

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

July 19, 2022 9:00 a.m.

3885 East Golder Ranch Drive, Tucson, Arizona

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

Fire Board Chairperson Cox Golder called the meeting to order on July 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Board Chairperson Vicki Cox Golder, Board Vice-Chair Richard Hudgins, Board Clerk Vette, Board Member Steve Brady, and Board Member Sandi Outlaw

Staff Present: Fire Chief Randy Karrer, Assistant Chief Brandhuber (via Zoom), Deputy Chief Cesarek, Division Chief Perry, Finance Director Dave Christian, Local 3832 President Jones, and Board Services Specialist Maggie Hernandez

**2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. FIRE BOARD REPORTS**

Board Member Outlaw announced Chief Karrer's Bob Weber Lifetime Achievement Award he received at the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association annual conference. She congratulated him on his career and commended his achievements.

**4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public issues presented at this time.

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

A. PRESENTATION OF PERSONNEL

- 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY - GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT AND MOUNTAIN VISTA FIRE DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION
  - SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS
    - Paramedic Michael Crain
    - Engineer Chris Dawkins
    - Paramedic Sam Garcia
    - Captain Benjamin Jones
    - Division Chief Eric Perry
    - Administrative Specialist Nancy Ramos



Chief Brandhuber presented Chief Perry's 5-year recognition with GRFD via Zoom and commended him on his current accomplishments with GRFD and prior accomplishments in the fire service. Chiefs Karrer and Pearce presented a 5-year pin to Paramedic Crain and commended his accomplishments with GRFD and prior organizations in the fire service. Chief Karrer presented Captain Jones his 5-year pin and commended his leadership with GRFD and the labor union. Engineer Chris Dawkins, Paramedic Sam Garcia, and Administrative Specialist Nancy Ramos were unable to attend.

- NEW HIRE
  - BECKY STEINNECKER – GIS ANALYST

IT Director Rascon introduced Becky Steinnecker to the Governing Board. Behavioral and loyalty oaths were administered.

## 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVE MINUTES – JUNE 21, 2022 REGULAR SESSION
- B. APPROVE AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING UPDATED POLICIES: 232 – BATTALION CHIEF ASSIGNMENT AND MANAGEMENT, 324 – PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES, 412 – OPEN BURNING, AND 1026 – DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE WORKPLACE

**MOTION** by Board Member Brady to approve the July 19, 2022 Consent Agenda

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Clerk Vette

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

## 7. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Karrer presented the Fire Chief's Report to the Governing Board. He spoke about the election and said nobody contested to run against Board Chair Cox Golder and Board Member Outlaw, but we have to wait to see if there will be any write-in candidates. He said he gave Pima County preliminary direction to cancel the election if no one contests. There were no further questions or comments from the Board.
  - LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT – President Jones presented the Local 3832 monthly report. He said they are working on Prop 310 and gave background regarding the Arizona fire safety tax and stated that it will only go to fire districts. President Jones added our district would receive \$4.1 million and in some smaller districts that would double their budget. He said it will be on ballot in November. Chairperson Cox Golder asked if they needed signatures. President Jones responded no, that there were some agreements instead. Chief Karrer added that this is an initiative from the Professional Firefighters Association (PFFA) and will affect smaller fire districts along I-10 and I-40. Chief Karrer commended PFFA and the Local 3832 for their efforts. There were no further questions or comments from the Board.



- B. PLANNING ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT – Deputy Chief Cesarek presented the Logistics/Planning Assistant Chief's report to the Governing Board on behalf of Chief Abel. He referenced the picture of a new ambulance in the report and stated it is now in service. He said Fleet and Logistics are planning to go out to Los Angeles to inspect the other ambulances as well.

Chief Cesarek said the number of code compliance inspections went up 108 inspections last month, in part because of the Compliance Engine program and full staffing has improved numbers as well. Chairperson Cox Golder asked a question regarding the letter from Foothills Business Park regarding their HOA. Chief Cesarek said he put his name in to be part of their board so the district has representation.

Chief Cesarek said the Hanley project has received initial bids back and got some numbers that were a little higher than anticipated. He said we are currently working down line items with a specific dollar amount and asking staff the value of the individual requests then they will move forward with tenant improvements. Board Clerk Vette asked where Foothills Business Park is. Chief Cesarek answered it is the property where the Hanley building is located and the surrounding area. Vice Chair Hudgins asked about electricity and difference from the Hanley building and veterinary building. Chief Cesarek answered that he has been corresponding with University of Arizona and said they will make sure everything will operate correctly.

Vice Chair Hudgins asked about station 378 and state land. Chief Karrer said it will be discussed in executive session. There were no further questions or comments from the Board.

- C. ESSENTIAL SERVICES ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Perry presented the Essential Services Assistant Chief's report to the Governing Board on behalf of Chief Brandhuber. Chairperson Cox Golder commented on the number of employees that have anniversaries this month, including those with from the Mountain Vista consolidation and asked why they did not attend. HR Director Delong explained that staff was given the option to be individually recognized or as a group and that most opted to be lumped together with the whole group.

