

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

**Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
1600 East Hanley Boulevard, Oro Valley, Arizona 85737**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairperson Cox Golder called the meeting to order on September 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Board Member Tom Shellenberger (excused)

Staff Present: Assistant Chief Cesarek, Assistant Chief Grissom, Assistant Chief Perry, Fire Marshal Akins, Deputy Chief Jarrold, Deputy Chief Wilson, Deputy Chief Hilderbrand, Division Chief Taylor, Local 3832 President Jones, Finance Director Christian, Information Technology Director Rascon, Community and Media Relations Supervisor Camarillo, Operations Support Supervisor Bravo, HR Supervisor Metzger, Finance Supervisor Sargent, Battalion Chief Muscarella, Battalion Chief Seeley, District Attorney Aversa, and Board Services Supervisor Ortiz

2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FIRE BOARD REPORTS

Vice Chairperson Vette said he did a ride-along with Station 380 B Shift. He thanked them for the opportunity to do so.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Lee Mayes thanked Golder Ranch Fire District for the support of Rural Metro in their recent loss of their employee.



5. PRESENTATIONS

A. PRESENTATION OF PERSONNEL

- YEARS OF SERVICE
 - LOGAN BRADSHAW, FIREFIGHTER 5 YEARS
 - JOSE ZUNIGA, FIREFIGHTER 5 YEARS
 - JESSE BEHUNIN, PARAMEDIC 10 YEARS
 - JACLYN FRAZIER-RADEMACHER, CAPTAIN 10 YEARS
 - RYAN HOFFMAN, CAPTAIN 10 YEARS
 - ALBERT ORTIZ, ENGINEER 10 YEARS
 - DAN WALLACE, PARAMEDIC 10 YEARS
 - LEE MUSCARELLA, BATTALION CHIEF 30 YEARS

- NEW HIRES
 - KRISTA FLUITT, HR GENERALIST/POLICY COORDINATOR
 - JEFF SARGENT, FINANCE SUPERVISOR

Behavioral and Loyalty Oaths will be administered.

Assistant Chief Cesarek presented Firefighter Logan Bradshaw and awarded him his five-year pin.

Captain Greener presented Firefighter Jose Zuniga and awarded him his five-year pin.

Captain Port introduced Paramedic Jesse Behunin and awarded him his ten-year pin.

Supervisor Bravo introduced Jaclyn Frazier- Rademacher and awarded Jackie her ten-year pin.

Battalion Chief Muscarella presented Ryan Hoffman and awarded him his ten-year pin.

Captain Carlson presented Engineer Albert Ortiz and awarded him his ten-year pin.

Battalion Chief Seeley presented Paramedic Dan Wallace and awarded him his ten-year pin.

Assistant Chief Grissom presented Battalion Chief Lee Muscarella and awarded him his 30-year pin and a plaque for his 30 years of service.

HR Supervisor Metzger presented new hire Krista Fluitt, HR's new HR Generalist and Policy Coordinator to the Board.



Finance Director Christian presented new hire Jeffery Sargent, the finance department's new supervisor, to the Board.

Chairperson Cox Golder administered the loyalty and behavioral oaths to HR Generalist Fluitt and Finance Supervisor Sargent.

B. PRESENTATION BY CULTURE COMMITTEE

- PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST CULTURE COMMITTEE CHALLENGE COIN TO FIREFIGHTER ROBERT METZ

As the Chairperson of the Culture Committee, Board Services Supervisor Ortiz presented Firefighter Robert Metz the first GRFD Culture Committee challenge coin. Mr. Metz entered a District wide art contest amongst employees and as the winner of the contest was awarded the committee's first challenge coin.

The Board took a brief recess at 9:40 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVE MINUTES- AUGUST 20, 2024, REGULAR SESSION
- B. APPROVE MINUTES- AUGUST 20, 2024, EXECUTIVE SESSION
- C. APPROVE AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING NEW POLICY: 1056- PART-TIME EMPLOYEE EARNED PAID SICK TIME

MOTION by Board Member Brady approve the September 17, 2024, Consent Agenda.

