



Golden Valley Fire District

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board of the Golden Valley Fire District met in regular session on **April 27, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.** The meeting was held at the Golden Valley Fire District Public Safety Training Center, located at 423 South Colorado Road, Golden Valley, AZ 86413. The Board may vote to go into executive session on any agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) (3) for legal advice with the District's attorney on matters as set forth in the agenda item. Board members or other participants may attend by telephonic conference. The following topics and any variables thereto, will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items are set for possible action.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER.

- Chairperson Foster called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.

- Director George Payntar; Director Gary Juneau; Chair Sue Foster; Director Jack Hommel was all present. Clerk Tony DeMaio was absent.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2022

- Director Hommel motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Director Juneau 2nd. All in favor, motioned carried.

5. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

A. March 2022 Operational Report. (Assistant Fire Chief Martin)

- Chief Cunningham stated for the month of March there were 192 EMS calls, 44 Fire calls, 1 Hazmat call and 1 other call for a total of 238 calls. 5 were ran in Chloride and 11 ran in Yucca.

B. Fire Chief's Report. *The governing body may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on this matter unless the specific matter is described in detail. Therefore, action taken as a result of the Chief's report will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. (A.R.S. 38-431.02. K)*

- District properties – Assistant Fire Chief Martin
 - Station 11 had two bay doors re-aligned
- Equipment – Assistant Fire Chief Martin
 - Water Tender 138 is at Velocity (Freightliner) having the wheel sensor for the speedometer replaced, this is under warranty due to a recall. It also is having the turbo worked on due to a recall, which also under warranty. The exhaust regen system had a recall on it and is waiting for the part to come in. The part should arrive today and be back in service by Friday.
 - Wildland crew returned from New Mexico on Monday night. Truck has small issues, and the mechanic will be looking at it today.
 - C103 truck has new tires.
- Training
 - On-going in-house training
- Meetings Attended
 - KRMC Pre-Hospital Care
 - Fire Marshals Meeting

- County Fire Officers Meeting
- Projects in the works
 - Still working on the tower. We had a few delays and setbacks. One is that we need a special inspection for a few requirements due to the concrete needing to be 3600 PSI. We are hoping by the end of June or beginning of July it will be erected.
- Thank-You
 - Citizen sent a letter to thank the crew for care rendered.
- Anniversaries
 - Engineer Luke Weber 17 years
 - Firefighter Michael Barnes 2 years

6. BUSINESS. *Public wishing to speak on agenda items must complete a speaker card and present to the Board Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.*

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 audit by Saunders Company, Ltd. (Administration)
- James Saunders addressed the Board and explained the process of the audit. He indicated that the financial statements are correctly presented as to form and format and that the underlying information supports the data and information presented in the financial statement. We found no problems, no incidents, no discrepancies in the financial data itself. During our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We found your policies and procedures to be adequate and sufficient for your size district and you are in fact following them as related to financial information. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters. We also found that the district complied with the Arizona standards and requirements for fire districts financial control and did not overspend beyond reserves and monies collected. Mr. Saunders asked if the Board had any questions. The Board had no questions.
 - Director Hommel motioned to approve the report as presented. Director Juneau 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
- B. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of March 2022 Financial Reports. (Administration)
- Comptroller Kindelberger noted for the month of March 2022, the ending register balance for the warrant account at Wells Fargo Bank was \$1,095,783.70. Payroll account at National Bank of Arizona ending register balance \$98,977.62. Income \$153,462.97; Expenses \$306,032.63, this is elevated due to having three payrolls for the month of March.
 - Direct Payntar motioned to approve the March 2022 report as presented. Director Juneau 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
- C. Discussion Only: Review of Attorney invoices. (Administration)
- Most recent invoice is for \$652.50, breakdown is \$450.00 is for the discussion of the retirement stipend issue, and \$202.50 for review of the Chloride IGA.
 - No action
- D. Discussion Only: Review records request for the month of March 2022. (Administration)
- We had a holdover from Sweet James Law Firm on 2/25/2022 for an EMS/Fire Report; ready on 2/28/2022, received 5.00 for 10 pages, emailed on 3/28/2022. Kyle Law Firm for EMS/Fire Report; ready 3/1/2022 for 9 pages, collected \$10.00, emailed on 3/2/2022. Rafeal Culajay for Fire Report; ready 3/14/2022 for 6 pages, collected \$3.00, picked up on 3/14/2022.
 - No action
- E. Discussion Only: Update on confined space training vault. (Hommel)
- Director Hommel stated that he is running into the issue with the executive director of Rural Water Association of Arizona, she is dragging her feet and is afraid to make a decision. Director Hommel wrote a letter to let her know if she lets this drag on then he will with his own money buy out that portion of the deal. If he doesn't receive a response by the end of the week, Hommel will act. The vault is in the ground and had the manhole covers on it. It needs a little grading. All the training equipment like the tripod, hoist and harness is on hand and ready to go. It's all paid for. Hommel asked Assistant Chief Martin if he could store the equipment at the training center, and he replied

that he preferred that he keep it in SoHi, he doesn't want the district to be responsible for it. Comptroller Kindelberger asked if it could be used for training now, Director stated yes. If someone needed the equipment for training, he could have it there in 30 minutes. We also have the digital training manuals as well. We can have a few instructors get certified so that when the training is completed, they can be signed off. Director Hommel will keep the board updated as progress is made. Chairperson Foster asked if the money that Hommel puts out would be from SoHi, and he stated no this will be out of his own personal monies. Talking with Comptroller Kindelberger the money for the training class will come to Golden Valley Fire District and then will be distributed to the original people that put the money into it. The board will need to decide what the fee will be for the training and get it placed on the agenda for approval. Chairperson Foster asked who this will be available to, and Director Hommel stated any agency that is wishing to use it for confined space training.

- No action

F. Discussion Only: Review the fiscal year 2022/2023 budget progress. (Administration)

- The tentative budget will be coming to the board in May for approval, this is just an update of our progress to date. We are up against a couple hurdles. First one being an increase from our workers compensation insurance, we were hit with a 105% increase, and an additional assessment for losses for \$59,000., totaling \$179,000. increase to our budget. There is an increase in the tax levy from 3.25% to 3.375%. We will be presenting two budgets, one for 3.25% and one for 3.375% and the board will vote on which levy to approve. Our property tax revenue is up 238k; 78k is from the levy increase, 75k is from Meyers Distributing coming on the tax roll, the remaining 82k is our normal yearly increase of property taxes. We have new revenue from the Smart and Safe Fund, budgeted for 40k, this is coming from the sale of legal marijuana. We are budgeting to release the two years' of the wage freeze through June 30, 2022. We had hoped to hire one more member to bring us to full staffing but do not have the funds. All our cost is going up due to cost-of-living inflation and the cost of fuel is also a large hit. Our vehicle maintenance cost has been rising due to our aging fleet. We have budgeted in capital to buy seven sets of turnouts and re-chassis Attack 125 in this next budget year. One thing that may be coming that may help relieve the budget is that the fire districts are trying to get an initiative on the ballot to increase the sales tax by one tenth of one percent and all those funds will be divided between the 144 fire districts in the state. This is currently in the state legislative and if it passes and the Governor signs it, it will go into effect. If it doesn't pass, there is a petition going around for this to be put on the ballot for the citizens to vote on it in November. Director Juneau asked if we could shop the workers comp to get better rates, Comptroller Kindelberger stated that we are in a three-year contract, and we are in the second year of the contract now. The cause of the increase is due to the presumptive cancer bill and Covid claims. Even the private insurers got an approval for a 98% increase from the Arizona Insurance Commission. Only other options are 7710 Insurance and the State high-risk pool. Director Payntar asked if the levy is increased will that allow us to hire another firefighter. Comptroller Kindelberger stated no, the Chief is going to apply for a Safer Grant. Assistant Chief Martin went on to explain that a Safer Grant is through FEMA, and it covers hiring a firefighter for three years, after three years the department will have to pick up all the costs in the budget. Chief is applying for one firefighter which will bring us to full staffing. Director Hommel stated that with the rate of inflation is the fire district going to be able to keep up in coming years. Comptroller Kindelberger stated that there are a few things in the works. The workers comp trust is petitioning the State for funds to help with the losses. The sales tax increase if it passes. With the property tax limits in place, it is not keeping up with inflation. Only other way to bring more income is more industry coming into the district. We have secured out of district contracts with all the available businesses. We really are limited on options to bring in more revenue.

- No action

7. CALL TO THE PUBLIC. *Consideration and discussion of comments and complaints from the public. Those wishing to address the Golden Valley Fire District Board need not request permission in advance. The Fire District Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on any item raised in the call to the public, unless the item is specifically noticed for discussion or legal action. However, individual Board members may be permitted to respond to criticism directed to them. Otherwise, the Board*

may direct that staff review the matter or that the matter be placed on a future agenda. The Fire District Board cannot discuss or take legal action on any issue raised during the Call to the Public that is not on the agenda due to restrictions of the Open Meeting Law.

- None

8. ADJOURNMENT.

- Chairperson Foster adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:42 a.m.

MINUTES prepared by: Tina Cripe / Mindy Kindelberger
(This is a working draft, until Board approval)

Date: 04/28/2022

By: _____
Board Clerk, Tony DeMaio

Approved:

DRAFT