Chairperson Cox Golder said she did a great job.

**4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Chief Karrer noted Andrew Hatfield was present, the labor president for Mountain Vista Fire District.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. APPROVE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 14, 2017 REGULAR SESSION

**MOTION** by Clerk Dahl to accept and approve item 6, the March 14, 2017 Consent Agenda

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Hudgins

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

**6. REGULAR BUSINESS**

Chairperson Cox Golder stated the board was going to move items 'F' and 'G' to the beginning of the agenda.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38-431.03.A(3) THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MAY GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OR CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE WITH THE ATTORNEY REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF SOLICITING SERVICES FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CONSOLIDATION OPPORTUNITIES



**MOTION** by Clerk Dahl to enter into Executive Session at 9:05 a.m. pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(4) for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney regarding the possibility of soliciting services for a feasibility study for consolidation opportunities.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Brady

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

**MOTION** by Board Member Brady to enter into Regular Session at 9:55 a.m. pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(4) for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney regarding the possibility of soliciting services for a feasibility study for consolidation opportunities.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Clerk Dahl

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

The Governing Board reconvened into Regular Session at 9:55 a.m. Chairperson Cox Golder reminded those in the Executive Session that all matters discussed in Executive Session are confidential pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(C).

**G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF SOLICITING SERVICES FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR POSSIBLE CONSOLIDATION OPPORTUNITIES**

Chief Karrer stated the relationship with Mountain Vista Fire District (MVFD) continues to improve greatly as evident by the partnerships with the Fire and Life Safety office, Fleet Services and IT. The Districts are working well together. Northwest Fire, Mountain Vista Fire and Golder Ranch Fire are in the final stages of automatic aid. Chief Karrer and Chief Horvath have had a lot of long discussions about what is best for both communities, and feel it is best if the Districts work together. There are points where organizations can work better together and be more efficient. He believes that is what the residents, tax payers want. On the Northwest side of Tucson, GRFD is working well with Northwest Fire District and Mountain Vista Fire District. The possible consolidation of MVFD and GRFD would enhance that. Chief Karrer explained a feasibility study would be an independent assessment of the potential consolidation of MVFD and GRFD. Chief Karrer explained that he and Chief Horvath have similar leadership styles, they are both on the same page regarding collaboration. Both Districts have similar cultures, they are both very service oriented and customer service centric. It's a natural opportunity that the District should explore.

Chairperson Cox Golder mentioned that because of pending legislation this may be an opportunity that may go away.

Chief Karrer explained that HB 2514 changes the CON process on consolidations between fire districts. Once the new legislation is adopted, the expansion of a CON will not be possible without opening the entire CON to a hearing, which opens it to outside agencies.

Board Member Clark believed that the timing for this is right. It is being done for all the right reasons and will benefit both organizations.



**MOTION** by Board Member Clark to authorize Chief Karrer to work with Chief Horvath (MVFD) to seek Request for Proposals (RFP) for a comprehensive evaluation and feasibility study for the potential consolidation of the Districts.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Hudgins

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF AN AMBULANCE RESTOCKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT AND NORTHWEST HOSPITAL, LLC

Deputy Chief Hurguy explained this is the same agreement that the board adopted last February. Essentially, what this does is set a fee schedule for replacement/expired medications, medications used during EMS transport.

**MOTION** by Board Member Hudgins to approve the Ambulance Restocking Agreement between Golder Ranch Fire District and Northwest Hospital, LLC as presented.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Clerk Dahl

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT (GRFD) AND PIMA JOINT TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (JTED) TO ALLOW JTED TO OPERATE AS AN AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION (AHA) BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) TRAINING SITE AS AN EXTENSION OF GRFD'S AHA BLS TRAINING CENTER

Item tabled.

C. UPDATE TO THE GOVERNING BOARD ON THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT'S SOLAR AND LIGHTING PROJECT

Chief Abel introduced Captain Greener to explain the project.

Captain Greener began by saying he is in favor of solar and saving the District money, but he did not believe the timing is right. A quote was obtained last year from Solar Solutions. The proposal included a combination of LED installation and solar. The proposal was presented to the Governing Board, to which the Board requested more options be sought. Companies were contacted however none could meet the District's scope of work. Solar Solutions' quote to replace lights at Station 376 was \$10,000. Captain Greener purchased the LED lights and crews installed them at no cost to the District because of rebates. In addition, there is a potential annual savings of \$1,500 in electricity costs.

D. UPDATE TO THE GOVERNING BOARD ON THE STATUS OF THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT'S PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS)

Chief Karrer explained that the PSPRS is the pension system for police officers, fire fighters, correctional officers and even judges. Once an agency enters the system, they are locked in it. GRFD contributions are increasing by 7.7% in one year which amounts to \$901,000. However,



the system's funding level has been a steady decline. The funding levels have dropped to 65%. Reforms adopted in 2016 S1428 and Prop 124, included a creation of third employee tier. Projections for 1% increase for each of the next 10 years. According to PSPRS the increase is due to Prop 124. The Hall Lawsuit was decided in November 2016. The 4% that employees have been charged will be given back to the employees through the employer. This is still tied up in the legal system and the outcome is not known. The legacy cost will be in Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 3 will take place July 2017, they will have the option of a DB pension plan or a DC plan (401k), no DROP program and 10 year vested. We have little or no control associated with PSPRS.

Board Member Brady asked what will happen to the Districts that will go bankrupt due to this.

Chief Karrer responded that in other states, there have been Districts which that has happened to. He is not sure what would happen in that case because they would have retirees that would still need to collect a pension.

**E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SECURING CONSULTING SERVICES TO ASSIST IN DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF A POTENTIAL BOND ELECTION**

Chairperson Cox Golder said she would like to postpone this item until after the feasibility study on consolidation to see where the District stands.

**Agenda out of order, items F and G at beginning of agenda.**

**H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT RECONCILIATION AND MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Manager Dave Christian presented the recompilation and monthly financial reports to the Board.

**MOTION** by Board Member Hudgins to approve and accept the Golder Ranch Fire District reconciliation and monthly financial report as presented

**MOTION SECONDED** by Clerk Dahl

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

**I. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. Fire Chief's Report - Chief Karrer**

Chief Karrer has been asked to attend a meeting at the State Forester's Office on April 11th so one of the Assistant Chiefs will fill in for him.

- **Leadership Team Report**  
Captain Lunde announced the BBQ is scheduled for April 8, 2017 at Steam Pump Ranch. Labor is in favor with the talks with MVFD. They are in favor of the RFP for the feasibility study.
- **Community Relations Report-** Manager Braswell had nothing to add to her report.

**b. Operation Chief's Report - Chief Brandhuber**

Chief Brandhuber had nothing to add to his report.

Board Member Hudgins asked how the academy is doing.



BC Seeley stated the academy is half-way through. They are thirteen strong and they are coming together as a group.

Chief Brandhuber announced Captain Lunde recently completed his bachelor's degree.

c. **Administrative Services Chief's Report - Chief Abel**  
Chief Abel had nothing to add to his report.

**J. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*This provides an opportunity for the Board to direct staff to include items on future agendas for further consideration and decision at a later date or to further study the matter.*

- April 11, 2017

The budget study session will tentatively be held April 20, 2017.

**K. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public issues presented.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Vice Chair Brady to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Hudgins

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**



David Dahl, Clerk of the Board  
Golder Ranch Fire District

