

GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 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 Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 9 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: Assistant Chief Perry, Assistant Chief Grissom, Assistant Chief Cesarek, Deputy Chief Rutherford, Deputy Chief Jarrold, Deputy Chief Wilson, Finance Director Christian, HR Director Delong, Acting Technology Director Martinez, Division Chief Taylor, Division Chief Leslie, Division Chief Charnoki, Division Chief North, Battalion Chief Price, Board Services Supervisor Ortiz, and Billing Supervisor Massie

2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those in attendance said the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FIRE BOARD REPORTS

Vice-Chairperson Vette said the committee did a great job on the Christmas party. He commented the gingerbread houses were amazing.

Board Member Brady said he attended the 10-year recognition for Chaplain Wright.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Lee Mayes thanked Golder Ranch Fire District (GRFD) for their help with the funeral services of Chief Thomas Maloy. He said he was impressed with how much GRFD assisted, including personnel who assisted with services on their day off.

Tom Brandhuber spoke as a resident at call to the public and gave Chairperson Cox Golder a card signed by GRFD employees and their families thanking her for all she does for fire district personnel and their families. On behalf of the Union, President Jones thanked Chairperson Cox Golder for all she does for the District.



5. PRESENTATIONS

A. PRESENTATION TO CATALINA CRUSADERS

Chief Brandhuber thanked the members of the Catalina Crusaders: Ruth Dormanen, President; Anna Kaasas, Secretary; Della Atterberry, Treasurer; Lori Burkhart, Auction Manager; Jenny Vee, Event Coordinator; Tracy Topel, Staff Member; for all of their work fundraising to assist kids in need during the Christmas season. Chief Brandhuber noted the group has been doing this for the past twenty-four years.

Battalion Chief Price thanked the group for all of their hard work the past twenty-four years.

Local 3832 President Ben Jones thanked the group for their dedication to the community. On behalf of the Union, he presented the group with a Local 3832 firefighter helmet.

B. PRESENTATION OF PERSONNEL

- **YEARS OF SERVICE**
 - MICHAEL LESLIE, DIVISION CHIEF- 20 YEARS
 - RANDOLPH SCHOLEY, PARAMEDIC- 20 YEARS

Deputy Chief Hilderbrand presented Division Chief Leslie for his 20 years of service to GRFD.

Captain D. Cramblit presented Paramedic Scholey for his 20 years of service to GRFD.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVE MINUTES- DECEMBER 16, 2025, REGULAR SESSION**
- B. APPROVE AND ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-0001 TO DECLARE ITEMS AS SURPLUS AND DIRECTION TO STAFF TO SELL OR PROVIDE ITEMS TO NEIGHBORING FIRE DISTRICTS OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

MOTION by Vice-Chairperson Vette to approve the January 20, 2026, Consent Agenda

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Brady

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

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 met with the Mayor of the Town



of Oro Valley. The Mayor spoke highly of Golder Ranch Fire District and says he receives positive comments from residents about the District.

President B. Jones wished the Governing Board a happy new year and had nothing to report on behalf of the Union.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked what Spark Hire interviews were.

HR Director Delong answered Spark Hire interviews are pre-recorded interviews candidates submit in lieu of in-person interviews. This saves time for both the candidate and District personnel.

- B. COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION'S REPORT - Assistant Chief Perry presented Community Risk Reduction's division report to the Governing Board. He added the Community Resource Technicians (CRTs) received 2,100 calls over the past year. These are calls suppression personnel do not have to respond to.
- C. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION'S REPORT - Assistant Chief Cesarek presented the Support Services' division report to the Governing Board. He announced building improvements began at the new Quasar facility, including moving swamp coolers from the roof to the ground level and roof improvements.

Chairperson Cox Golder asked why swamp coolers were being used instead of AC units.

Assistant Chief Cesarek replied the swamp coolers were cost effective for the bay area rather than using AC units which would be costly to use in the bays.

Board Member Brady asked what the schedule was for re-paving.

Assistant Chief Cearek said the pavement project was completed in December. He thanked Facilities for their work on the project.

