

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

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 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 February 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Board Member Steve Brady (Excused)

Staff Present: Assistant Chief Grissom, Assistant Chief Perry, Assistant Chief Cesarek, Deputy Chief Rutherford, Deputy Chief Hilderbrand, Deputy Chief Wilson, Fire Marshal Akins, Finance Director Christian, IT Director Rascon, HR Director Delong, Media and Community Relations Supervisor Camarillo, EMS Division Chief Taylor, President Jones, Professional Development Division Chief Leslie, Support Services Division Chief North, Billing Supervisor Massie, Battalion Chief Seeley, Captain Steve Drury, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Raney, and Board Services Supervisor Ortiz

2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. FIRE BOARD REPORTS

There were no fire board reports.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public issues presented at this time.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. PRESENTATION OF PERSONNEL

- RETIREMENTS
 - JAMES HANSEL, ENGINEER- 28 YEARS
 - JUSTIN FLYNN, PARAMEDIC- 8 YEARS



- NEW HIRES
 - SARAH GLENN- HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST
 - EDWARD PORT- FLEET MAINTENANCE APPRENTICE

Behavioral and Loyalty Oaths were administered.

Battalion Chief Seeley recognized Engineer James Hansel for his retirement after 28 years with Golder Ranch Fire District (GRFD).

Captain Steve Drury recognized Paramedic Justin Flynn for his eight years with GRFD.

The Board took a brief recess at 9:24 a.m. The Board reconvened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

HR Supervisor Emily Noland introduced Sarah Glenn the new Human Resources Generalist.

Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Charlie Raney introduced Ed Port the new Fleet Maintenance Apprentice.

Chairperson Cox Golder administered the behavioral and loyalty oaths to the two new employees.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVE MINUTES- JANUARY 21, 2025, REGULAR SESSION
- B. APPROVE AND ADOPT THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT FINAL DRAFT STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

MOTION by Board Clerk Outlaw to approve the February 18, 2025, Consent Agenda.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Shellenberger

MOTION CARRIED 4/0

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 and leadership are working with the Town of Oro Valley on educating the community regarding wildland, specifically in the Town of Oro Valley. They will be providing a presentation at the Town of Oro Valley Council Chambers.

President Jones recognized crews for saving so many lives lately. The District's statistics are the highest life saving rate in the state and are well above the national



average. President Jones commented the Union's archery event will be March 1st. At the event, the Union will be presenting \$2,500 to Project Graduation.

Chief Brandhuber added there were recent changes to the board report to reflect the new program based budget the district will be transitioning to. He said staff welcomes input from the Board on the data included in the report.

- B. COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION'S REPORT- Assistant Chief Perry presented Community Risk Reduction division's report to the Governing Board. Assistant Chief Perry congratulated the Finance Division on receiving an upgrade to the District's bond rating (AAA). He also announced the Community Resource Technicians are now out in the field.

Chairperson Vicki Cox Golder asked if the District had received many calls regarding defensible space.

Assistant Chief Perry responded there have been quite a few calls received. The Community Risk Reduction division has been doing several presentations and compiled a newsletter to answer frequently asked questions.

Chairperson Cox Golder thanked Finance Director Christian for obtaining the AAA bond rating.

- C. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION'S REPORT- Assistant Chief Cesarek presented the Support Services' division report to the Governing Board. Assistant Chief Cesarek recognized Fleet Supervisor Phil Cantua for being selected as a test evaluator for the Emergency Vehicle Technicians. He was flown to a national conference. He took some new tests and was able to evaluate them. Assistant Chief Cesarek added, thanks to the Board's support, a couple of years ago the District was able to hire a GIS Analyst, Becky Steinnecker. In several board reports, the Board is able to see what she does and what an impact she is making on the organization. He wanted to highlight the work and effort she is putting in and also thank the Board for their support to create the position.
- D. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & FIRE RESPONSE DIVISION'S REPORT- Assistant Chief Grissom presented the EMS & Fire Response division's report.

Vice Chairperson Vette asked what the term 'Code 3' meant in the operations report.

Assistant Chief Grissom responded code 3 means when a call is dispatched an apparatus responds to the call with lights and sirens.

Chairperson Vette noted the response times in the board report.



Assistant Chief Grissom replied that was a benefit of the new program, it highlighted areas that need improvement. He is working with leadership to improve response times. He believes they have a plan to lower response times.

Chairperson Cox Golder thanked Assistant Chief Grissom for the data he included in his board report. She believed it would help in making decisions such as purchasing additional apparatus, etc. She said it was great data. She thanked him for it.

Assistant Chief Grissom thanked Chairperson Cox Golder and added that if the Board would like to see anything else in the report, it can be added.

Board Member Shellenberger asked about a wildland line item in the budget that appears to be over budget.

Finance Director Dave Christian stated it is difficult to predict how much will be needed for wildland. He adds a placeholder to the budget for this line item, which is an average of past years. What is important to note is in addition to the expense line item being over budget, the revenue line item is also over budget, so the district is not out money. The revenue covers the expense.

Chief Brandhuber addressed Vice Chairperson's concern regarding response times. He informed the Board that when the initial response times were created they were a best guess. Each year these times are re-evaluated to see if crews can meet the times. He said the most important times are what are called 'out of chute time' which is the time it takes to get out of the station. He doesn't want to pressure crews to respond to a scene quicker. If response times need to be adjusted they can be. There are many different factors to include in response times such as traffic, weather, etc. He wants to make sure the crews respond to an incident safely and if the response times need to be adjusted they can be. The initial response times were in the initial Standards of Cover. If they need to be adjusted, they can be.

8. REGULAR BUSINESS

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

Finance Director Christian presented a summary of the financial reports to the Governing Board. He said the District has consumed approximately \$2 million in cash. Year-to-date it is 11% favorable in revenue. He expects the revenue to take care of all expenses and not to have to use contingency funds. Not only is the District CASS accredited, it now has a 'AAA' bond rating.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked if any other fire districts have a 'AAA' bond rating.

Director Christian responded Northwest Fire District and a few other municipalities do.



Chief Brandhuber added GRFD is the only CAAS accredited fire agency.

Finance Director Christian reported there were 695 transports in the month of January. The average is approximately 19 transports/day.

Vice Chairperson Vette asked if the District will have to pay money back on the interest the District earned.

Finance Director Christian replied he does expect the District will have to make a payment to the IRS because it earned such a high rate of interest. However, he has been preparing for it.

MOTION by Vice Chairperson Vette to approve and accept the Golder Ranch Fire District reconciliation and monthly financial report as presented.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Outlaw

MOTION CARRIED 4/0

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 18, 2025.

10. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public issues presented at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Board Member Shellenberger to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Clerk Outlaw

MOTION CARRIED 4/0



Sandra Outlaw, Clerk of the Board
Golder Ranch Fire District

