



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 a special session on **Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 10:00 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 10:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The Board of Directors may vote to go into Executive Session on personnel matters pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) for salary discussions regarding the Fire Chief's employment contract.
 - Director Hommel motioned to go into executive session. Director Payntar 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Executive Session began at approximately 10:01 a.m.
 - Public Session reconvened at approximately 10:16 a.m.

5. 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: Negotiation and possible renewal of the Fire Chief's contract. (Cunningham)
 - Clerk DeMaio made a motion to renew the contract as written. Director Hommel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Chief Cunningham thanked the board members.
- B. Discussion and possible action regarding: Order feasibility study for possible consolidation of Golden Valley Fire District and Yucca Fire District. (Cunningham)
 - Chief Cunningham stated this has been talked about with individual board members. Some members felt that we should have consolidated or merged with Yucca early on, but I thought it would be wise to wait to see what issues Yucca had that needed to be addressed and corrected. I believe it would be in the best interest of Golden Valley Fire to consider merging with Yucca Fire as the pros outweigh the cons. The most important pro consolidating with Yucca would be to protect the assets that Golden Valley Fire has already. If they get another Chief, rather they can afford it or not, I feel they will come after the prison and Griffith as in the past. There are no guarantees as Yucca grows but they are coming into some money because of the gas station that is already there, and the ones being proposed. One is already at the permitting level and another one at the other end of Yucca is still in the

works. Developers are also looking to put in storage facilities. Director Hommel asked if the industrial base is where the majority of our funds come from and not the residential property tax. Chief Cunningham stated that the majority of our funding comes from commercial and it's nice to see Golden Valley grow with residential; however, commercial brings in most of our funding. Director Hommel agreed with the Chief that if we don't get on this horse now then we'll never get on it, especially with the industrial expansion. Director Hommel recommends approving this. Chief Cunningham stated that currently three businesses out there now, Myers, FlowServe and Tippman, the cold storage facility that is being built alone will bring in approximately \$200,000 a year just from those three. This has the potential to go up because of property values. It's important that we capture companies even if they are not in the fire district like Griffith and the prison. Chief Cunningham said, I really think that consolidation would be the best thing. Clerk DeMaio said he would like to set everything that we talked about aside cause it's kind of like all leading toward us. When or if we consolidate or merge with Yucca fire, we are going to be providing that community with a well-established, well-oiled machine that is going to take over and protect their citizens and their property and I think we need to look at that aspect of it as well. Yucca Fire has a past history that I'm not going to go into but we are providing them with something already and we are just continuing and building on that and I've always been one to say that we have needed to do this for years now and I'm glad that we had put the brakes on per your instruction in the beginning as we did find things that needed to be addressed before we jumped with both feet. All benefits to Golden Valley Fire set aside, we also need to address the benefits for the people and community of Yucca as well. This will provide them with an upgrade to what they currently have been getting for years. Director Hommel stated that is a good point. Clerk DeMaio stated it's a benefit for both sides not just a benefit for us. We are protecting and improving things on both sides of the street and at the end of the day, it will be better for everyone. Chair Foster stated that we should jump on this instantly. Director Juneau said that we won't be responsible for any of their past bills or things that they did by us taking them over. Chief Cunningham stated fortunately regarding the past bills, I think we have all the people coming out of the woodwork taken care of. They still have a credit issue, but all their stuff is going through Golden Valley Fire currently because they have no credit or credit cards. I have list of Pro's and Con's. Mindy has some items on the administration side that is a benefit for both. It would cut down the workload for administration. As far as providing full-time service out there, that will probably not happen even though all the money would go to one pot Yucca's tax revenue is approximately \$200,000. We staff them on average about fifteen days a month. As the commercial area grows, this will probably change. Chief Cunningham stated he is currently working on a deal with the proving grounds; however, I don't know if this deal will happen. If we consolidate, I think this would be another station for us, it would no longer be Yucca Fire Department, it would be a Golden Valley fire station. Director Juneau asked that the station would stay within the budget that Yucca income provides, and that Golden Valley wouldn't be responsible. Chief Cunningham stated it would be our responsibility. Yucca has money to afford personnel and part of it is just by us not being contracted with them that saves them administrative cost this year by another thirty-four percent which puts them over \$51,000 that they're paying to Golden Valley that in itself could put a part time person out there for one full year. So, I think that is the benefit that Clerk DeMaio was talking about. They are going to get some benefits but so are we, so you are right it does need to be talked about on both sides. In the long run, I think it's going to be best for both districts, which is what I'm looking at. Director Hommel stated, if we do this, this will be an investment for our future and Golden Valley Fire District is basically the functioning center of public services all the way from Dolan Springs to Topock. It follows in my mind that industrial development that is happening to the south of us, we know and see this happening, growth is coming to Kingman too. If we do this now, we will protect our entire population, and this is our judicial duty to do this. Clerk DeMaio stated that I feel like we are all in agreement. Chief Cunningham stated he would like to add that this is to move forward with the feasibility study. Obviously, this is the first thing to be done for the community on both sides and I believe it will show the benefit. I talked to the company who did the study for Arizona Fire Medical Authority and Bullhead City. I read their study, it is very in depth and ours should be easier than theirs as it has less moving parts. The cost would be approximately \$15,000 and it's not set in stone, but he said that is probably what it's going to cost, and I figure that we would split that with Yucca Fire

District. They are unable to give an exact price until the study is done. Chair Foster asked who does these studies. Chief Cunningham stated that the company is out of Phoenix.

- Clerk DeMaio made a motion to order the feasibility study for possible consolidation and merger of the Golden Valley Fire District and Yucca Fire District. Director Hommel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

6. 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.*

- Clerk DeMaio stated that for the next board meeting and agenda, he would like staff to put on the agenda an evaluation for the Chief.
- Comptroller Kindelberger stated she is looking for a citizen to sit on the PSPRS Local Board. Usually there are two citizens that sit on the board, Randy Osborn is one and there is a vacancy. We have already done a public notice with no responses; two meetings are mandatory each year. If anyone is interested, please fill out the application form on our website and turn in to admin.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Chairperson Foster adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:35 a.m.

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

Date: 04/12/2023

By: _____
Board Clerk, Tony DeMaio

Approved: