

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

**Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 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 July 16, 2024, 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 Grissom, Assistant Chief Cesarek, Deputy Chief Jarrold, Deputy Chief Wilson, Local 3832 Chris Cavaletto (attended on behalf of President Jones), Human Resources Director Delong, Finance Director Christian, Information Technology Director Rascon, Division Chief North, Division Chief Hastings, Division Chief Taylor, Operations Support Supervisor Bravo, Program Manager Holland, District Attorney Aversa (via Zoom), 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 thanked everyone, including the Union, for gathering signatures for his nomination petitions. He specifically thanked firefighter Jacob Lopez for his hard work collecting signatures.

**4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public issues presented at this time.

**5. REGULAR BUSINESS – Note – The Board intends to take the following items out of the normal order of the agenda.**

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AN UPDATED ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH ATTORNEY DAN PEDERSON OF PAGE, WOLFBERG, WIRTH, LLC OF



MECHANICSBURG PENNSYLVANIA TO CONTINUE TO REPRESENT AND ADVISE GRFD WITH MEDICARE AND OTHER MATTERS

**MOTION** by Vice Chairperson Vette to approve the engagement letter as presented  
**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Shellenberger  
**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

- B. EXECUTIVE SESSION: THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38-431.03.A(3) FOR DISCUSSION OR CONSULTATION WITH THE ATTORNEY/ATTORNEYS FOR THE DISTRICT REGARDING REFUNDS OF OVERPAYMENTS RELATED TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS PRIMARILY RELATED TO FEDERAL PAYORS

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

**MOTION** by Board Member Brady to enter into executive session for item 5B to include the Governing Board, Chief Brandhuber, Assistant Chief Grissom, Supervisor Massie, Board Services Supervisor Ortiz, Attorney Aversa, and legal representatives from Page, Wolfberg, Wirth, LLC.

**SECONDED** by Vice Chairperson Vette  
**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

The Governing Board entered into executive session at 9:02 a.m.

The Governing Board ended executive session at 9:33 a.m.

The Governing Board reconvened regular session at 9:37 a.m.

Chairperson Cox Golder reminded everything discussed in executive session is confidential.

- C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT REFUNDS OF OVERPAYMENTS RELATED TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS PRIMARILY RELATED TO FEDERAL PAYORS (MEDICARE/MEDICARE ADVANTAGE/VA)

**MOTION** by Vice Chairperson Vette to authorize the Fire Chief to oversee self-disclosure reporting to the appropriate Federal agency and to promptly refund overpayments associated with GRFD ambulance transports and to take all steps necessary and reasonably required to ensure GRFD is in full compliance with Federal requirements; and, the Chairperson or in her absence, the Clerk of the Board is authorized to execute any certifications as may be necessary or reasonably required for submission of self-disclosure.

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

## 6. PRESENTATIONS



A. PRESENTATION OF PERSONNEL

• YEARS OF SERVICE

- JOHN BARON, PARAMEDIC 5 YEARS
- LOGAN BRADSHAW, FIREFIGHTER 5 YEARS
- JOSE ZUNIGA, FIREFIGHTER 5 YEARS

BC Goodrich introduced and thanked Paramedic John Baron for his five years of service to the District. Paramedic Baron's parents were present for the recognition.

Firefighter Bradshaw and Firefighter Zuniga were unable to attend the meeting, due to a call. They will be recognized at a future meeting.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. APPROVE MINUTES- JUNE 18, 2024, REGULAR SESSION

**MOTION** by Board Member Shellenberger to approve the July 16, 2024, Consent Agenda.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Clerk Outlaw

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

8. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT-Chief Brandhuber presented the Fire Chief's report to the Governing Board. Chief Brandhuber thanked Chief Grissom and staff for taking care of the District while he was out of town.

Board Member Brady mentioned the Mountain Vista personnel reached their 7-year anniversary.

Chairperson Cox Golder thanked the former Mountain Vista, current GRFD staff and recognized them for their seven years of service.

Captain Cavaletto was in attendance on behalf of Union President Jones. Captain Cavaletto stated the Union is working with leadership on the memorandum of understanding (MOU). He hopes that it can be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

- B. COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION'S REPORT-Assistant Chief Cesarek presented the Community Risk Reduction Division's report on behalf of Assistant Chief Perry.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked what the Talk and Truck safety series is.



