

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

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
1600 East Hanley Boulevard, Oro Valley, Arizona 85737**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairperson Vicki Cox-Golder called the meeting to order on November 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Vicki Cox-Golder, Vice Chairperson Wally Vette, Board Clerk Sandra Outlaw, Board Member Steve Brady, and Board Member Tom Shellenberger

Staff Present: Fire Chief Brandhuber, Assistant Chief Cesarek, Assistant Chief Perry, Assistant Chief Grissom, Deputy Chief Rutherford, Deputy Chief Hilderbrand, Deputy Chief Jarrold, Deputy Chief Wilson, Deputy Fire Marshal Akins, Local 3832 President Jones, Human Resources Director Delong, Finance Director Christian, Information Technology Director Rascon, Division Chief Price, and Board Services Supervisor Ortiz

2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FIRE BOARD REPORTS

Board Member Brady said he and Chaplain Wright visited all the stations and gave them goodies on Thanksgiving Day. He also attended the open house for the recruits and commended staff for a great event. Board Member Brady also said the District received a \$350.00 donation.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chief Brandhuber thanked Chairperson Vicki Cox Golder for her generous gifts to the children of GRFD personnel. This year 296 children received a gift from her. He presented her with an oversized card signed by personnel and their children.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- A. PRESENTATION FROM CATALINA CRUSADERS – A DONATION TO LOCAL #3832 FOR THE ANNUAL SHOP WITH A FIREFIGHTER EVENT



Chief Brandhuber thanked Ruth and everyone who helped raise \$19,000. The funds are used to purchase gifts at the Shop With a Firefighter event for the children who live in the district and tri-community.

Captain Jones added Shop With a Firefighter took place on December 14th. Thanks to the Catalina Crusader's fundraiser they were able to take 143 kids shopping this year.

B. PRESENTATION OF PERSONNEL

• PROMOTIONS

- ADIN DEMASI, CAPTAIN
- RYAN WARD, CAPTAIN
- RYAN KREITNER, ENGINEER
- JIMMY LABAS, ENGINEER
- ANTHONY RIOS, ENGINEER
- SAMUEL YANKOVICH, ENGINEER

Captain Sanchez introduced Adin DeMasi for his promotion to Captain. His wife pinned him with his kids present.

Captain Sanchez presented Ryan Ward for his promotion to Captain. His wife pinned him.

Captain Hastings introduced Ryan Kreitner for his promotion to Engineer. His wife pinned him.

Captain Port presented Jimmy Labas for his promotion to Engineer. He was pinned by his wife (who is also an GRFD employee) Brandy.

Captain Ryan Miller introduced Anthony Rios for his promotion to Engineer. His wife pinned him with his son present.

Captain Hastings introduced Sam Yankovich. He was pinned by his wife with his child present.

Chairperson Cox-Golder presented Chief Brandhuber with his ten-year pin.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVE MINUTES- NOVEMBER 21, 2023, REGULAR SESSION

B. APPROVE AND ADOPT THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT'S REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

MOTION by Vice-Chairperson Vette to approve the December 19, 2023, Consent Agenda



MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Brady
MOTION CARRIED 5/0

The Governing Board went on a recess at 9:36. The meeting was reconvened at 9:37 a.m.

7. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Brandhuber presented the Fire Chief's report to the Governing Board. Chief Brandhuber mentioned he attended the Struggle Well Program. It is a mental health class that presents new ways to view trauma and challenges in life. The program focuses on post-traumatic growth as opposed to post-traumatic disorder. He is committed to offering this program to everyone in the district because the district's people are its most valuable resource. It will be rolled out in March of next year.

- Director Delong presented the Human Resources report to the Governing Board. She had nothing further to add.

Chairperson Cox Golder saw Director Delong's report, she stated that in the position that Director Delong is in, she is in a position to positively impact so many others. Chairperson Cox Golder gave Director Delong credit for her innovation and advocacy. Chairperson Cox Golder mentioned she saw a couple of PSPRS disability applications and several worker's comp and injury cases in the HR report. She asked if the numbers were common.

Director Delong thanked Chairperson Cox Golder for her recognition of the HR team. Director Delong responded two disability applications is not many, however, they are significant. Director Delong continued to explain the numbers fluctuate, however, with growth comes an increase in the number of applications.

- Director Rascon presented IT's report to the Governing Board. He had nothing further to add.
- LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT – President Jones presented the Leadership team report to the Board. He wished the Board a Merry Christmas and a Hapy New Year. President Jones stated the Player's Pub event was held December 2nd. They raised \$19,000. He thanked Ruth and the Catalina Crusaders for all their work. The Shop with a Firefighter event was held on December 14th. They were able to take 143 kids shopping. He was pleased to help so many families. The Union will be sending out flyers for the BBQ & Archery Event scheduled for March 2nd. President Jones mentioned the calendars are now on sale for \$20.00. Proceeds from the calendar sales will go to charity.

B. COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION'S REPORT-



Chairperson Cox Golder said Assistant Chief Perry and Project Manager Holland did a phenomenal job with the accreditation. When the assessors spoke to her they spoke highly of the district. She is so proud of the District and all that it has accomplished. She thanked Chief Perry and PM Holland for their work.

