



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

JANUARY 14, 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 Chief Whitney

C. Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were Chairman Kathleen Chamberlain, Clerk Connie Van Driel, Director Jeff Cross, Director Jason Moeller and Director Shawn Kurian.

Senior Leadership Team in attendance were Fire Chief John Whitney, Assistant Chief Brian Read, Assistant Chief Richard Mooney, Deputy Chief Dave Pohlmann, Battalion Chief Dan Elliot, Transportation Services Director Billy Warren, Administrative Services Director Anna Butel. Also in attendance was Valerie Blodgett, Administrative Specialist / Board Secretary. Sarah Simonton with James Vincent Group, attended via conference phone.

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

Motion by Director Jeff Cross to approve the December 2024 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Seconded by Director Jason Moeller

Vote 5 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.

January Anniversaries

36 Years of Service:

John Christensen, Engineer

22 Years of Service:

Chuck Hanson, Engineer/Paramedic

3 Years of Service:

Miki Klemesrud, Administrative Specialist AP/AR

2 Years of Service:

Andrew Hayes, EMT

1 Year of Service:

Frank Garduno, EMT

Gabe Weaver, Paramedic

Greg Scerbo, Firefighter

Nick Pyles, Firefighter

3. Call to the Public.

None

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

- A. Board Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2024
- B. Board Meeting Minutes Executive Session from December 18, 2024.
- C. Photography Agreement
- D. Single Audit

Motion by Clerk Van Driel to approve all consent agenda items for January 14, 2025.

Seconded by Director Shawn Kurian

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

5. Presentation and discussion regarding the timeline and project for Fire Station 266.

Fire Chief Whitney gave an update on the tentative timeline for completion of Station 266 located at Warner Ave & Flat Iron Trl. Utilities are expected to be completed at the end of 2025 or early 2026.

- Prep for Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Architect (February 2025)
- Prep for RFP for Contractor (February 2025)
- Selection of Architect/Contractor (April 2025)
- Final Architectural Design (December 2025)
- Final Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) (February 2026)
- Notice to Proceed (March 2026)
- Construction Build Timeline (March 2026-February 2027)
- Contract Completion (February 2027)
- Station 266 Opens (March 2027)

6. Discussion and possible approval for selecting and implementing a Community Advisory Committee.

SFMD would like to put together a Community Advisory Committee to assist with the bond process. Chief Whitney expressed that he would like to host a set of multiple meetings over the course of February and March 2025 to walk the citizen group through our needs, as a district, tour our facilities & fleet and review our capital funding. Chief Whitney also noted that one of these reasons for the committee is to get feedback on how to package the messaging in regard to the bond and how to present it. He invited members of the board to join, Clerk Connie Van Driel expressed her interest in being on the committee as well as Director Jason Moeller.

Motion by Director Jason Moeller to approve implementing a Community Advisory Committee.

Seconded by Director Shawn Kurian

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

7. Discussion and possible approval to enter into an agreement with HighGround, Inc. Public Affairs Consultants.

Chief Whitney conveyed this item is a continuation of the bond process and that HighGround, Inc works with a substantial amount of fire districts and have successfully run campaigns and are very familiar with the bond process. SFMD's intent is to engage with them, per our contract, for a five-month period. HighGround Inc, will assist us into the election process. Clerk Van Driel expressed that she believes this is a very wise decision. Chief Whitney vocalized that we want this bond process to be a success and this is a big pivotal moment for our organization.

Motion by Clerk Van Driel to approve entering into an agreement with HighGround, Inc Public Affairs Consultants.

Seconded by Director Jeff Cross

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

8. Senior Leadership Team Reports

Fire Chief Report

- Bond Meetings
- Paramedic Interviews
- AFSI
- AFDA Board
- Resiliency & Mitigation Council
- Budget Managers
- Fire Investigation discussion
- Audit

Emergency Services

Operations – District & Regional

- Labor Management
- Monthly Training package development
- Engineer Promotional meeting
- Tactical Cadre Meeting
- Budget Managers
- One thing meeting – C264
- East Valley AC Meeting
- Regional Operations Consistency Committee

Significant Incidents:

TRT – Mutual Aid

- 12/21/2024 HWY88 at MP204
- E262, BC261, R266, L204, BC202, SQ219, Fox 1
- Mutual aid TRT request. Patient over a cliff 100 feet down into a ravine. Fox 1 utilized for hoist operations. The patient was packaged and lifted from the ravine, then transported to Banner Desert for further evaluation.
- Command reported a round of applause was given from the motorists who were stuck on the 88.

MVA Single Vehicle

- 12/22/2024 Old West and Goldfield
- LT263, M263, BC261
- Single vehicle MVA involving a motorcycle. The patient was a trauma code upon arrival.

2n1 Medical

- 12/26/2024 - US60 & Ironwood
- BC261, E261, E263, E2209, LT263, M263
- 1 Immediate patient, ejected from vehicle. The patient was treated and transported to Desert Banner.

2n1 Gas Leak

- 01/06/2025 – Broadway and Desert View
- E261, BC261 HM255
- A 1 ½ “ gas line reportedly hit during excavation. E261 secured the area and pulled a protection line. HM255 secured the leak.
- No reported civilian or ff injuries.

Working Fire

- 01/07/2025 – S. Idaho Rd.
- E263, LT263, E261, EE2209, BC261, BC202, E212, L264 M262, U208, M263, E262
- Crews on scene with a fully involved structure. Crews attacked the fire from defensive positions.
- Homeowner transported to Valleywise Burn Center.

Training – District & Regional

- December Training Guide
- Engineer Cadre – Engineer Promotional Process
- 1st Professional Development Series – OTJI
- Can Act as Captain and Battalion Chief Packets
- Two Suppression New Hires
- L264 assisted East Valley Cadets with Search and Rescue
- E262 C-Shift attended Helo-Ops with MCSO

EMS – District & Regional

- Updated District Drug Boxes
- Two SFMD members start Paramedic class through Mesa Community College
- Preparation for NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) implementation
- Updated CAREMS offlines
- Drug Procurement through Banner Goldfield
- Attended Image Trend database workshop with regional partners

Transportation Services

- Paramedic Interviews
- New Hire EMT Training
- AEMS Education Committee Meeting
- AEMS Functional Group Meeting
- Budget Managers Quarterly Meeting
- Fire Chief Forum
- Monthly Transportation Volume
- CON Compliance through December 2024

Support Services

- Lost Dutchman RV Resort Health Fair Fundraiser (261)
- Labor Management Meeting
- Budget Managers Meeting
- Fire Investigation Discussion
- City Marathon Meeting
- Central Arizona College Site Meeting

- Fire Investigation Completed
- BR262 (Type III) – Repairs completed and returned to the district

Administrative Services

- Stifel – Bond Election Information
- Bond Project Committee
- HighGround Public Relations Meeting
- Admin Standup
- Budget Managers Meeting
- FLSA 207(K) Meeting
- UKG Priority List
- Professional Development Series (OTJI)

New Hires

- Armand Moini – Recruit Firefighter
- Spencer Tufts – Recruit Firefighter
- John Price – Transport EMT
- Kilian Sheahan

9. New Business / Future Agenda Items

None

10. Announcements / Document Signing

None

11. Adjourn

Motion by Director Jeff Cross to adjourn the board meeting at 6.39 p.m.

Seconded by Director Jason Moeller

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

Governing Board Approval:

Board Clerk Connie Van Driel