

**GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
Tuesday, June 13, 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, June 13, 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, Attorney Donna Aversa, Board Services Manager Brooke Painter

**2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

**3. FIRE BOARD REPORTS**

Chairperson Cox Golder and Vice-Chair Brady reported that they had attended the public information meeting about the potential consolidation between Golder Ranch Fire District and Mountain Vista Fire District held at Mountain Vista Fire District.

**4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public issues presented.

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. FIRE CHIEF'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD PRESENTED TO PERFORMANCE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Mr. Ken Slack, on behalf of Performance Associates International, Inc. was presented with the Fire Chief's Special Recognition Award, for his staff's efforts in saving the life of a patron through the use of an AED and CPR.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. APPROVE MINUTES – MAY 9, 2017 REGULAR SESSION
- B. APPROVE MINUTES – MAY 9, 2017 BUDGET STUDY SESSION
- C. APPROVE MINUTES – MAY 9, 2017 EXECUTIVE SESSION
- D. APPROVE MINUTES – MAY 18, 2017 SPECIAL SESSION
- E. APPROVAL OF AN ADDENDUM TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT AND NORTH TUCSON FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION LOCAL #3832
- F. APPROVAL OF A LAND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT AND VERIZON WIRELESS FOR A CELLULAR TOWER ON THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT CAMPUS
- G. APPROVAL OF A FEE AGREEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH KENDHAMMER & PARTNERS, L.L.P. TO RETAIN NICOLAS CORNELIUS, ESQ. AS LEGAL COUNSEL FOR MATTERS ON



THE POTENTIAL CONSOLIDATION BETWEEN GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT AND MOUNTAIN VISTA FIRE DISTRICT

**MOTION** by Board Member Hudgins to accept and approve item 6A – 6G, the June 13, 2017 Consent Agenda

**MOTION SECONDED** by Clerk Dahl

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

**7. REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RESOLUTION #2017-0002 APPROVING THE APPROPRIATION OF THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT END OF FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 GENERAL FUND BALANCE

Finance Manager Christian explained to the Governing Board that pursuant to the Golder Ranch Fire District Principles of Sound Financial Management Policy, reserves shall be established by resolution of the Governing Board. He explained the amounts that would be appropriated to each fund.

**MOTION** by Board Member Clark to approve Resolution #2017-0002 to consent to the appropriation of the Golder Ranch Fire District end of fiscal year 2016-2017 General Fund balance in accordance with Golder Ranch Fire District policy

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Hudgins

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

- B. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 BUDGET
- OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING – Chairperson Cox Golder opened the public hearing at 9:14 a.m. – No public comments were made.
  - CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING – Chairperson Cox Golder then closed the public hearing at 9:14 a.m.

**NO MOTION NEEDED FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM**

- C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RESOLUTION #2017-0003 APPROVING AND FORMALLY ADOPTING THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 BUDGET

Chief Karrer explained that the numbers have not changed from the tentative budget that was adopted at last month's board meeting. He continued that the tentative budget was posted for twenty days as required by state statute. Chief Karrer stated that the proposed mil rate would be \$2.29 with a debt service mil rate for the bond at \$.10.

Board Member Hudgins asked why the budget presented to be adopted shows the additional twelve months. Manager Christian explained that it in order to be in compliance with the new state statute the board must approve a forecast for twenty-four months. Chief Karrer reiterated that this is just a forecast; the Board is only adopting the upcoming budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

**MOTION** by Board Member Hudgins to approve Resolution #2017-0003 formally adopting the Golder Ranch Fire District annual budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$25,181,300 with a proposed mil rate of \$2.29



**MOTION SECONDED** by Clerk Dahl  
**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CHANGES TO THE CURRENT 457B PLANS AND PROVIDERS FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

Captain Pearce first stated that he responded to the call in which the Fire Chief's Special Recognition Award was presented. He thanked Chief Karrer for giving the award. He stated that he has responded to a lot a lot of similar calls, but they did not have as good of an outcome because CPR or an AED was not used.

Captain Pearce stated that they interviewed almost a dozen vendors over a two-year period; he presented the proposed changes to the current 457b plans and providers to the Board which had significant savings to the employees. Chief Karrer noted that this benefits and effects only the employees, has no budgetary impact on the District, in fact, saved the District \$1,500 in administrative fees. Chief Karrer commended Captain Pearce and Captain Lunde for their efforts with this project. Captain Pearce stated that they have now formed a committee to review the plans on an annual basis. The Board will need to approve a resolution for this item at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

**MOTION** by Board Member Clark to approve the change of the 457b plans and providers to Fidelity and Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) via Nationwide

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Hudgins  
**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-0004 INCREASING THE PERIOD FOR AMORTIZING THE LIABILITY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM MEMBERS FROM TWENTY YEARS TO THIRTY YEARS PURSUANT TO 38-842(42)

Chief Karrer explained that we have the option to change from a twenty year amortization period (which is currently budgeted for) to a thirty year amortization period. He continued that this would decrease the PSPRS contribution rate for the upcoming year by 2.74%, but would extend our PSPRS liability. This change would have no effect on the employees. Clerk Dahl, who also chairs the PSPRS Local Pension Board, stated that he feels that it is more beneficial to keep it at twenty year instead of extending it to the thirty years. Board Member Clark agreed. Finance Manager Christian explained this was the amortization of the unfunded liability. He continued that the goal is to be 75% funded. Chief Karrer stated that GRFD is currently funded at 68%. Board Member Hudgins asked about going to twenty-five years instead of thirty, Chief Karrer stated that the choice was only between twenty or thirty. Vice-Chair Brady asked about smaller districts changing to a thirty year, and the effects on the fund. Manager Christian explained that each fund is managed separately; it would have no effect on our fund.

