



**Golden Valley Fire District**  
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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, August 23, 2023, 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**

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

**2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**4. PRAYER**

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2023.
- Director Hommel motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Director Juneau 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motioned carried.

**6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. July 2023 Operational Report. (Chief Cunningham)
- Chief Cunningham stated for the month of July there were 295 calls total: 189 medical-related calls and 22 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)*
- District properties – Chief Martin
    - Station 11 – Swamp coolers needed new pads, one new motor. Some water lines are clogged due to sediment.
  - Equipment – Chief Martin
    - Engine 121 – Replaced evaporator.
    - Attack 125 – Turbo issues, mechanic will look at this week.
    - Attack 115 – Replaced four rims that were bent.
  - Training
    - Nothing to report

- Meetings Attended
  - Mohave County Fire Officers meeting tomorrow.
- Projects in the works
  - Volunteer reimbursement program, FLSA does allow a small volunteer fee to be paid above the retirement funds they earn. We will be bringing to the board at a later date for approval.
  - We were awarded on the Fire Incident Management Grant up to \$200k worth of equipment. This will help our Incident Commands on the scene and incident reporting.
  - Firefighter Stephanie Root is working on a grant for three Lucas devices. These are automated chest compression devices. We had three on loan to us for 90 days, during that time we had 9 cardiac responses and 6 we were able to get spontaneous respiration by using these devices. This grant would be approximately \$80k with no match.
- Thank-you
  - Home Depot for donation of \$200 worth of plywood for our training prop.
  - Thank you to Pastor Mike Willis for coming and praying with us.
- Anniversaries
  - Firefighter Stephanie Root – 1 Year
  - Engineer Kenyon Martin – 5 years

**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 July 2023 financial reports. (Administration)**

- Comptroller Kindelberger noted for the month of July 2023 the ending register balance for the warrant account at Wells Fargo Bank was \$848,589.55. Capital reserve account at Wells Fargo Bank was \$201,466.37. Payroll account at National Bank of Arizona ending register balance \$100,569.60. Revenue \$111,962.41; Expenses \$312,801.17.
  - Chairperson Foster motioned to approve the July 2023 financial report as presented. Director Payntar 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**B. Discussion only: Review records request for the month of July 2023. (Administration)**

- Comptroller Kindelberger read the following records request:
  - 06/13/23 Robert Hartwig, fire report, ready 08/03/23, no charge.
  - 06/29/23 Armand LaFond, fire report, ready 08/01/23, no charge.
  - 07/06/23 Shu-Ming Chow, fire report, ready 07/10/23, \$15 collected.
  - 07/10/23 Quirk & Kids Logistics, fire report, ready 07/10/23, \$15 collected.
  - 07/27/23 Ann-Marie Minnifield, fire report, ready 08/01/23, has not picked up yet.
  - 07/31/23 Gary Harrington, fire report, ready 08/10/23, no charge.
- No Action

**C. Discussion only: Review of attorney invoices. (Administration)**

- Comptroller Kindelberger informed the board that the most recent invoice is for \$990. Breakdown is \$427.50 for IGA's; \$517.50 for an HR issue; \$45.00 for advice on emailing the financials.
  - No Action

**D. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approve \$5,000 expenditure for the JPA feasibility study. (Cunningham)**

- Chief Cunningham informed the board that the maximum cost will be \$5k. There are eight districts involved with two being in LaPaz County. We have a letter from a citizen that the Chairperson read (letter attached). They are saying the feasibility study should be done by the end of the calendar year and then hoping to complete the JPA by the beginning of the next fiscal year. This approval today is only for the cost of the study. Director Hommel asked if the Chief thinks this will go through. The chief replied that there are a lot of different size districts involved and the study may reveal that it may not benefit all of them. It is hard to say what their boards will decide. Clerk DeMaio feels they are moving too fast to get it done by next fiscal year. He would like Chief Moore

or someone from Arizona Fire and Medical Authority to come and talk to the board about how the structure of this JPA will work.