Assistant Chief Perry presented the Community Risk Reduction report to the Governing Board. Assistant Chief Perry said the one thing that made it special to him was how much the accreditation team was impressed by all of the district's employees. He thanked Deputy Chief Hilderbrand and the recruitment team for the two recruitment open houses they held. They were very successful.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked about the Green Valley day truck he mentioned in his report.

Assistant Chief Perry responded one of the things he is looking at is trying to staff, potentially, a part time truck for service calls. He talked to Green Valley about their truck because they have a very successful program.

- C. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION'S REPORT-Assistant Chief Cesarek presented the Support Services' report to the Governing Board. He also gave an update on the Station 378 construction project.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked what the Andy and Adam Super Awesome Radio Class was.

Assistant Chief Cesarek said Andy Smith and Adam Jarrold are giving radio classes to crews and self-named their class the Andy and Adam Super Awesome Radio Class.

Vice Chairperson Vette asked how many fans need to be replaced on the trucks.

Assistant Chief Cesarek answered the Logistics team is working on it.

- D. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & FIRE RESPONSE DIVISION'S REPORT-Assistant Chief Grissom presented the EMS & Fire Response and Professional Development report to the Governing Board.

Assistant Chief Grissom reported the battalion chief process was completed and the promoted individuals will be presented at the next board meeting. He thanked everyone who assisted with the process. He wished the Governing Board a Merry Christmas.

Chairperson Cox Golder read in Assistant Chief Grissom's report about several members who attended an UTV off road train-the-trainer course. She asked where they trained.

Assistant Chief Grissom thanked Chairperson Cox Golder for the question. He explained the wildland team has UTVs (utility terrain vehicles) they use for wildland events and for



special operation rescues. It is a special train-the-trainer course so personnel can learn to safely operate the vehicle.

8. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING NOMINATIONS FOR THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD POSITIONS OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND CLERK FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

MOTION by Vice-Chairperson Vette to nominate Vicki Cox Golder as the Chairperson of the Golder Ranch Fire District Governing Board.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Shellenberger

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

MOTION by Board Clerk Outlaw to nominate Wally Vette as the Vice-Chairperson of the Golder Ranch Fire District Governing Board.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Brady

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

MOTION by Board Member Shellenberger to nominate Sandra Outlaw as the Clerk of the Golder Ranch Fire District Governing Board.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Brady

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

- B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT'S GOVERNING BOARD TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM'S LOCAL PENSION BOARD

MOTION by Board Member Brady to appoint Wally Vette as Chairperson of the Golder Ranch Fire District's Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Local Pension Board in pursuant to A.R.S. §38-847(A)(3).

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Shellenberger

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

- C. DISCUSSION OF WIRE TRANSFER SCHEDULE FROM PIMA COUNTY TREASURER FOR THE GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT

Finance Director Dave Christian explained The District has used 'Warrant' checks (i.e. paper checks) to transfer funds from the Pima County Treasurer's account. These warrant checks have become problematic for JP Morgan Chase bank to release funds in a timely manner. As such, we would like to schedule a bi-monthly transfer of the Districts O&M monthly cash needs. This schedule will permit the District to keep sufficient operation cash in the Chase accounts while maximizing the interest earnings on the state investment pool. The schedule is based on total projected cash needs for



the remainder of the fiscal year. Bonded CIP funds will still require a periodic warrant check.

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE ARIZONA MUTUAL AID COMPACT

Chief Brandhuber explained this is an existing contract that needs to be renewed. Legal has reviewed it.

Board Member Brady asked if there is a list of who is a part of the contract.

Chief Brandhuber answered the contract is available to every fire district and municipal fire department in the State and he is not aware of an agency that is not a part of it.

MOTION by Vice-Chairperson Vette to approve the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact as presented.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Shellenberger

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

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

Finance Director Christian presented the monthly financials and reconciliation for Golder Ranch Fire District to the Governing Board. He reported things begin to slow down in November. Projected revenues were down 5 percent; however this is not substantial. Property tax revenue was down. Miscellaneous revenue was also down. He anticipated more wildland revenue. Interest revenue is doing far better than anticipated. Ambulance revenue is still consistently beating the projections, not by a large amount, but by a fair amount. In expenses, labor was much higher than projected. Health insurance was much higher than forecasted. There was an outlay for a type-3 engine. These two factors were drivers in the unfavorable variance. All-in-all the district came in not far from what was projected it was unfavorable by 17%. Year-to-date things appear much better. The district is favorable in all of the revenue categories. It is \$3.7 million favorable in revenue, this is largely driven by the grants, the federal grant. The district was also 8% favorable in property tax revenue.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked how the district is doing so well in interest revenue.

Director Christian said this is due to the Treasurer's Investment Pool. The district is doing much better than in the past. In costs, the district is doing unfavorable in labor. This is due to health insurance costs as well as injury costs. There is a large number of people who are on light duty. This affects the return to work screening costs. All of these factors together are driving factors to create a 3% unfavorable variance in labor costs. The district is currently at \$9.8 million proceeds. It has added to cash year-to-date.



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

MOTION SECONDED by Vice Chairperson Vette

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 16, 2024

10. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public issues presented at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Board Member Brady to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Vice Chairperson Vette

MOTION CARRIED 5/0



Sandra Outlaw, Clerk of the Board

Golder Ranch Fire District

S/O

