



Superstition Fire & Medical District

Serving the Communities of Apache Junction and Gold Canyon since 1955

Phone | (480) 982-4440

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Governing Board Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

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 TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025. 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 Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Anna Butel & Carlos Rivera

C. Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were Chairman Kathleen Chamberlain, Director Jeff Cross, and Director Jason Moeller. Clerk Connie Van Driel joined via phone at 5:50 PM.

Senior Leadership Team in attendance were Fire Chief John Whitney, Assistant Chief Brian Read, Assistant Chief Richard Mooney, Deputy Chief Dave Pohlmann, Transportation Services Director Billy Warren, Administrative Services Director Anna Butel. Also in attendance were Alena Sampson, HR Manager, as the Board Secretary, and Ben Archer with James Vincent Group.

1. Review and approval of the January 2025 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Motion by Director Jeff Cross to approve the January 2025 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Seconded by Director Jason Moeller

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

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

February Anniversaries

25 Years of Service:

Anna Butel, Administrative Services Director

Carlos Rivera, Fire Captain/Paramedic

16 Years of Service:

Vaughn Croshaw, Fleet Superintendent

12 Years of Service:

Dave Endres, Captain/Paramedic

Monte Fuller, Engineer

Chris Furgeson, Captain/Paramedic

6 Years of Service:

Matt Leon, Firefighter/Paramedic

Ryan Markham, Firefighter/Paramedic

3 Years of Service:

Erik Arbit, Firefighter

Logan Garman, Firefighter

Max Gregor, Firefighter

Haden Langenhorst, Firefighter

David Tavares, Firefighter/Paramedic

Jordan Wilkes, Firefighter/Paramedic

3. Call to the Public.

None

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

- A. Board Meeting Minutes from January 15, 2025
- B. Contract for medical services for the Blues & Brews Art Festival
- C. Contract for Under the Shield
- D. Professional Liability Insurance

Motion by Director Jason Moeller to approve all consent agenda items for February 19, 2025.

Seconded by Director Jeff Cross

Vote 3 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

5. Discussion and possible action regarding conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest of SFMD Governing Board Members

Board Members completed the annual requirement of completing the conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest form which are on file for 2025.

6. Discussion and possible approval regarding the selection of board chair and board clerk

Motion by Director Jeff Cross to keep Kathleen Chamberlain as the Board Chair and Connie Van Driel as the Board Clerk.

Seconded by Director Jason Moeller
Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

7. Discussion and possible approval of the 2025 disclosure statement of meeting notice posting locations and dates for the Superstition Fire & Medical District Governing Board Meetings and Local Pension Board Meetings.

Motion by Director Jason Moeller to approve filing the 2025 disclosure statement with board meeting dates and times with the Pinal and Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and for posting meeting notices and agendas at the locations specified in the statement and on the District's website.

Seconded by Director Jeff Cross
Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

8. Discussion and possible approval of the purchase of a 2026 Horton 623 ambulance.

Transportation Director Billy Warren discussed that this was part of the 5-year replacement plan approved in 2022. Three ambulances have been purchased so far through a capital lease, and this is the fourth ambulance. The first ambulance was received in 2022 and the second and third ambulances should be arriving at the end of March 2025. The fourth ambulance should arrive July 2026. Director Warren also discussed that the use of ARPA funds saved SFMD \$442,000 dollars over 5 years. Director Cross asked if the old ambulances are kept in the fleet, and Director Warren confirmed that we do keep them as reserves. We currently have one reserve.

Motion by Director Jeff Cross approving the purchase of a 2026 Horton 623 ambulance.

Seconded by Director Jason Moeller
Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

9. Discussion and possible approval of the adoption of the 2025/2026 fiscal year budget planning

Chief John Whitney discussed the timeline of the budget build out. The Public Safety Personnel Retirement System rates have all increased, resulting in an increased cost of \$235,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. Tiers 1 and 2 are 92.4% funded with an unfunded liability as of 06/30/2024 of \$6.396 million. Tier 3 is 107.9% funded with an unfunded liability as of 06/30/2024 of \$13.1

million. Total District NAV increased by 8.22% up to \$46,322,393. Our current tax rate is \$3.69. This is the fourth year in a row where we are below the tax cap of \$3.75. SRP NAV will be available in early March.