MOTION SECONDED by Vice Chairperson Vette

MOTION CARRIED 4/0

7. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – In absence of Chief Brandhuber, Assistant Chief Cesarek presented the Fire Chief's report to the Governing Board.

Board Member Outlaw inquired as to why Pima County Elections increased the cost they charge for elections from .75 cents per registered voter to \$1.50.

Board Services Supervisor Ortiz responded the additional cost is to cover hiring board workers, training and equipment. With the increased scrutiny of elections, it is the new cost of doing business.

Chairperson Cox Golder stated fortunately the District did not go to election this year and therefore, did not have to pay for it.



Board Member Brady stated, in the board packet, there were pictures of the crews assisting the community. He said staff does a good job advertising what the crews do internally, he said he would like this promoted more to the public. He was not sure how often the public is aware of what the crews do. He thanked everyone that has been involved in taking the pictures.

Assistant Chief Cesarek said Lydia (Public and Media Relations Supervisor) has been doing an excellent job posting pictures on social media. He added the District is going through a strategic planning process and telling the District's story of what the District does to the public will be a part of the strategic plan.

Vice Chairperson Vette said he saw the green sheets in the board packet for Fleet personnel. He thanked them for what they do.

President Jones thanked Board Member Vette for recognizing Fleet. The Local 3832 sent two people to Boston for the 57th Annual IAFF Convention. Approximately 5,000 people were in attendance. Sixty-five resolutions were presented. There were a couple of the resolutions passed he believed were good for the people in the District. They were tied to an increase in union dues, but he thought they were good for the members. There was a resolution for wildland firefighters which passed. The money collected from this resolution will be used for cancer research in wildland firefighting, PPE, and overall safety for wildland firefighting. The second resolution he mentioned pertained to cancer research for female firefighters. Both resolutions came with a cost, however they were in areas where firefighters want to see improvements. President Jones stated last year the Board adopted a post-employment benefit, the Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (MERP). The plan has a balance of \$215 million (IAFF balance). President Jones thanked the Board for passing the plan.

- B. COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION'S REPORT- Assistant Chief Perry presented Community Risk Reduction Division's report. He thanked the Board for participating in the strategic planning session. There are more sessions planned for staff the next week and into October. Assistant Chief Perry mentioned there was a sprinkler that prevented a larger fire at Sierra Tucson. He said it is important to emphasize how much sprinkler ordinances really do make a difference.

Vice Chairperson Vette stated he noticed response times and they looked good. However, he was concerned about the dispatch times.

Assistant Chief Perry responded it is something that is being monitored. Staff is working with the alarm room captains. Once data is collected and evaluated, the issues can be identified, and staff can work with the com center to address them. He asked the Board for some time. One other thing that is being researched is the 311 system. This system would accept public assist calls, and would reduce times by taking some of the load off the dispatchers.



Chairperson Cox Golder asked if the moderate performance measures were something that were being worked toward or was it something that was already happening on the ground.

Assistant Chief Perry replied they were monitoring categories that were developed as part of the CPSE (Center for Public Safety Excellence) accreditation. The categories are based on CAD data, response data, as crews are dispatched. He and staff are working to implement outcome-based data which will be a little more accurate once the continuum portion of ImageTrend is established.

Chairperson Cox Golder said she was surprised with the response times. She said it is a rural district but based on the times it looks like the District needs more stations or better placed stations to improve response times.

Chief Perry responded he would caution the Board about the data. They are still working on monitoring it. He released the data because Board Member Outlaw had asked for it at the last meeting. But they are still working on making sure they have accurate monitoring. He did not think there was cause for alarm yet.

Chairperson Cox Golder replied she was glad they were watching it.

Board Clerk Outlaw added she understood that this was a tool the District was using to begin to monitor accurately with new technology as part of the accreditation process. She congratulated all of the District's services for working the best that they can to improve response times. She thanked the crews for all of their hard work.

