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, November 18, 2026, 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.

DRAFT

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   - Chairman DeMaio called the meeting to order at approximately 9:01 a.m.

2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**
   - Chairman DeMaio, Director Connie Allen and Director Pamela Perata were present. Clerk Sue Foster were absent; Director Gary Juneau joined meeting at 9:09am.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
   - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CONSENT AGENDA**
   A. Executive Session Minutes for September 23, 2026
   B. Regular Meeting Minutes for October 28, 2026
      - Director Allen motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Director Perata 2nd. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

5. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**
   A. October 2026 Operational Report
      - Chief Cunningham reported that there was a total of 261 calls; 8 fire and 164 EMS/rescue.
   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)*
      - Chief Cunningham took this time to introduce Interim Assistant Chief Robert Arnold and then B Shift.

        Interim Assistant Chief Robert Arnold – Started as a volunteer 2007 fulltime here at 2010; paramedic for 23 years; Battalion Chief for 13 years prior to interim Assistant Fire Chief.

Interim Battalion Chief of B shift, Tony DeAngelo, introduced each firefighter to the board.
Interim Battalion Chief – Tony DeAngelo – Paramedic – Started in the fire service in 1999, 11 years fulltime; manages the community risk reduction.
Engineer Luke Weber – EMT – 22 years; wildland coordinator
Engineer Bryar Travis –Paramedic – Volunteered here 2017 fulltime 2021; manage the radios with Chief Martin.
Firefighter Casey Windham – Paramedic – 3 years; PPE program coordinator.
Firefighter Spencer Mudgett – Paramedic – 6 months (probation); attending fire academy in December.
Firefighter Bradley Thornton – EMT – 3 years (left for call)
POC Firefighter – Dustin Osborn – Paramedic – paid on call firefighter for us and started his career at Golden Valley Fire District. (left for call)

- Properties – Chief Martin
  - Station 11 – One of the bay doors' motors went out and was replaced.
  - Station 12 – Bay door's springs broke; currently have Mohave Garage Doors tune up the bay doors due to excessive use.
- Equipment – Chief Martin
  - Battalion 1 – Computer failed, under warranty, at shop getting fixed.
- Training – Chief Cunningham
  - October training hours were 58; some training that took place were wildland fire behavior, engine pumping operations, ground and roof ladder operations, and hydrant connections.
- Meetings – Mohave County Officers meeting (tomorrow), AMR, and meeting with developer that donated property to the district.
- Projects in the works – Chief Cunningham
  - Interim Assistant Chief Robert Arnold is currently in his probation period for the next 6 months.

- Thank you – Chief Cunningham received a letter from a citizen wanting to thank Firefighter Chandler Duncan for helping her with her sandbags and stated that he took time out of his day to actually move her bricks to help prevent flooding; Chief noted that this thank you goes to show that our firefighters are really here for the public.
- Anniversaries
  - Engineer Sean Arnold – 11 years
  - Firefighter Trey Fitzsimmons – 3 years
  - Firefighter Matt Kleiner – 2 years
  - Firefighter Leon Montgomery – 2 years
  - Administrative Assistant/Accounting Clerk Tonia Sakusky – 2 years

6. VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. The Board of Directors may vote to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) for personnel matters, and A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice, regarding review of the fire chief's employment agreement. (DeMaio)
   - Chairman DeMaio motioned to enter executive session. Director Allen 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

The executive session began at approximately 9:16 am
The public session reconvened at approximately 11:19 am

DRAFT

7. **BUSINESS.** *Public wishing to speak on agenda items must complete a speaker card and present it to the Board Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.*
   A. Discussion and possible action regarding: Notice of intent to review and possibly revise the fire chief's employment agreement per the terms of the contract under section 1.3. (DeMaio)
      - Chairman DeMaio motioned to direct staff, fire chief and council to go forward with the items in executive session for proposed review to be reviewed at the January 2027 board meeting. Director Allen 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

   B. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of October 2026 financial reports. (Administration)
      - Comptroller Kindelberger noted for the month of October that the ending register balance for the warrant account at Wells Fargo was $1,506,809.83; payroll account ending register balance at National Bank of Arizona was $140,204.14; and the capital reserve account ending register balance at Wells Fargo was $661,243.39. Revenue $1,698,247.60 and Expenses $439,503.03.
        - Director Perata motioned to approve the September 2026 financial reports as presented. Director Juneau 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

