Superstition Fire & Medical District



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Governing Board Meeting Minutes April 18, 2018

PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38.431.02, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE SUPERSTITION FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018. THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE SUPERSTITION FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 565 N. IDAHO ROAD, APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA.

THIS MEETING WAS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND BEGAN AT 5:30 PM.

A. Call to Order

Chairman Cross called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Strand.

C. Roll Call

Chairman Jeff Cross, Clerk Gene Gehrt, Director Todd House, Director Jason Moeller, and Director Larry Strand was present.

Senior Leadership Team in attendance were: Interim Fire Chief Mike Farber, Acting Assistant Chief Richard Ochs, Acting Assistant Chief Richard Mooney, Finance Director Roger Wood, and Acting Administrative Director Anna Butel.

Legal Counsel Gene Neil and Board Secretary Sherry Mueller were also present for the meeting.

1. Review and approval of March 2018 financial reports and bank reconciliations. (BOD #2018-04-01)

Motion by Director House to approve the March 2018 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Seconded by Director Strand.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED.

2. Recognition of employee performance, achievements, and special recognition for community members. (BOD #2018-04-02)

Volunteer Jack Hafer Sr. was recognized for his service to the organization with a plaque.

Employee Service Anniversaries were recognized: Community Risk Reduction Specialist Tina Gerola with 14 years of service; Paramedic Ryan Tonelli with 1 year of service.

Chief Farber read a letter from Director Strand and Michael Adams thanking the crews from the District for saving their lives.

3. Call to the Public. (BOD #2018-04-N/A) N/A

4. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Chairmanship of the Fire Board under SFMD By-Laws Article III: Officer, Paragraph 7. (BOD #2018-04-03)

Motion by Director Moeller to vote on the Chairman position and to remove Chairman Cross at the end of the meeting and will replace him at the next meeting in May.

Seconded by Director House.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Chairman Cross – nay

Clerk Gehrt – nay

Director House - aye

Director Moeller - aye

Director Strand - aye

Vote 3 ayes and 2 nays. MOTION PASSED.

Motion by Director Moeller to nominate and vote to approve Director House for the Chairman position to go into effect at the next meeting.

Seconded by Director Strand.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED.

- 5. Consideration and possible approval of all consent agenda items listed below: (BOD #2018-04 04)
 - A. Board Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2018
 - B. Executive Session Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2018
 - C. Changing Refuse Collection Company to Right Away Disposal
 - D. Physio Control, Inc. Service Agreement

Motion by Director Strand to approve consent agenda items A, B, and C. Item D was pulled from the Agenda as additional verbiage is needed in the agreement. **Seconded** by Director House.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED.

5)D. Motion by Director House to approve 5-D subject to legal counsel providing the statutory requirements for contracts. **Seconded** by Clerk Gehrt.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding Arizona Department of Forestry & Fire Management Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement. (BOD #2018-04-05)

This is an Agreement that has to be renewed every 2 years and it is for when we rent out our equipment while on Wildland fires. This Agreement is due by May 31, 2018. We have added an ambulance for additional potential revenue, which will be staffed mainly by Firefighters. We will be using the spare (white) ambulance for this purpose.

Motion by Director House to approve the AZ Department of Forestry & Fire Management Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement subject to legal counsel providing the statutory required language for contracts. Seconded by Director Moeller.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED.

7. Discussion of Policy 100.02: Immigration Reform Control Act brought forth for review at the April 18, 2018 Board Meeting for final approval at the May 16, 2018 Board Meeting. (BOD #2018-04-06)

Motion: N/A

8. Discussion of Policy 100.03: Loyalty Oath brought for review at the April 18, 2018 Board Meeting for final approval at the May 16, 2018 Board Meeting. (BOD #2018-04-07)

Motion: N/A

Chairman Cross moved Agenda Item #16 here:

Discussion and possible action on a letter of support as required by FEMA for the SAFER Grant (BOD #2018-04-15)

Acting Administrative Director Anna Butel discussed the letter of support required by FEMA for the SAFER Grant. This letter must be from the SFMD Board Members and needs to include two main components: 1) We will maintain current staffing levels and 2) we will not lay anyone off for 3 years during that time span. SFMD requested to hire 12 employees through the SAFER Grant to staff an extra Engine Company.

Motion by Clerk Gehrt to approve the letter of support to accompany the 2018 SAFER Grant application.

Seconded by Director Strand and Director House.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED.