High Level Budget Priorities:

- Contractual Increases
- Compromised Staffing
- Cost of Living Increase
- Training
- Financial Reserves
- Capital Improvement Fund
- Rising Costs – Costs of Goods and Services

Motion by Director Jason Moeller to approve the adoption of the 2025/2026 fiscal year budget planning calendar as presented.

Seconded by Director Jeff Cross

Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

10. Discussion of updates on the 2025 potential bond election

Chief Whitney conveyed that the Citizen’s Advisory Committee has had two meetings with discussions on the following topics:

Session #1

- Introductions
- Process Approach
- District History & Overview
- Fire District Funding Basics
- Legislative Challenges
- Budget Process, Overview, Challenges & Steps Taken

Session #2

- Vision, Mission, Values
- Labor/Management Process
- Recruitment & Retention
- Bond Process Overview
- Capital Replacement Plan
- Capital Needs
- Challenges of Capital Funding

There will be two more meetings, which will include tours of our fire stations and training facility. The plan is to come forward in April and present a staff presentation to the Board. Chief Whitney thanked the Citizen’s Advisory Committee for their participation in the process.

11. Senior Leadership Team Reports

Fire Chief Report

- AFDA Conference
 - Labor/Management Relations
- AJ Water Board
- Bond Project
- Budget Process
- Labor Management
- Fire Investigation Conversation
- Recruit Family Night
- All-Staff
- EMT Interviews
- Engineer Interviews
- East Valley Fire Chiefs
- Western Fire Chiefs Presidents Forum
- Ignite Conference
- Operations Meeting

Emergency Services

Operations – District & Regional

- SFMD/Pinal County Collaboration – Joint messaging for Wildland
- SFMD/AJPD – Fire Investigation Discussion
- Special Event Staffing
- Recruitment Committee
- LDD Rodeo/Carnival Site Walkthrough
- Branded Bill Collaboration – PIO
- Captain Zach Leon spoke at the Peralta Trails and Vista Del Camino HOA Meetings
- East Valley AC Meeting
- Regional Operations Consistency Committee
- Class 25-1 Recruit Family Night

Significant Incidents:

Residential Fire

- 01/13/2025 – E. 35th Avenue
- 2nd floor outlet with extension into wall
- Fire contained to the wall, no extension into the attic

Trail Rescue

- 01/13/2025 – Peralta Trail
- Mutual Aid request from PCSO
- L264 & E262 responded
- SFMD crews evaluated and extracted the patient from the trail
- Patient refused treatment upon reaching the parking lot

Wildland Urban Interface

- 01/23/2025 – Queen Valley
- Mutual Aid request from Queen Valley Fire
- BR261 responded with a 4-person crew

- Fire contained to approximately 3 acres
- No civilian or FF injuries reported

2N1 MVA

- 02/01/2025 – Lost Dutchman/N. Goldfield
- Side by Side rollover
- E26, E263, LT263, M263, M261, BC261
- 3 patients
 - 1 fatal
 - 2 left the scene before SFMD's arrival