**NO MOTION NEEDED FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM**

F. DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS FROM FIVE TO SEVEN, PENDING A SUCCESSFUL CONSOLIDATION BETWEEN GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT AND MOUNTAIN VISTA FIRE DISTRICT



Chief Karrer explained that this agenda item is for discussion purposes only. He stated that pursuant to A.R.S. 48-842, we [Golder Ranch Fire District] can move from a five person governing board to seven person board. Chairperson Parrish, of Mountain Vista Fire District, has requested two of Mountain Vista Fire District's current board members to be added to the Golder Ranch Fire Board. However, we would be the only fire district in the area that would have a seven person board member. Chairperson Cox Golder explained that as time goes on it may be hard to fill and keep a seven member board.

Chief Karrer explained another option would be to create an emergency services commission, which would be appointed by the Board and would report directly to the Board. There were discussions about the types of things that an emergency services commission could be responsible for.

Board Member Clark stated that he likes the idea of the emergency services commission, and hopefully we would get more participation from residents in the Town of Oro Valley. Vice-Chair Brady stated he is concerned that since the Mountain Vista Fire District asked for two board members, they may not unanimously vote for the consolidation. Chief Karrer stated that he did not foresee that happening.

Legal Counsel Aversa advised that if the Board were to go to a seven member board, they may not switch back. She continued that the commission could be formed after the consolidation.

#### **NO MOTION NEEDED FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM**

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

Finance Manager Christian presented the monthly financials and reconciliation to the Board. There were no further questions or comments from the Governing Board.

**MOTION** by Board Member Hudgins to approve monthly financials and reconciliation as presented

**MOTION SECONDED** by Clerk Dahl

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

*The Board moved to item 8 on the agenda.*

#### **8. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Karrer presented his report to the Governing Board. He stated that we [Golder Ranch Fire District] have received the amount of the payback owed to the PSPRS members due to the results of the Hall case; it is \$1.4 million dollars. The money must be disbursed through the employers, due to IRS tax rules. PSPRS will charge interest if it is not paid in a timely manner. We will stop employer contributions to PSPRS until we are made whole.

Chief Karrer stated that there were probably about 50 people in attendance at the informational meeting held at Mountain Vista Fire District. Manager Braswell added that we have received some feedback; all has been positive.



Chief Karrer continued that AMR is formally opposing the expansion of the CON through the consolidation. He stated that Chief Hurguy has had conversations with DHS. Chief Hurguy addressed the Board and expanded on those conversations.

Chief Karrer continued that Fitch and Associates are deeply engaged and are on a very short timeline to complete the feasibility study; a draft should be available by the end of the month.

- LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT – No one was present. Chief Karrer stated that the Leadership Team worked diligently on the MOU. The Union members were at the PFFF conference.
  - COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT – Manager Braswell presented her report to the Board. She added that a gentleman came in to extend an invitation to a dinner and fundraiser, with proceeds going to the Veterans and First Responders Memorial on July 8<sup>th</sup>. She will send out the details. She continued that there was an article in the Northwest Explorer, highlighting Walter Schmidt and Albert Ortiz for changing their smoke detector batteries. There were no further questions or comments.
- B. OPERATION CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Brandhuber presented his report to the Governing Board. Chief Brandhuber added that two of our battalion chiefs are teaching the blue card class. Ladder 375 is almost back in service; he is currently evaluating the best location to place it. He also noted that he will be bringing a revision to the sick leave policy, in order to be in compliance with the new state statute. The new policy will go into effect as of July 1; however, it will go to the Board for approval at the July meeting. There were no further questions or comments.
- C. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Abel presented his report to the Governing Board. Chief Abel, Bill Howe, Steve Lunde and Will Loesche attended the welcoming reception for the new Town Manager of Oro Valley. She begins on September 5, 2017. There were no further questions or comments. Chief Karrer also congratulated Finance Manager Christian and his staff on receiving the GFOA award for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

## 7. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- H. 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 CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY AND THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL IMPACT IN DOING SO TO THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT
- I. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38-431.03.A(1) THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MAY GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF THE FIRE CHIEF'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

In attendance for the executive session will be Chief Karrer, Manager Painter, Attorney Aversa, and the Governing Board Members.

**MOTION** by Clerk Dahl to enter into Executive Session at 10:33

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Hudgins

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**



*The Governing Board reconvened into Regular Session at 11:34 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).*

- J. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY AND THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL IMPACT IN DOING SO TO THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT

**MOTION** by Board Member Hudgins to authorize the Fire Chief to author a letter to Mountain Vista Fire District agreeing that Golder Ranch Fire District may have an interest in using a proposed training facility at some date in the future, if such facility meets standards and satisfies Golder Ranch Fire District needs

**MOTION SECONDED** by Clerk Dahl

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

- K. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FIRE CHIEF'S ANNUAL EVALUATION AND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

**MOTION** by Hudgins to direct the District Attorney [Donna Aversa] to update the Fire Chief's employment agreement as presented and authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Clark

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

**9. 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.*

- July 17, 2017 Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting

**10. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public issues presented.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Vice Chair Brady to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Hudgins

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**



David Dahl, Clerk of the Board  
Golder Ranch Fire District  
b/p