9. Discussion and review of the Preliminary Budget, and determine Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2018/2019. (BOD #2018-04-08)

Finance Director Roger Wood discussed the FY 2018/2019 budget year calendar.

Roger hopes to have the Preliminary (tentative) Budget for FY 2018/2019 approved at the May 16, 2018 Board Meeting. The major initiative in the 100 Fund (M & O Fund) is the SAFER Grant. SFMD is applying for 12 new hires and budgeting for 7. In looking at the next 10 years, Roger stated that the grant would cover 75% in year one, 75% in year two and 35% in year three. Then we will have to be able to carry those new employees. We do have people in the DROP, however, they won't be exiting the DROP at the same time as we bring on these new employees. We have to be prepared to be able to handle the cash flow of these new employees (\$560,000+ in cost).

The budget includes staffing for Station 263's second Engine with \$170,000 of shift overtime. Once the SAFER Grant new hires come out of The Academy, they will go into the leave pool and will fill vacancies that exist therefore, we expect overtime to be reduced. We have included Captains training in this budget and the Deputy Chiefs position.

We have applied for the Community Risk Reduction Grant. We did receive it this year which fully funds the Community Risk Reduction position along with the supplies that we use to serve the community.

We did receive some surprising news from Blue Cross Blue Shield in regard to the medical premiums for our upcoming fiscal year (18/19). The Tempe Trust wants to increase our premiums. We are working through a variety of options to try to maintain the current level of premiums. Our benefit broker, Ed Gussio, is working diligently on our behalf. One option we are looking at is the "stand alone self—funded" insurance plan. This option may turn out to be the best alternative to what we are doing now. Golder Ranch started doing this about 4 years ago and I have had some communication with my peer at Golder Ranch about this.

We have moved Open Enrollment out an additional week. We hope to have more information on April 24 where Senior Leadership can make a final decision. The Board would have to approve this within the Budget.

In light of this medical premium increase, we are still projecting including a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the Budget of 2% (instead of 3%).

In the 150 Fund (Transport Services), we are assuming a 3% increase in the number of transports for next fiscal year. Staffing levels will remain the same. We are not including any changes to the billing rates. DHS is currently working on our application for the general rate increase.

One new cost that is coming in for the 150 Fund is medication costs. Mountain Vista Hospital used to pay for medication costs, but no longer will. We have included Dr. Smith's estimated costs in this budget.

The Capital Replacement Fund (200 Fund) projection of beginning cash balance is \$1,100,000. If the Board approves the \$0.25 special assessment for FY 18/19, that will bring in another \$994,654.00 (estimated). The planned purchases, \$1,700,000.00 includes paying cash for the new Pumper (\$720,000.00) that we are planning on buying. We would like to get away from leases. We are looking at trying to pay cash for this Pumper, and if not we will present a lease to the Board.

The major initiatives in the 200 Fund: the Pumper, existing leases (Pumper and Tendor), and leases for 5 ambulances. We are budgeting for a new Type III Wildland Vehicle, replacing our current 2004 vehicle. We have a staff vehicle contingency with \$100,000 in the budget in case a staff vehicle goes down which would roll from year to year. Will need a new Gator to use at the Renaissance Festival in addition to our current Gator. We budgeted \$75,000 to replace our current Scott Air Packs that have reached the end of their life. \$150,000 for a second set of turn—outs. Anna submitted a Grant for this, and our Grant share is about \$26,000, but we don't want to be dependent on that Grant therefore we are budgeting like we have to pay for it all. We budgeted for three A/C Units which are \$7500 each. We budgeted for heart monitors, the replacement of EPCR tablets, exchange server software, G-2 System two year catch-up, portable radios have to be maintained, and our commitment to TOPAZ (East Valley dispatch process).

We are able to lower the assessment by \$0.04 for our residents. We will begin the Fiscal Year with a little over \$100,000 in each of the funds (principal and interest funds). We will end the year with money in the bank. We request that the Board approve the tax rates we are using in planning this budget. You'll see in the Motion the tax rates for the 100 Fund, 200 Fund and the GADA Bond.

Motion by Director House to approve the tax rate of \$3.25 per hundred dollars of secondary valuation for District operations, a \$0.25 special assessment related to the Tax Override Initiative, and \$0.18 special assessment related to the 2006 GADA Bond for development of the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2018/2019. Seconded by Director Strand.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED

10. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #2018-04-18-02 relating to the adoption of the Amended Fee Schedule. (BOD #2018-04-09)

Acting Assistant Chief Richard Ochs explained that Exhibit A includes two annual fee schedules for permitting for businesses. The second part of that relates to new businesses or business remodels that have to be physically inspected. We are bringing our fees schedules in line with the majority of the Metro Valley.