Training – District & Regional

- Engineer Promotional Process
 - Process complete
 - 3 members on the Engineer Promotional List
- Candidate Development Program
 - Hosted two sessions this month, including mock interviews and PT sessions focusing on workouts similar to assessment/intern requirements
- Cadre Meetings
 - Held meetings with both the Tactical Cadre and Engineer Cadre
 - Developed a yearly schedule of workshops for CAC and CAE
- Academy Class 25-1
 - Six Recruit Firefighters at the Mesa Public Safety Training Facility
 - Captain Ledbetter is serving as the RTO
- Recruit Firefighter Process
 - Candidates have completed the written test
 - Building out the Assessment Center
- Can Act Captain
 - Hosted three different tactical sets/reps workshops
- Unified Command at Lost Dutchman Marathon
- Meetings and Events
 - East Valley Steering Meeting in Tempe
 - Fire Ops 101 Meeting on 02/21/2025 at Mesa Public Safety Training Facility
 - EVIT Meeting to discuss the progress of live fire training at the Gilbert Training Facility
 - Received approval from Gilbert to host the training
- Extrication Training
 - Crews assisted the East Valley Fire Cadets with extrication training
- East Valley Ladder Training in Chandler
 - 35-foot ladder raise with rescue, forcible entry, commercial ventilation, at grade/below grade fire attack with master stream device
- Technical Rescue Training (TRT)
 - Elevator Rescue
 - High Rise Window Washer Rescue

EMS – District & Regional

- AFDA Conference
- Station 264 – Medication Dispensing Machine
- Renaissance Festival first aid station deployment

- New Hire Orientation
- EleGARD Hands On Skills Review
- National Registry Certification Renewal
- Unified Command Lost Dutchman Marathon
- East Valley Agencies
- EMS ROCC
- Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Triannual Training

Transportation Services

- Level Zero Tracking Update
- AEMS Education Committee, AEMS Functional Group Meeting, AEMS Board of Governors
- New Hire Training – 3 Paramedics, 1 EMT
- EMS ROCC Billing Sub Committee Meeting
- EMS ROCC
- East Valley Agency Meeting
- Deferred Comp Meeting
- Central AZ EMS Guidelines – Medical Directors Consortium

Support Services

- State of the City Address
- Gold Canyon Republicans Meeting
- Superstition Mountain Republican Club
- TRWC Check-In Meeting
- Comm Ops Meeting
- LEPC Meeting
- Fire Investigation Discussion with Queen Creek
- Special Event Task Force Meeting
- Lost Dutchman Days Site Meeting
- Tower Lease Follow-Up Meeting
- Meeting with AJPD at RTC about Wellness Room
- Assisted with Engineer Testing
- GIS Transition Discussion with Administrative Services
- Fire Investigation Discussion with AJPD
- Labor Management
- Water Board Meeting with AJ City Council
- CAC Ribbon Cutting
- Inspection of New Pumper at Pierce (Croshaw & Nelson)
- AJ Health & Wellness Fair at Horizon Health
- Rock Shadows RV Park Appreciation Lunch
- Station 263 Tour with Webelos Boy Scouts
- Lost Dutchman RV Chili Cookoff (E261 judged)

Administrative Services

- Bond Committee Meetings
- Citizens Advisory Meetings
- Admin Stand Up
- JVG meeting

- GIS Transition Meeting
- All Staff
- Worker's Compensation Audit
 - NCCI (National Council on Compensation Insurance (Class Coding))
- Worker's Compensation Audit –
 - Davies (Premiums & Payroll)
- Worker's Compensation – Claims Review
- Deferred Compensation Meeting
- Recruiting Update
 - Recruit Firefighter
 - 262 Applications (92% increase over 2024)
 - 199 at Written Test, 181 passed
 - 168 signed up for Assessment Center at time of this meeting
 - Administrative Specialist
 - 27 Applications
 - 19 Taking Written Test
 - 12 Passed Written Test at time of this meeting
- New Hires
 - Alex Couillard – Transport Paramedic
 - Joseph Kaehr – Transport Paramedic
 - Jordan Hershberger – Transport Paramedic
 - Cayden Serdy – Transport EMT

12. New Business / Future Agenda Items

None

13. Announcements / Document Signing

- Roger Luth wanted to express gratitude to Chief Dan Elliott for getting an EMT volunteer for the Pony Express Ride


14. Adjourn

Motion by Director Jason Moeller to adjourn the board meeting at 6.59 p.m.

Seconded by Director Jeff Cross

Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

Governing Board Approval:

DocuSigned by:

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Board Clerk Connie Van Driel