



Golden Valley Fire District

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

The Governing Board of the Golden Valley Fire District met in special session on **May 03, 2017 at 6:00 p.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.

- Chairman Gorham called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.

- Director Randy Osborn, Clerk Jack Hommel, Chairman Paul Gorham, Director Gary Juneau and Director Bill McCarter were present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

A. Discussion and possible action re: EMS Program Coordinator position; costs and use history; possible reduction in scope and costs; possible elimination of that position; possible restructure of that position. Possible policy modification to accommodate the same. (Yeager)

- Chief Yeager stated to the Board, that as he was directed to pulled the financials for the EMS Program starting January 01, 2013 which was when the salary went into effect for the Program Coordinator. Chief Yeager presented financials for each fiscal year along with the budgets for each year. He explained the program losses and an estimate for FY 17/18 if we continue this program. These losses have nothing to do with the program coordinators ability to teach, as he is one of the best instructors in the area. The lack of income is caused by multiple reasons, the college did not give us our Articulation Agreement which allows us to teach Paramedic classes; then there was our accreditation when Chief O'Donohue left we had to reapply; and the college is also doing these classes. These factors are why we did not do classes. Chairman Gorham stated that he called the college to inquire about their paramedic program costs which was about \$5300.00 and they offer payment plans. Chairman Gorham asked the Chief if we are financially able to offer a payment plan. Chief Yeager stated that to get someone who can pay \$6k up front is slim, the challenge with a payment plan is if a student quits or fails would we be able to collect the money due. The benefit of a payment plan is more students will sign up and hopefully they'll pay. Clerk Hommel told the firefighters in attendance that all who wear the blue suits are all heroes in his eyes, but that his background is business and he looks at it as a four-year running loss that why have we not cancelled this program as it is loser. He cannot see why we would lay this burden on the taxpayers for four years. Chief Yeager said that there are things to consider moving forward as having an instructor in house we don't pay for our refresher classes, if these program is cancelled we'll have to look at other means which would cost a little bit of money. Chairman Gorham asked what those costs will be. Chief Yeager informed him that WACEMS offers EMT training two times year at \$50.00 per student, KRMC does mandatory training refresher classes in which the CPR cards are \$5.00, Wizard Education charges for Paramedic Class is about \$6900.00, Paramedic Refresher if they do all mandatory hours they must take some labs which are scheduled two times a year and get all three ACLS, CPR and PALS

cards for \$25.00. Clerk Hommel asked if we decided to do program would it create enough income to cover our cost. Chief Yeager answered no. Captain Arnold stated that WACEMS no longer is going to offer refresher classes. Clerk Hommel said there is no benefit in continuing this program if we are losing \$20k plus each year, he suggests cancelling the program and try to put together some other way of approaching so we get benefit without loss. Chief Yeager said there are options out there if you want to continue the program we could look at cost per student as we could use the income. Clerk Hommel said he cannot support the continue loss. Chief Yeager suggested Captain Arnold and him could sit down come up with a viable program to make it work, but the way the program is set up and designed it is not working. Director Osborn stated that we are in the hole for \$95,000.00 to date and he has a problem with that. Chairman Gorham said that working this budget we put in X number of dollars for income from paramedic training and other training it is carried down to bottom line of the income and it looks good on paper but at end of year when nothing is in income and there is the red negative it hits us every year as we can't overcome the negative in the budget. We've cut everything that we can cut, everyone is doing a great job of watching but if we take \$100,000.00 out of income then that red line shows up earlier than at the end of year. This is a business, you run a business to make it viable. If you make an investment and it doesn't produce you need to get out of it and look at other options. I hate to have our firefighters not have in house training but I don't see how we can be competitive with the college on Paramedic and EMT training. Clerk Hommel asks Captain Arnold if board elects to cancel which he would recommend under current situation would he be willing to work with the Chief and the Board to try to put together another form to provide services without losses. Captain Arnold feels that the misunderstanding is that it's always the paramedic program but its only one small portion that he does, he also does EMT. The reason MCC doesn't want to do our Articulate Agreement is he takes students away from them and they must cancel their programs. I also teach all the ACLS, PALS and contracts with Nucor and Griffith. If you take just the income from the Paramedic Class yes, we lost money but if you look at the broad scope with the income from Nucor and Griffith. Director Juneau stated the overtime is almost equal to salary, if we could eliminate overtime that would help. Chief Yeager stated our contracts only state we do CPR and First Aid. Chairman Gorham says this is an unsustainable part of our organization we cannot keep losing money. With the retirement increase we got hit with and we will get hit again next year. Chairman Gorham stated that we no longer can afford this program.

- Clerk Hommel motioned that the board approve the cancellation of program in its current form and ask the Chief and Captain Arnold to look at some way of putting together a viable program that we can support and bring back to the Board. Director McCarter 2nd. Discussion: Director McCarter said we looked at all information. Call for the vote: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Gorham directed the Chief to work with Captain Arnold to create a program beneficial to our firefighters to get their training and bring back to the Board.

5. 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.*

- Firefighter Guerrero addressed the Chairman that he knows motion has passed and that we are trying to save money but he feels that this will hurt the line guys on PALS, ACL recertification's, that there are other ways to save money. Chairman responded by saying we've done everything to cut costs that we can do, doesn't know what else they can give up. The guys have gone over and above but we need another way to do certification, we've got to come up with something that won't hurt the District.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

- Director Gorham adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:38 p.m.