



Superstition Fire & Medical District

Serving the Communities of Apache Junction and Gold Canyon since 1955

Phone | (480) 982-4440

Website | sfmd.az.gov

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 16, 2023

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, AUGUST 16, 2023. 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 5:43 PM.](#)

A. Call to Order

Chairman Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 5:43 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Whitney

C. Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were Chairman Kathleen Chamberlain, Director Jason Moeller. Director Jeff Cross attended via conference phone. Clerk Connie Van Driel and Director Shawn Kurian were not in attendance.

Senior Leadership Team in attendance were Fire Chief John Whitney, Assistant Chief Brian Read, Assistant Chief Richard Mooney, Transportation Services Director Billy Warren, Administrative Services Director Anna Butel, Finance Director Roger Wood, Chief Dave Pohlmann and Captain John Walka. Also in attendance was Sherry Mueller, Human Resources Generalist / Board Secretary. Attorney William Whittington attended via conference phone.

1. Review and approval of the July 2023 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Motion by Director Moeller to approve the July 2023 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Seconded by Director Cross

Vote 3 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED.

Administration Office
565 North Idaho Road
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Regional Training Center
3700 East 16th Avenue
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Fleet Services
1455 East 18th Avenue
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

NOTE: Chief Whitney asked Chairman Chamberlain to move Agenda Item #2 until after Agenda Item #4. Chairman Chamberlain agreed to that request.

2. Recognition of employee performance, achievements, and special recognition for community members.

August Anniversaries

22 Years of Service: Firefighter **Paul Gruetzmacher**

22 Years of Service: Firefighter **Mark Widick**

19 Years of Service: Battalion Chief/Paramedic **Jon Williamson**

16 Years of Service: Administrative Specialist **Kelly Bartz**

8 Years of Service: Account Clerk Specialist **Lori Hlavin**

8 Years of Service: Transportation Services Manager **Billy Warren**

7 Years of Service: Firefighter/Paramedic **Clint Musgrave**

2 Years of Service:

Firefighter **Kaden Logsdon**

Firefighter **Steven Hammer**

Paramedic **Noah Whetstine**

Firefighter **Chase Thompson**

1 Year of Service:

Firefighter **Alex Avakian**

Firefighter **Apolo Ta'ase**

Firefighter **Chase Andrews**

3. Call to the Public.

None

NOTE: Chief Whitney asked Chairman Chamberlain to move Agenda Item #2 until

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

- A. Board Meeting Minutes from July 19, 2023
- B. Pass-Through Agreement between the City of Apache Junction and SFMD RE: The Gila River Indian Community Grant
- C. Life Scan Wellness Center – Department Scheduling and Additional Testing Agreement
- D. Optum RX Agreement
- E. Reporting Agent Authorization - Form 8655
- F. Intergovernmental Agreement for Backup Ambulance Services Between the Town of Queen Creek and the Superstition Fire & Medical District
- G. 2023 Southern Arizona Junior Bull Riders Association (SJBRA) Medical Staffing Agreement
- H. Replacement Hose and Nozzles for LT263
- I. Annual Portable Radio Purchase
- J. New Equipment and Radio Systems for New 2024 Pierce Pumper

Motion by Director Moeller to approve all consent agenda items for August 16, 2023.

Seconded by Director Cross

Vote 3 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

5. Senior Leadership Team Reports

Fire Chief Report

- Transitions and Implementations
- Meeting with AJUSD
- Budget Manager Meeting
- Battalion Chief Promotional Process
- Dog Park Sculptures Unveiling
- SFCOA
- Positively AJ
- Letters of Support for Grants
- Interviews
- Kudos
 - Captain Elliott & Captain Frawley
 - Engineer Trey Schow & Captain Endres
 - Engineers Rodriguez & Sepulveda, Firefighter Garten
 - Captains Ferguson, Ledbetter & Robson, Firefighters M. Leon & Z. Leon
 - Firefighters Gregor, Hammer, Ta'ase & Willoughby
 - The entire Superstition Firefighters E-Board and Admin staff involved

Emergency Services

- Battalion Chief Promotional Process
- AJPD/SFMD Liaison Discussion
- East Valley A/C Meeting
- Positively AJ
- SFMD/AJPD Training Meeting
- SFMD/PCSO Meeting
- Attended Managing Disciplinary Challenges in the Fire Service

Significant Incidents

- 7/22/2023 Mutual Aid Request from State Land US 60 & SR 79
- 7/26/2023 Gun Shot Wound
- 7/27/2023 Hanging – patient transported
- 7/29/2023 Gas leak, vehicle into a building – leak secured by Southwest Gas – no patients found
- 7/30/2023 Gas leak from propane fill station – turned over to Ferrell Gas – leak secured
- 8/3/2023 RV fully involved – quick fire attack, no extension to exposures – no injuries
- 8/7/2023 Two separate ½ acre brush fires in washes – difficult access – knock down and fire control
- Two REMS deployments – Brady Fire and Diamond Fire
 - SFMD is the only organization in the East Valley CAWRT system that has been sending crews out
- Monthly Incident Call Volume
 - July 2023 – 1050 incidents
 - July 2022 – 995 incidents
 - 3-year average - 868