Motion by Director Strand to approve Resolution #2018-04-18-02 amending and adopting the permit fee schedule for the District. **Seconded** by Clerk Gehrt and Director Moeller.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED

11. Discussion and possible direction regarding the District's GADA Bond application. (BOD #2018-04-10)

Finance Director Roger Wood talks about the 2006 issued GADA Bond. The Bond itself is now in a stage of its life where there is no longer a prepayment penalty. In talking with a Bond Underwriter Firm and the Bond Attorney, we've been discussing the opportunity to take advantage of the lower interest rates. Our current bond is at 5% interest rate and current market rates are between 2.5% - 2.7%. This gives us an opportunity to save between \$460,000 and \$500,000 in interest costs after fees. All of the fees and underwriting costs would just be a part of the total package and we wouldn't have to come up with money up front. The remaining debt is about \$5,355,000 and 8 years left. Roger is asking for direction from the Board if they wish to pursue this opportunity.

Motion by Clerk Gehrt to direct Staff to pursue the possibility of refinancing the remaining principal debt related to the District's 2006 GADA Bond, and provide detail as needed at future Board meetings. **Seconded** by Director House.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED

12. Discussion and possible action re: possible approval of Ratification Resolution #2018-04-18-03 ratifying the approval of Resolution #2018-321 and the hiring of William R. Whittington as legal counsel. (BOD #2018-04-11)

This was a housekeeping item from our last Board meeting.

Motion by Director House to ratify March 2018 Agenda Resolution #3018-321 and approve Ratification Resolution #2018-04-18-03 and the hiring of William R. Whittington as legal counsel. Seconded by Director Strand.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED

13. Possible vote to go into Executive Session. The Board may vote to go into Executive Session pursuant to pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(A)(1) for personnel matters; ARS §38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice; and ARS §38-431.03(A)(4) to give instructions to legal counsel re: Interim Fire Chief's evaluation; possible appointment of Interim Fire Chief to permanent Fire Chief position; possible form and terms of Fire Chief's contract. (BOD #2018-04-12)

Motion by Director House to go in to Executive Session at 6:46 PM. Seconded by Clerk Gehrt.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED

14. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the Interim Fire Chief's evaluation. (BOD #2018-04-13)

The Board returned to regular session at 7:24 PM. The Interim Fire Chief was previously provided a 24 hour notice of the Executive Session discussion of his performance evaluation. Overall, it was an excellent review for Chief Farber.

Motion: N/A

15. Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of a Fire Chief. (BOD #2018-04-14)

Director House stated that he would like to remove the "Interim" from the Fire Chiefs title and move to make Chief Mike Farber the permanent Fire Chief. All Board members agreed that Fire Chief Mike Farber should be the permanent Fire Chief at the beginning of the next Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018.

Motion to promote Interim Fire Chief Farber to full time Fire Chief. Direction is given to the Staff to work with legal on the specifics of pay and range at level 75 with an effective date of July 1, 2018. Chief Farber has elected to stay at will. **Seconded** by Director Strand.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED

16. Discussion and possible action on a letter of support as required by FEMA for the SAFER Grant. (BOD# 2018-04-15)

Item #16 was previously discussed right after agenda item number 8.

17. Reports (BOD #2018-04-16)

- Senior Leadership Team
- ➤ Labor
- Pension Board
- Board Sanctioned Committees

Fire Chief Report

Interim Fire Chief Mike Farber

- Met with Queen Valley Fire District regarding pooling resources or Management Agreement
- Golf Tournament Board Members and Labor benefiting the Community Alliance Against Family Abuse (CAAFA)
- Review of Response Times and Working Fires in March, displaying benefits of Engine 263 (additional unit)

Operations

Acting Assistant Chief Richard Mooney

- Review of current Training
- Review of March Responses
- Review of Working Fire Incidents during March