Chairperson Cox Golder commented on the quick turnaround time to receive the new ladder truck.

Assistant Chief Cesarek explained the District had been on a waiting list for a while prior to the construction of it. He said it will be great to have the vehicle arrive.

- D. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & FIRE RESPONSE DIVISION'S REPORT – Assistant Chief Grissom presented the EMS & Fire Response's division report to the Governing Board. He noted an academy has begun. He also echoed the comments of Mr. Mayes. Assistant Chief Grissom thanked everyone who assisted with the services for Chief Thomas Maloy, including Deputy Chief Hilderbrand and Deputy Chief Jarrold.



8. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING POLICIES: 210- SOLICITATION OF FUNDS; 235- DONATIONS POLICY; AND 906-APPARATUS/ VEHICLE MANEUVERING

Chief Brandhuber explained the policies have been reviewed by staff and the Union. Changes have been made to the existing policies to update them.

MOTION by Vice-Chairperson Vette to approve and adopt policies 210- Solicitation of Funds; 235- Donations Policy; and 906- Apparatus/Vehicle Maneuvering.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Shellenberger

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE LIFEWORK EDUCATION, INC. VEHICULAR FIELD TRAINING AGREEMENT

Chief Brandhuber mentioned the agreement has been reviewed by staff and the attorney.

Assistant Chief Grissom explained the agreement is with Lifework Education to allow future EMTs and paramedics through the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) to do ride-alongs on GRFD apparatus. He commented the District has a great relationship with Lifework.

Board Member Brady asked if those who do ride-alongs carry their own insurance.

Assistant Chief Grissom confirmed they do.

MOTION by Board Member Shellenberger to approve and adopt the Lifework Education, Inc. Vehicular Field Training agreement

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Brady

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

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

Finance Director Christian presented the GRFD reconciliation and monthly financial report. He stated December is the mid-point of the fiscal year. He said things looked well, especially on the revenue side for the month of December as well as year-to-date. In December, the District received property tax revenue. He was surprised by the fact. Ambulance revenue did well in December with a 22% favorable variance. This caught the division up where they were behind on ambulance revenue.

Miscellaneous revenue reflected the last of the wildland revenue. Year-to-date the District was 9% favorable on the revenue. The ambulance revenue was \$161,069 favorable year-to-date. Labor/benefits were 2% favorable, which is where it should be. It will begin to decrease towards the end of the fiscal year. For the mid-year the



District has \$6.7 million proceeds, which was better than anticipated. This was due to revenue which was 9% favorable. The District has approximately \$2 million at the Pinal County Treasurer's Office and \$18.3 at the Pima County Treasurer's Office. All cash for all accounts the District has approximately \$32 million. Ambulance billing did not bill in the month of November, but caught up in the month of December. Mid-way through the fiscal year the department has a 99% resolution rate which means accounts have either been written-off, adjusted, issued refunds, or collected payments. Director Christian commented this was the division's target goal. Mid-year there were 3,600 transports. The average number of transports per day was twenty-three. Cash collected in December was \$556,000. In 2025, wildland collected \$994,614 for thirty-six state and federal fires. The 2025 season has closed and the 2026 has begun.

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 Shellenberger

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 17, 2026.

Vice-Chairperson Vette stated the GRFD PSPRS Local Pension Board recently had a meeting where Finance Director Christian explained the actuarial report. Vice-Chairperson Vette asked Director Christian to present options to the Board to get the District back to a 100% funding level.

Director Christian replied he would be happy to make a presentation to the Board at the next board meeting.

Chief Brandhuber let the Board know the Mayor of the Town of Oro Valley asked him to present to the Council on the 2025 data including response times on February 18th at 6:00 p.m. He invited the Board to attend.

10. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

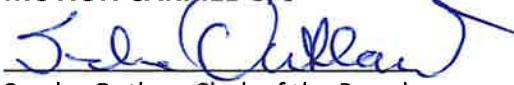
There were no public issues presented at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Vice-Chairperson Vette to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Brady

MOTION CARRIED 5/0


Sandra Outlaw, Clerk of the Board
Golder Ranch Fire District