Training

- Reintegration – Pre Academy
- Lateral Academy
- BC Test Prep
- BC Promotional Process
- EVRA 23-2 starts 8/21/2023 - six recruits attending
- Captain Robson Reports as RTO to EVRA 23-2 8/14/2023
- Quarterly Regional Ladder Co Ops – Back to basics – Building construction
- Quarterly TRT Training – Building Collapse
- BC/DC Tactical Training at PFD Command Training Center
- Captain Garcia overseeing 23/24 Cadet Program run out of Mesa Fire Training Center October 2023 – May 2024
- Training Drill Hours
 - July – 1,644 Total drill hours – 17 hours per person average
 - Year to date – 13,629 hours

EMS

- Attended Image Trend Conference
- Assisted with the SFMD Battalion Chief Promotional Process
- Attended Managing Disciplinary Challenges in the Fire Service
- EMS for Firefighter Reintegration
- Attended ICS 400 Course
- EMS Committee Meeting

Transportation Services

- EMS Committee Meeting
- Central AZ Regional EMS Medical Directors Consortium
- AEMS Education Committee Meeting
- AEMS Board of Governors Meeting
- G400 Advanced Incident Command System Class
- EMT and Paramedic Interviews
- Monthly Transportation Volume
- CON Compliance through July 2023

Support Services

Fire Prevention

- Plan Reviews – 19
- Inspections – 17
- Citizen Requests or Assistance – 5
- Environmental Requests, Permits, Concerns & Knox Box Assistance – 11

Community Risk Reduction

- Community Events – 1
- Fire Safety Presentations – 1
- Car Seat Placements – 0
- School Pub Ed Presentations – 1
- AED / CCR Presentations – 2

- Fire Investigation Training
- Tower Lease Meeting with new owner
- Pinal County Meeting to update the Plan Review Process
- City Meeting with Assistant City Manager to discuss Lithium Battery Incidents in the city
- Superstition Foothills HOA Meeting to assist with Emergency Evacuation Plan

Administrative Services

- Crest Benefit Audit
 - Comparative analysis with Carriers
 - Resolved Health Equity Account Fees
- SRPMIC 12% Grant Submitted for \$111,983.83
 - APX 8000 Series Radios
 - Technical Rescue Equipment
 - 100% Funding – No Match
 - Contributing members – Zach Leon, Jay Nelson, Caleb Brown and Brad Powers
- UKG – Timesheet approvals & Parallel Payroll
 - Timesheet Training Approval Process has been rolled out to staff employees and supervisors

Parallel Dates

- Parallel 1 – For pay date 9/1/2023
- Parallel 2 – For pay date 9/15/2023
- Final Review 9/29/2023
- Go Live 10/13/2023
- JVG Weekly Process
 - Monday – Account Clerk Enters Invoices for Approval
 - Tuesday - Account Clerk Enters Invoices for Approval
 - Tuesday Evening – JVG Approvals
 - Wednesday – SFMD Budget Manager and Other Approvals as Needed
 - Thursday – Board Member Number 1 Approvals
 - Friday – Board Member Number 2 Approvals
- Firefighter Recruits
 - Ryan Markham
 - Bradley Steinepreis
 - Sean Semrad
 - Christian Gomez
 - Brock Doolen
 - Matt Hansen

Labor

- Captain Walka stated to the Board that he has stepped down as Chapter President for the United Mesa Firefighters Association, Superstition Chapter, IAFF, Local 2260. Captain Walka also announced that Engineer Colt Weddell is stepping in as Chapter President. Captain Walka thank the Board for their support over the last 8 years.

- Engineer Weddell stated that he is very excited to move the organization forward as Chapter President. He also said he is looking forward to working with the Board and with Staff.
- Chief Whitney said thank you to soon-to-be Battalion Chief Walka, for his years of service to the Organization. Chief Whitney spoke about the very positive Labor/Management relationship that exists thanks to BC Walka. Chief Whitney congratulated Engineer Weddell for his new role as Union Leader and Chapter President.
- Chairman Chamberlain thanked Captain Walka for his service to the District as Chapter President.

6. New Business / Future Agenda Items

None

7. Announcements / Document Signing

Chief Whitney invited the Board Members to a retirement gathering on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 for the retirements of Battalion Chief Brett Broman and Battalion Chief Amy Brooks. The gathering will be held at SFMD Station 264 from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. A Public Notice has been posted for this event.

8. Adjourn

Chairman Chamberlain declared the Board Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

No Motion

Governing Board Approval:

DocuSigned by:

Jason Moeller

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Director Jason Moeller for
Board Clerk Connie Van Driel