Division Chief Perry presented an update to the strategic plan process as requested by Board Clerk Vette at the previous regular board meeting. The presentation was included in the board agenda and was broken down by goals and objectives which Chief Perry explained in detail. Some of the highlights of the presentation included, but are not limited to: it will take about a year and half to two years to be accredited, Chief Hilderbrand was tasked with non-uniformed employees' continuing education, we have been looking at new system to schedule service calls rather than going through the 9-1-1 system, the standards of cover project should be done by September or October, (we are behind but wanted to be thorough), we are reevaluating the needs for public education and may hire a community relations coordinator in place of a manager position; a commercial is coming out about slips, trips, and falls, we filmed a "cool pool rules" commercial and Chief Robb spoke with Cox about decreasing cable advertising to



focus more on digital streaming to target youth audience; Health and Wellness programs will be embedded into academies, and clinical oversight for the peer support team.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked about doctor's (clinical) responses regarding firefighters. Chief Perry responded it is private information and something they are discussing. HR Director Delong stated part of their annual physical is private medical information the district does not receive but the employee is given resources if something is flagged.

Mike McDade was appointed as safety officer. The board commended the report. Board Member Brady asked a question about FEMA and overriding our process. Chief Perry answered. Chief Karrer added a comment regarding emergency manager program and importance of a liaison for the public. There were no further questions or comments from the Board.

- D. EMERGENCY RESPONSE/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT – Chiefs Grissom and Pearce presented the Operations Assistant Chief's Report to the Governing Board on behalf of Chief Robb. Chairperson Cox Golder asked a question about CON renewal and where we are at. She retracted the question, stating she actually meant to say ISO. Chief Karrer said we are at a 2 but really close to a 1.

Board Member Brady asked about the commercial, Chief Grissom answered. Chairperson Cox Golder asked about the number of responses and transports at 98%. Chief Pearce said that it is 98% compared to last fiscal month, not total.

Chief Grissom said we have selected 28 recruits that will start the academy on August 8<sup>th</sup> and we have a five-part cadre to assist in the training. He added it will be a 14-week fire academy, 21 are green with a tentative graduation date of December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Cox Golder said the Wildland report looks like we can send members out again. Chief Pearce said we are creatively staffing and are currently in Texas, which is abnormal. Chief Karrer added that at state level there are 50% more requests than the state is able to provide because of staffing issues and added that Wildland season is now year-round, no longer 5-6 months. Chief Pearce said we are sending out our trucks with members of other agencies so it allows us to send trucks without affecting our own staffing as much and can increase revenue. There were no further questions comments from the Board.

## **8. REGULAR BUSINESS**

Chairperson Cox Golder requested to move executive session until after regular business.

- A. EXECUTIVE SESSION: THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38-431.03.A(7) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OR CONSULTATION IN ORDER TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY



*\*\*Note – executive sessions are confidential pursuant to Arizona law.*

**MOTION** by Board Member Brady to enter into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A(7) for discussions regarding the purchase of real property.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Clerk Vette

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

The board went into executive session at 10:18 am.

**B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE REGARDING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WSM ARCHITECTS TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION 378 UPON LAND PURCHASE AS PART OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND SALE**

Chief Cesarek presented the professional services agreement with WSM, the architect who completed the station 379 project previously. He said they would like to build station 378 similar to station 379. Chief Cesarek described some details about the SAVE Agreement with Pima Community College and how it coincides with this agreement. He added the proposal does not include engineering for the land, landscape and roadway design. Chief Cesarek highlighted that they will be saving \$90,000 by using plans that WSM currently owned. Vice-Chair Hudgins asked if station 379 has a breakout room. Chief Cesarek answered yes and then it was determined in conversation that he was referring to a turnout or decontamination room. Chief Cesarek said they will make sure the new station is up to current code.

**MOTION** by Vice-Chair Hudgins to approve WSM Proposal for architectural and engineering services in the amount of \$218,762 and authorize the fire chief, or his designee, to negotiate civil and landscaping engineering services when the new station 378 site (land) comes available.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Clerk Vette

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

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

Director Christian presented his monthly report and financials and stated that fiscal year 2022 is closed. He said the auditors will be in soon. He added Prop 207 revenue (marijuana sales tax) was \$585,000 and commented that ambulance revenue was a benchmark year. Director Christian said transports that occurred overnight on June 30<sup>th</sup> will be carried over. Vice Chair Hudgins asked why there are so much less transports at station 374. Chief Pearce answered that it is by unit, not by station, and explained further.

**MOTION** by Board Clerk Vette to approve and accept the Golder Ranch Fire District reconciliation and monthly financial report as presented.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Vice Chair Hudgins

**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 study the matter further.*

- Regularly Scheduled Meeting – August 16, 2022


**10. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Vice-Chair Hudgins to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Outlaw

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

  
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Wally Vette, Clerk of the Board  
Golder Ranch Fire District  
m/h