- C. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION'S REPORT - Deputy Chief Jarrold presented the Support Services' report to the Governing Board. He highlighted the green-sheets for the Fleet Maintenance Technicians. He said it shows what great work the support services team is doing. It is a testament to the leadership Charlie and Phil are providing as they move into their new roles. It shows that not only in suppression, but in all areas, including Fleet and FLS, GRFD is looked up to as an organization to lead the way. Deputy Chief Jarrold concluded by saying personnel are not asked to go out of their way; they just do it because they know that is how it is done in the District and they are doing an amazing job.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked Assistant Chief Cesarek to explain the Struggle Well program.

Assistant Chief Cesarek said the District is doing a good job getting people through the program. People who attend the classes make connections with their fellow attendees. There have been approximately fifty GRFD people who have attended the program. The next class is October 14th. He said it is an amazing program and the results are fantastic. He thanked the Board for their support.

Vice Chairperson Vette asked about Vincere cancer screening.



Division Chief Jarrold responded Vincere is a company the District just started to work with. Chief Brandhuber referred the company to him. Staff had a virtual meeting with Vincere. They have different screening tools to detect cancer. Division Chief Jarrold stated he believes the District is still doing a great job with the 1582 appointments and sonograms. The company provides different services than what 1582 currently provides. Staff will be sent to visit with Vincere and see if the services they offer are value ad to what 1582 is currently offering. The one challenge is they are located in Phoenix.

- D. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & FIRE RESPONSE DIVISON'S REPORT – Assistant Chief Grissom presented the EMS & Fire Response and Professional Development report to the Governing Board. He mentioned the EMT class was recently completed for fourteen recruits. He said he was proud of all the hard work the Professional Development staff did. Assistant Chief Grissom recognized Deputy Chief Wilson for his hard work on the CAAS re-accreditation. He and his team did a great job. The accreditation team will be on-site in November to hopefully re-accredit the District.

8. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO POST THE PROPOSED 2024 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE (IFC) WITH AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §48-805.07 AND TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR FORMAL ADOPTION OF SUCH

Fire Marshal Jenn Akins presented the 2024 International Fire Code and proposed amendments. She stated in her presentation she would review what has been added and removed from the local amendments, what has been changed to the base code itself and a timeline for adoption. This process started last December when the International Fire Code Council (IFC) adopted the 2024 Fire Code. At that time a fire code review committee was created. It was comprised of GRFD, Northwest Fire District (NWFD), Corona de Tucson, Drexel Heights and at the time Green Valley Fire District. The committee was created because GRFD and NWFD are the two largest fire districts in the area and they wanted to align their amendments as much as possible. This is not just good for the districts that enforce the code, but it is also good for the applicants such as the occupants, engineers, developers, etc. After meeting for six months, GRFD and NWFD are approximately 90% aligned with their amendments. This is something that has not been done in the past, she hopes that they can do it in future adoptions. In addition to meeting with local fire districts, FLS also met with building code agencies, including the Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, City of Tucson, and Pima County personnel.

Fire Marshal Akins explained when fire code is adopted, an amendment must be adopted in order to adopt appendices. She reviewed the proposed appendices: Appendix I- Fire Protection Systems-Non-compliant Conditions, Appendix L- Requirements for Fire Fighter Air Replenishment Systems, Appendix N- Indoor Trade



Shows and Exhibitions, Appendix O- Valet Trash and Recycling Collection in Group R-2 Occupancies, and Appendix P- Fire Department Standard Details.

Fire Marshal Akins noted a proposed amendment for a construction permit. She mentioned FLS has added an amendment to charge re-inspection fees, something the District has not done before. This does not include annual fire prevention inspections.

Fire Marshal Akins reviewed the proposed amendment to require hydrants for commercial vehicle parking areas larger than 48,000 square feet.

She described the proposed requirement for the Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement System (ERCES) for four types of structures.

Fire Marshal Akins explained the proposed amendment for one-two family dwellings' driveways.

She reviewed two proposed amendments for shell buildings.

Fire Marshal Akins described the water flow notification amendment.

She noted the increase fire area for existing commercial buildings amendment.

Fire Marshal Akins mentioned the proposed amendment for one-two family dwelling- NFPFA 13D bathrooms. This amendment is proposed to align with NWFD and is in compliance with base code.