- o Clerk DeMaio motioned to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 for the JPA feasibility study. Director Hommel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

E. Discussion and possible action regarding: Discuss possible IGA with NAFD for shared services for personnel. (Cunningham)

- Chief Cunningham stated he has been working with Chief Dallman regarding shared services. NAFD and GVFD are a lot alike in size and staffing levels. Right now, there are a lot of positions that are vacant, which is an opportunity to save money for both fire districts. NAFD does not have a Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, and neither district has a Admin Assistant. There would be five shared positions: Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Fire Prevention Specialist, and Admin Assistant. One issue is the Comptroller position has a large discrepancy between the two departments. NAFD lowest step is our top step for Comptroller. With Mindys experience I would ask that Mindy be moved to the top of her pay scale. Each district will pay their own Comptroller expense, but they will work together and cover each other's duties if needed. Our savings over our current cost would be \$50,812.53. We would need to fill two positions, the Fire Prevention Specialist and Admin Assistant. This would all be done under an IGA, and I think because of the cost savings we should not wait for the JPA and move ahead with this. Clerk DeMaio asked whose benefits these two positions would be covered under. The Chief replied that NAFD will hire the Admin Assistant and GVFD will fire the Fire Prevention Specialist. Each district would be responsible for one position. Clerk DeMaio voiced his concerns about helping out NAFD, we have done this before. We are doing all the leg work. I'm worried about the division of labor and the span of control. I would like to see someone from NAFD come talk to us. Chief Cunningham stated that he did not inform them he was presenting this today. I have been working with Chief Dallman and no board members have been involved until today. I do have a meeting with their board chair later today. DeMaio's concern is if this falls apart then GVFD will have to absorb the total cost of the Fire Prevention Specialist. Chief Cunningham stated that if it doesn't work everything goes back to the way it was. DeMaio asked Chief Martin for his input. Asst Chief Martin commented that he thinks it is a good idea. DeMaio asked what the next step is, to present this to NAFD Board. Chief Cunningham stated that he wanted to present this to our board before their next meeting in September.
- o Clerk DeMaio motioned to table this item until next month and maybe include a workshop. Chairperson Foster 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

**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.*

- Chief Cunningham noted that Engineer Tony DeAngelo left flyers for the board members about the upcoming Community Risk Reduction Event and Car Show on October 7, 2023 at the training center.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

- Chair Foster adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:59 a.m.

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

Date: 08/23/2023

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Clerk, Tony DeMaio

Approved:

To:  
Governing Board of Golden Valley Fire District  
Fire Chief Dave Cunningham

August 21, 2023

I, Lovelle Barnett, taxpayer of Golden Valley Fire District wish to have this letter read into record at the monthly meeting.

It appears there have been discussions regarding a potential Joint Powers Authority and information has been trickling out. I would like to show my support for this as the board weighs it as an option.

If you look at Arizona Fire & Medical Authority, they did this a few years ago and it appears that it's made a positive impact, not only on the district's themselves that entered into it, but the communities and personnel. With limited resources such as finance and personnel, the necessary staff, tools, and equipment can be allocated to ensure safe operations at emergency situations, which only makes sense for our north western districts.

I would suggest that Golden Valley Fire District and other districts that are looking at potentially doing this, mimic how the Authority is designed and it should be made known to districts that they aren't necessarily giving up their autonomy. Each district could have their own board and then the board chair from each District is what makes up the authority board or something similar. More information is also clear in the §A.R.S. 48-805.01. For others who are interested, a lot of information is available on the Arizona Medical & Authority website too.

As I understand, there is a fee to perform a feasibility study, which I am also in support of and encourage this board to take that into consideration for approval.

As these discussions have mostly taken place at the MCFOA meetings, and it appears some districts who may not be entertaining this idea, may have been provided misinformation. I have had correspondence with Fire Chief Cunningham regarding the details that have been emerging and would like to also mention that with his transparency and honesty that has been well appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lovelle Barnett