Planning & Logistics Update

Acting Assistant Chief Richard Ochs

- New Hires Transportation Division
 - > Full Time EMT Christopher Donahue
 - ➤ Part Time EMT Kelsey Christensen
 - > Part Time EMT Jake Lesher
- The MDRC and the City of Apache Junction Police Department have begun accepting 911 Text Messages
- The MDRC will begin to operate hazard zone incidents on VHF radio channels beginning on May 1, 2018
- Sexual Harassment & Hostile Work Environment Training on April 19 and April 26
- National Public Safety Tele-communicators Week (April 8 14)
 - > April 10 visit to the Apache Junction Police Department
 - ➤ April 12 visit to the Mesa Regional Dispatch Center (MRDC)
- April 14 Community HOA Spring Event
- April 15 21 National Volunteer Appreciation Week
- April 19 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at De La Cruz
- April 23 Water Safety at Headstart
- April 24 Senior Center Luncheon Partner with Manor Health to present Falls Prevention and to provide fall prevention grant items
- April 28 April Pools Day from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Superstition Shadows Aquatic Center

Administrative Services Update

Acting Administrative Director Anna Butel

- Cardiac Situation Tool
- 265 Verizon
 - ➤ Installation of a Signal Extender has been scheduled for April 26
 - > There have also been some adjustments on different towers in the area to improve the signal
- SAFER Grant due April 27

Labor Update

Captain John Walka

- Fill the Boot Event Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)
- Fifteenth Annual Poker Run East Valley Firefighters Charities

Pension Board Update

Clerk Gene Gehrt

- 1 more person who will be going into the DROP next month (May 2018)
 - ➤ that makes a total of 9 in the DROP with the potential for a tenth employee going into the DROP
- 18. New Business / Future Agenda Items (BOD #2018-04-17) N/A
- 19. Announcements (BOD 2018-04-N/A) N/A

20. Adjourn (BOD #2018-04-18)

Motion by Director House at 7:59 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Seconded Director Strand.

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays. MOTION PASSED.

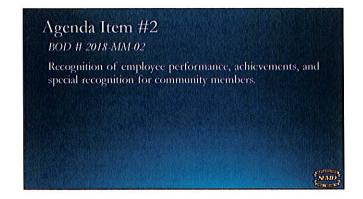
Governing Board Approval:

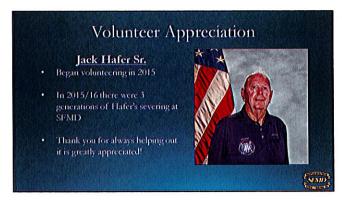
Gene Gehrt, Board Clerk

Sherry Mueller

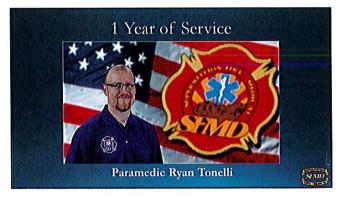












Agenda Item #3

BOD # 2018-MM-n/a

Call to the Public

A.R.S. §38-431.01(1) A public body may make an open call to the public during a public meeting, subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, to all individuals to address the public body on any issue within the jurisdiction of the public body. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the public body, may ask staff to review a matter, or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the public body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.

Agenda Item #4

BOD #2018-04-03

Review, discussion and possible action regarding Chairmanship of the Fire Board under SFMD By-Laws Article III: Officer, Paragraph 7.



Agenda Item #5

BOD # 2018-04-04

Consideration and possible approval of all consent agenda items listed below.

- a. Board Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2018
- b. Executive Session Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2018
- c. Changing Refuse Collection Company to Right Away Disposal
- d. Physio Control, Inc. Service Agreemen



Agenda Item #6

BOD #2018-01-05

Discussion and possible action regarding AZ Dept. of Forestry & Fire Management Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement.



Agenda Item #7

BOD # 2018-04-06

Discussion and review of Policy 100.02: Immigration Reform Control Act brought for review at the April 18, 2018 Board Meeting for final approval at the May 16, 2018 Board Meeting.



Agenda Item #8

BOD # 2018-04-07

Discussion and review of Policy 100.03: Loyalty Oath brought for review at the April 18, 2018 Board Meeting for final approval at the May 21, 2018 Board Meeting.



Agenda Item #9 BOD #2018-04-08 Discussion and review of the Preliminary Budget, and determine Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2018 / 2019.

Agenda Item #9

BOD # 2018-04-08

General (100) Fund. Initiatives included:

- SAFER Grant 7 new hires / District's match is 25% of wages and benefits for years 1 & 2, 65% for year 3.

 Staffing for \$263 second engine \$170k in shift overtime. Overtime expected to decrease dramatically when \$AFER new hires graduate.

 Increased training commitment Quarterly Captain's conference, etc.

- Deputy Chief position funded starting July 1.
- Community Risk Reduction grant renewal.



