



Golden Valley Fire District

749 S. Egar Road, Golden Valley, Arizona 86413

Phone: (928) 565-3479 · Fax: (928) 565-3223

www.GoldenValleyFire.org



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 **Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 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 public will have physical access to the meeting place at 8:45 a.m. 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

- Chairman DeMaio called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

- Director Jack Hommel, Clerk Sue Foster, Chairman Tony DeMaio, and Director George Payntar were present. Director Gary Juneau was absent.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. PRAYER

- Pastor Mike Willis from Abundant Grace of Laughlin led the board in prayer.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2024

- Clerk Foster moved to approve the minutes as presented. Director Payntar 2nd the motion. All in favor, motioned carried.

6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. May 2024 Operational Report. (Chief Cunningham)

- Chief Cunningham stated for the month of May there were 286 total calls: 173 EMS and rescue calls and 15 fire-related calls.

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)*

- Pinning Ceremony for FF Bradley Thornton
 - Fire Chief Cunningham informed the public that we have a new firefighter, Bradley Thornton. Battalion Chief Robert Arnold administered the oath of office and Bradley Thornton was pinned by his wife, Yawaywish Thornton.
- District properties – Chief Martin
 - Station 11 and 13 had the air conditioning units go out. Both were repaired and are working now.
 - PSTC - All the swamp coolers have all been repaired.

- State of Arizona Inmate Fire Crews were housed at the training center last week and they were a big help, they did irrigation repairs, plumbing repairs on the swamp coolers, cleaned and weeded the grounds. I would like to thank them for their help.
- Equipment – Chief Martin
 - Engine 112 and Engine 121 are having air conditioning issues.
 - Attack Unit 115: Issues again with the EGR, we will need to bring back to the board in the next fiscal year.
- Training
 - Chief Martin stated that Kingman Fire hosted a vehicle fire investigation training for Mohave County Investigators. In attendance was Engineer Luke Weber, Battalion Chief Boyd Lewis and Chief Martin.
- Meetings Attended
 - Mohave County Fire Officers Meeting was attended.
- Projects in the works
 - Staff continue to work on the budget.
- Chief Dallman updated the board on the Adashi command software awarded on a grant.
- Thank you
 - Thank you to Pastor Mike Willis for being here today.
 - Thank you to Great American Pizza for the fund-raising event they had for the fire district. We received a check in the amount of \$5,970.00. We greatly appreciate the donation.
- Anniversaries
 - None

7. 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 May 2024 financial reports. (Administration)
- Comptroller Kindelberger noted for the month of May 2024 the ending register balance for the warrant account at Wells Fargo Bank was \$1,217,159.36. Capital reserve account at Wells Fargo Bank was \$143,345.79. Payroll account at National Bank of Arizona ending register balance \$110,000.48. Revenue \$219,211.04; Expenses \$311,759.10.
 - Clerk Foster motioned to approve the May 2024 financial reports as presented. Director Hommel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.
- B. Discussion only: Review records request for the month of May. (Administration)
- Comptroller Kindelberger read the following:
 - 05/01/24 Desiree Keller, fire report, no records found, referred to NAFD.
 - 05/02/24 LexisNexis, fire report, ready 5/21/24, collected \$15.00.
 - 05/08/24 Tower Hill Insurance, fire report, ready 5/21/24, collected \$15.00.
 - 05/18/24 Donor Network of AZ, EMS report, ready 05/22/24, no charge.
 - No Action
- C. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between GVFD and Northern Arizona Fire District (NAFD) for Emergency Response Services; approval of resolution regarding same. (Cunningham)
- Chief Cunningham stated that there are no changes in the IGA from last year. Next year we will propose an increase due to the levy increase by NAFD.
 - Director Hommel motioned to approve. Clerk Foster 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.
- D. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of contract and addendum with TCP for scheduling software for five years. (Cunningham)
- Chief Cunningham informed the board that we have been using this software for two years now. It is beneficial for us to have this service; it automates scheduling for the battalion chiefs to notify employees of open shifts. They are offering us a discount if we sign a five-year contract.