   C. Discussion and possible action regarding: Resolution to amend the Golden Valley Fire District Volunteer Firefighter Alternate Pension & Benefit Plan article XI section 11.4 to allow the suspense funds to be used for the retirement benefits of the firefighters. (Administration)
      - Comptroller Kindelberger stated that this item has been coming to the board a few times already; the registered letters have been mailed to all participants and the board of trustees have received their 30-day notice. Five of the six participants have received their registered mail with one we cannot locate. This change will allow us to use plan assets, which is close to $90,000, to be put in the PSPRS underfunding for the pension for our fulltime firefighters. The way it was worded prior was solely for volunteer firefighters.
        - Director Juneau motioned to approve the resolution to amend the Golden Valley Fire District Volunteer Firefighter Alternative Pension & Benefit Plan. Director Peralta 2nd motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

   D. Discussion and possible action regarding: Revise policy, article 59 Promotions; add to 59.7 a twelve-month probationary period for promotions between operations and administration. (Cunningham)
      - Chief Cunningham stated that typically when there are promotions from firefighter to engineer; engineer to captain positions on operations side they have a six-month probation; when they are new, they are on probation for 12 months. This came to light when we brought Chief Arnold over from operations; learning a lot more and think when going from operations to administration should be a 12-month probationary period. The rest of operations would stay the same.
        - Director Juneau motioned to approve the policy changes to 59.7 as presented. Chairman DeMaio 2nd motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

   E. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval of purchase of seven sets of turnouts from Mallory Safety and Supplies in the amount of $42,382.97; exceeds chief's spending limit. (Cunningham)
      - Chief Cunningham stated that this was budgeted for and there was a miscommunication with ordering; needed to come back to the board due to amount being over his spending

DRAFT

limit; items were ordered as a misunderstanding while he was away and now coming to the board to approve the purchase for the turnouts.

- Director Juneau motioned to approve the purchase of seven sets of turnouts from Mallory Safety and Supply in the amount of $42,382.97. Director Allen 2nd motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

F. Discussion and possible action regarding: Per the by-laws set a special meeting date the first week of December 2026 for Election of Officers. (Administration)

- Comptroller Kindelberger stated that staff always brings this item to the board per the bylaws to set a special meeting first week of December; many years the board has voted to do at regular meeting.
  - Chairman DeMaio motioned to postpone the special meeting to the regular meeting on December 16, 2027. Director Allen 2nd motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

G. Discussion only: Review the by-laws for possible revisions. (Administration)

- Comptroller Kindelberger stated that the by-laws haven't been updated since 2013 and staff has highlighted items that need possible changes. Staff can put together a redline for next meeting for board to review and approve. All changes will need to go to the attorney for review as well. There was a discussion between staff and the board regarding the highlighted items.
  - Chairman DeMaio directed staff to review and revise the Golden Valley Fire District Governing Board By-Laws Rules and Procedures with council and come back to board with revisions.

H. Discussion and possible action regarding: Acceptance of insurance renewal offer for Golden Valley Fire District properties from VFIS of Arizona. (Administration)

- Chief Cunningham stated that the renewal has gone up 2% from last year; which is very low.
  - Director Juneau motioned to approve the insurance renewal offer for Golden Valley Fire District properties from VFIS Arizona. Director Allen 2nd motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

I. Discussion and possible action regarding: Acceptance of insurance renewal offer for Golden Valley Fire District properties from VFIS of Arizona. (Administration)

- Chief Cunninghame told the board that we need some of the doors worked on; exceeds spending limit so the board would need to approve. Due to wear and tear the rollers and seals need to be replaced at station 11. This is for multiple doors. Because these are commercial doors and are 12' doors there are limited vendors that will work on them.
  - Chairman DeMaio motioned to approve the quote from Mohave Garage Door in the amount of $5,059.64. Director Peralta 2nd motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

J. Discussion and possible action regarding: Acceptance of insurance renewal offer for Golden Valley Fire District properties from VFIS of Arizona. (Administration)

- Chief Martin stated that the new engines are set to arrive July – September 2027; radios need to be installed prior to shipment. These radios need to be ordered and sent to builder by January for installation.
  - Chairman DeMaio motioned to approve the quote from BK Technologies for radio in the amount of $10,364.41. Director Peralta 2nd motion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

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 meeting at 11:52 a.m.

MINUTES prepared by: Tonia Sakusky **Date**: 11/18/2026
(This is a working draft until board approval)

By: _____ Approved:
Sue Foster, Board Clerk

DRAFT