Agenda Item #9

BOD # 2018-04-08

General (100) Fund.

Remaining Issues to be resolved.

1. Benefit dollar increase due to higher medical insurance costs.

Tempe Trust wants 10% premium increase for the current fully funded policy for the period July – December 2018. If the Trust is successful in their efforts to convince the Phoenix firefighters to join the Trust, then they would change to a self-funded plan as of January 1, 2019. No idea of that cost at this time.



Agenda Item #9

BOD # 2018-01-08

General (100) Fund.

Remaining Issues to be resolved (continued).

1. Benefit dollar increase due to higher medical insurance costs

Staff is evaluating establishing a stand-alone self-funded insurance plan for the District for FY 2018 / 2019, either through the current provider BCBs or UHC. The exact costs of this initiative are not known at this time, expected on April 24. Open Enrollment has been pushed back a week to provide time for a decision, and alignment of the corresponding medical plan information.



Agenda Item #9

BOD # 2018-04-08

General (100) Fund.

Remaining Issues to be resolved.

2. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). If possible, Staff is wanting to budget for a COLA to the extent budget exists to do so. Currently looking at a 2% COLA, but is dependent on outcome of #1 above.



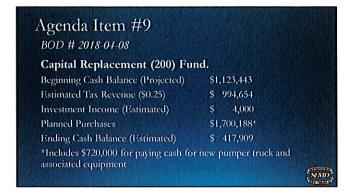
Agenda Item #9

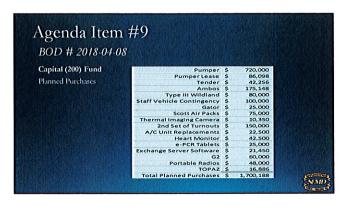
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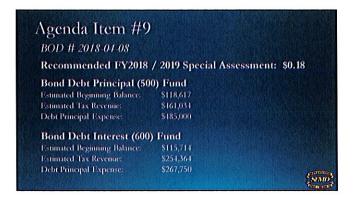
Transport (150) Fund.

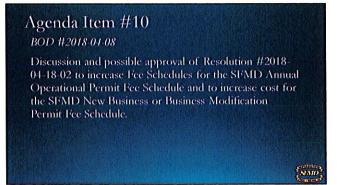
- Assuming +3.0% in transports (actuals through March 2018).
- ALS / BLS transport mix has been corrected.
- Staffing remains the same as current levels.
- No change to billing rates.
- Drug costs previously provided by Mountain Vista have been fully included.



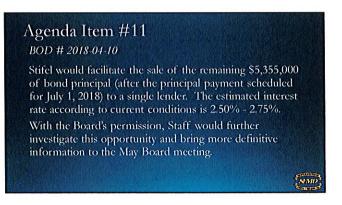








Agenda Item #11 BOD # 2018-04-10 Discussion and possible direction regarding the refinancing of the District's remaining 2006 GADA Bond principal debt. The District's 2006 GADA Bond no longer contains prepayment penalties. This fact combined with favorable interest rates has created an opportunity to refinance the remaining bond principal resulting in an estimated \$460,000 - \$500,000 interest savings after fees.



Agenda Item #11

BOD # 2018-04-10

Stifel is recommending the Board ultimately pass a resolution that stipulates the exact parameters defining the authorization the District's Fire Chief and Finance Director would be permitted to operate within to expedite the refinancing process.

The final loan documents would still require Board signature.



Agenda Item #12

BOD 2018-04-10

Discussion and possible action re: possible approval of Ratification Resolution #2018-04-18-03 ratifying the approval of Resolution #2018-321 and the hiring of William R. Whittington as legal counsel for the District.



Agenda Item #13

BOD #2018-04-12

Possible vote to go into Executive Session. The Board may vote to go into Executive Session. The Board may vote to go in to Executive Session pursuant to ARS \$38-431.03(A)(1) for personnel matters; ARS \$38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice; and ARS \$38-431.03(A)(4) to give instructions to legal counsel re: Interim Fire Chief's evaluation; possible appointment of Interim Fire Chief to permanent Fire Chief position; possible form and terms of Fire Chief's contract.



Agenda Item #14

BOD #2018-01-13

Review, discussion and possible action regarding the Interim Fire Chief's evaluation.



Agenda Item #15

BOD #2018-04-14

Review, discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Fire Chief.



Agenda Item #16

BOD #2018-04-15

Discussion and possible action on a letter of support as required by FEMA for the SAFER Grant.