- Director Hommel motioned to approve and authorize the fire chief to sign. Chairman DeMaio 2nd the motion. Discussion: Director Payntar asked what the saving on the five-year contract compared to the year-by-year pricing. Comptroller Kindelberger stated that last year we were going to cancel due to the 11% increase, but they waived it if we stayed with them. This year the increase was going to be 6%. On the five-year contract there is no increase this year and increases are capped at 4% with some years being lower than the 4%.
Call for the vote: All in favor, motion carried unanimously.
- E. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of tentative budget for fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027. (Cunningham)
 - Chief Cunningham stated that we are allowed a .25 increase in the tax levy this year. We are currently at 3.50 and can increase to 3.75. I have met individually with the board members prior to this meeting and went over the two budgets presented today, one at the 3.50 tax levy and 3.75 tax levy. I wanted to be clear that this request to raise the tax levy has nothing to do with the recent consolidation with Yucca Fire. Regardless of the consolidation, I would have asked for this levy increase.
 - Chairman DeMaio motioned to approve the tentative budget at the tax levy rate of 3.75. Director Hommel 2nd the motion. Discussion: Chairman DeMaio: Being in the fire service we are losing people leaving for more money. GVFD is the lowest paid department in this area. We need to shore up our numbers and retain our personnel. We recently lost some key personnel, but other key personnel are sticking with us, and we thank you for that. I have never in my 31-year career seen so much movement of personnel between departments. Director Hommel added that Chief Cunningham spent a lot of time with the board members going line by line over the budget. If we don't go with this increase in the tax levy, we are going to be in a lot of trouble. Call for the vote: All in favor, motion carried unanimously.
- F. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of new pay scale to be effective July 2, 2024. (Cunningham)
 - Chief Cunningham stated that with the increased tax levy, 172k of it will go into wages and benefits. Years ago, when we went into a wage freeze for four years, it has made matters worse for us now. We are falling behind in our wages, and we need to increase our pay scale to retain our employees. We are presenting two pay scales; pay scale A has a 3.5% COLA which will not get us where we need to be. Pay scale B is an average of a 12.2% increase, this will get us close to the Northern Arizona Fire pay scale. I am recommending pay scale B, it is supported by the budget the board just approved. Recently we lost two tenured employees, one was a paramedic. We can't afford to lose our tenured employees. Not long ago I stated to the board how nice it was to have the longest tenured staff in the area. But that can be lost in a matter of one budget year. If we don't make this change, we are going to continue to lose employees.
 - Chairman DeMaio motioned to approve pay scale B, based on the 3.75 tax levy. Clerk Foster 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.
- G. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of addendum to the Fire Chief's contract for wage increase. (Cunningham)
 - Chief Cunningham stated that I am presenting two addendums, addendum A is with the 3.5% COLA. Addendum B is a 11% increase, the new pay scale for employees is an average of 12%. This would be about 73k cost to GVFD for my salary. Before the IGA with NAFD, GVFD was paying 100% of my salary at 113k. NAFD was paying their fire chief 120k, now they also pay 73k.
 - Chairman DeMaio motioned to approve addendum B for the chief's wage. Director Hommel 2nd the motion. Discussion: Chairman DeMaio stated for the public that GVFD doesn't pay all of the

Fire Chief's salary, they are split with NAFD under an IGA. If that IGA is ever cancelled the Fire Chief would see a reduction in his salary per the IGA. Call for the vote: All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

H. Discussion and possible action regarding: Addendum to legal services contract with Nicolas J. Cornelius, Esq. for rate increase (Cunningham)

- Chief Cunningham stated that we have been with this attorney for five years now. He has never asked for a rate increase. His hourly rate will increase from \$225 to \$285 per hour.
 - Director Hommel motioned to approve. Clerk Foster 2nd the motion. Discussion: Chairman DeMaio stated that he has met Mr. Cornelius and spoken to him multiple times via phone. Having experience with other attorneys in the fire service, I like him. Call for the vote: All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

8. 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

9. ADJOURNMENT

- Chairman DeMaio adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:34 a.m.

MINUTES prepared by: Mindy Kindelberger
(This is a working draft until board approval)

Date: 06/27/2024

By: _____ Approved:
Sue Foster, Board Clerk