She explained the one-two family dwelling area increase amendment.

Fire Marshal Akins reviewed the roof top storage of hazardous materials amendment. She noted this more than likely will not occur in GRFD.

All of the items previously mentioned were added to the amendments. There are three sections where items will be removed. The first was section mentioned was dead ends: cul-de-sacs; removing GRFD's amendment requiring cul-de-sacs to be 84-foot diameter and going back to base code requiring cul-de-sacs be a 96-foot diameter for apparatus turnaround. She has contacted developers in Pinal County and will be speaking at the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association to inform them of the change.

The second item she explained was one-two family dwelling bathrooms amendment allowing bathrooms up to 24 feet without a sprinkler.

The third amendment Fire Marshal Akins described was one-two family dwellings-FDCs. This removes a Fire Department Connection (FDC) requirement for one-two



family dwellings that do not receive their water supply from a municipal or private water purveyor.

Fire Marshal Akins reviewed nine items that were added to the 2024 version of the Fire Code: 1. Valet trash collection, 2. Vegetation and landscaped roof, 3. Occupiable roofs, 4. Lithium-ion battery storage (indoor vs outdoor), 5. Energy storage, 6. Commercial cooking oil storage, 7. Plan cultivation, 8. Protection of distilled spirits, 9. Hydrogen on demand mobile fueling.

Chairperson Cox Golder dismissed herself from the meeting at 10:26 a.m. Vice Chairperson Vette chaired the meeting at this time.

Fire Marshal Akins reviewed the proposed adoption timeline of the 2024 Fire Code and proposed amendments.

Board Member Brady commended Fire Marshal Akins for all the work she has done. He complimented the inspectors for their work as well. Board Member Brady thanked the Fire and Life Safety Division for the work they do in fire prevention.

Vice Chairperson Vette asked if existing buildings would have to go back and make corrections.

Fire Marshal Akins answered there are sections in fire code for tenant improvements. The level of improvement to the existing building determines what level of requirement is needed.

MOTION by Board Clerk Outlaw to post the 2024 International Fire Code with amendments and to set a public hearing for October 15, 2024, pursuant to A.R.S. §48-805.07.

SECONDED by Board Member Brady

MOTION CARRIED 3/0

B. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PLAN

Deputy Chief Hilderbrand gave a presentation on the District's Community Risk Reduction Plan. He stated in 2023, GRFD completed its first Community Risk Assessment (CRA). The CRA is a strategic process for fire departments to gather and analyze community data, in order to set organizational priorities across all divisions. Once this is completed, the next phase in the process is the Community Risk Reduction Plan (CRRP). Once the plan is created, the next step will be implementation, monitoring, and re-evaluation if needed. There were four areas identified in the CRRP: fall injuries, smoke alarms, hiker rescues, and non-emergency public assists. The goal is to reduce fall injuries, hiker rescues, and non-emergency public assists by 2027. Deputy Chief Hilderbrand described the need of each category with local statistics. He explained the five "E's" of Community Risk Reduction are: Enforcement, Emergency Response, Education, Engineering, and



Economic Incentives. The CRRP will be reviewed annually. If other risks arise, they will be evaluated. Deputy Chief Hilderbrand emphasized data collection is key. Data will be collected over time and will hopefully show downward trends of calls in these areas to show the program is effective. He thanked Becky in GIS for her assistance.

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

Finance Director Christian presented the Golder Ranch Fire District reconciliation and monthly financial report. He reviewed the past fiscal year's total revenues and expenditures and the treasurer's offices' cash balances from Pima and Pinal Counties. Finance Director Christian summarized the District's total cash balance as of the end of August. Lastly, he discussed the wildland fires the crews have been assigned and the fires that have been billed.

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

SECONDED by Board Member Brady

MOTION CARRIED 3/0

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice Chairperson Vette challenged the team to recycle water used at Professional Development.

Assistant Chief Cesarek responded they would accept the challenge and would consider it the next time renovations are done at the campus.

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 10:53 a.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Clerk Outlaw

MOTION CARRIED 3/0


Sandra Outlaw, Clerk of the Board
Golder Ranch Fire District