Assistant Chief Cesarek said it is a forum where personnel show a truck and explain to the public what GRFD does.

Chief Cesarek also mentioned the results from the strategic plan survey were included in Chief Perry's report. He highlighted Chief Perry's effort on the project. He said the next steps were to meet as a leadership team and make adjustments to the mission, vision and values (based on what was recommended in the surveys) and present this to the Board and seek their input as well. This should be done in September.

Board Clerk Outlaw read the report in sequence, the mission, vision and values. Initially, she wondered where the priority was for the health and safety of employees. She later saw it in the statement listed in the commitment to each other.

Chief Brandhuber stated the care is not solely external but internal well. There is a priority to take care of personnel because if they are taken care of, they will take care of their patients.

- C. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION'S REPORT – Assistant Chief Cesarek presented the Support Services' report to the Governing Board. He gave a brief update on Station 378. He hopes the construction crews would be pouring concrete that evening. Chief Cesarek attended the session "Coffee with the director" at SaddleBrooke Ranch. Tim Fudge is the Director of SaddleBrooke Ranch.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked what the Struggle Class was.

Assistant Chief Cesarek responded it was a class Chief Brandhuber championed, to support employees in mental health and wellness and gave them skills to navigate life. It is taught by the Crest Foundation. GRFD sponsored classes are opened by Chief Brandhuber. Oro Valley Police Department (OVPD) sponsored classes are opened by Chief Riley.

- 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. He said there are currently twenty-five recruits in the academy. The graduation is August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Assistant Chief Grissom thanked the wildland crews for doing an outstanding job, he said he was very proud of them.

## **9. REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A CONTRACT WITH STRYKER FOR LUCAS 3 CHEST COMPRESSION SYSTEMS

Assistant Chief Grissom stated the contract was with Stryker for Lucas 3 chest compression systems to place one on each truck.



Chairperson Cox Golder asked how old the district's current units are.

Assistant Chief Grissom responded the District has one and it is two years old. This contract would allow him to purchase a system for each truck. He stated he had permission from Division Chief Charnoki to state that the system saved his life. Assistant Chief Grissom said it was a very valuable tool that has proven to save lives.

Board Member Shellenberger asked if it was budgeted.

Assistant Chief Grissom replied that it was.

**MOTION** by Board Member Shellenberger to approve the contract as presented.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Vice Chairperson Vette

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

**B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHETHER THE DISTRICT WIDE 3% PAY ADJUSTMENT APPLIES TO THE FIRE CHIEF**

HR Director DeLong stated In May, the Governing Board voted for an increase to the labor budget to allow for a 3% increase to the compensation schedule for all employees. The Fire Chief is a contract employee, so, she asked the Governing Board for direction as to whether or not the 3% should apply to the Fire Chiefs pay as well. If so, an addendum will need to be finalized. Her recommendation was to include the Fire Chief in the 3% increase to prevent compression.

**MOTION** by Vice Chairperson Vette to apply the district wide 3% pay increase to the Fire Chief and that the Fire Chief's contract be amended to reflect this adjustment and the Chair is authorized to sign the amended contract.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Shellenberger

**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

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

Finance Direction Christian presented the Golder Ranch Fire District reconciliation and monthly financial report. He reviewed the past fiscal year's total revenues and expenditures. He highlighted how ambulance revenue reached an all-time high for transports and revenue, 7,118 people were transported which is a new district record.

Chief Brandhuber thanked the Board for allowing the District to do other things for staff, besides compensation such as the Struggle Well classes, the purchase of Class A uniforms, and other things such as these. He thanked the Board for their support.



**MOTION** by Vice Chairperson Vette to approve and accept the Golder Ranch Fire District reconciliation and monthly financial report as presented.  
**SECONDED** by Board Member Shellenberger  
**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on August 20, 2024

**11. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public issues presented at this time.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Board Member Brady to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m.  
**MOTION SECONDED** by Vice Chairperson Vette  
**MOTION CARRIED 5/0**



Sandra Outlaw, Clerk of the Board  
Golder Ranch Fire District  
S/O

