



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

APRIL 16, 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 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 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

Acting Chairman Connie Van Driel called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Tanya Anderson.

C. Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were Acting Chairman Connie Van Driel, Director Jeff Cross, Director Jason Moeller and Director Shawn Kurian. Chairman Chamberlain and Attorney William Whittington attended via conference phone.

Senior Leadership Team in attendance were Fire Chief John Whitney, Deputy Chief Dave Pohlmann, Battalion Chief Dan Elliot, Transportation Services Director Billy Warren, Administrative Services Director Anna Butel, Ben Archer with James Vincent Group, and President Colt Weddell. Also in attendance was Valerie Blodgett, Administrative Specialist / Board Secretary and Tanya Anderson, Administrative Specialist, soon to be Board Secretary.

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

Motion by Director Moeller to approve the March 2025 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Seconded by Director Cross

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.

April Anniversaries

21 Years of Service

Deputy Fire Marshal **Tina Gerola**

8 Years of Service

Transport Paramedic **Ryan Tonelli**

7 Years of Service

Transport Paramedic **Michael Bigg**

6 Years of Service

Transport Paramedic **Levi Unzeitig**

Community Appreciation

- AJ Mounted Rangers \$1000
- Golden Vista RV Resort - Christian Women \$512

3. Call to the Public.

None

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

- A. Board Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2025
- B. Banner Occupational Health Renewal
- C. Agreement AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management ARPA Grant Award
- D. Agreement for Advisory Services with Galloway Asset Management

Motion by Director Cross to approve all consent agenda items for April 16, 2025.

Seconded by Director Kurian **Vote 5** ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

5. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 2025-04-16-04 ordering and authorizing all matters necessary for a bond election to be held on November 4, 2025.

Speakers:

Tracy Polk, spokesperson for the Citizen Action Committee, reviewed their process.

Bryan Lundberg with Stifel Public Finance led the General Obligation Bonds discussion.

Paul Bentz, election consultant at Highground reviewed the election process.

Union President Colt Weddell shared how the Union will collaborate to support community outreach in the passing of the bond.

Paul Gales with Greenberg Traurig, Bond council for the District and drafter of the resolution, gave a quick overview of the Call to Election.

Motion by Director Cross to adopt Resolution of the district board of Superstition Fire & Medical District of Pinal and Maricopa counties, Arizona, ordering and calling a special bond election to be held on November 4, 2025, in and for the district, to submit to the qualified electors thereof the question of selling and issuing general obligation bonds of the district.

Seconded by Director Kurian

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

6. Discussion and possible approval of changing the July 2025 Board Meeting date from July 16, 2025 to Tuesday, July 22, 2025.

Motion by Director Cross to approve changing the July 2025 Board Meeting date.

Seconded by Director Kurian

Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

7. Senior Leadership Team Reports

Fire Chief Report

Acting Chief Pohlmann reported the following:

- Captain Ehrlich Retirement
- Officer of the Year Awards Dinner
- Boys and Girls Club Fundraiser
- Arizona Fire Districts Association Meeting
- Budget Manager Meeting
- Bond Meeting with High Ground
- Labor Management Meeting - Awards
 - 2025 Annual Award Recipients:
 - Lance Frawley, Officer of the Year
 - Nolan Willoughby, Firefighter of the Year
 - Holly Bassett, Transportation Employee of the Year
 - Jennifer Burke, Civilian Employee of the Year
 - Sophie Boukatch, Chief's Award for Outstanding Service

Chief Whitney reported the following:

- Operations Meeting

- Budget Prep & Development
- Bond Presentation Prep
- Battle of the Badges :-)

Emergency Services

District & Regional

- Labor Management
- After Action Review for Special Events, Assessment Center, and Intern Academy
- Operations Meeting
- Staffing and Deployment Committee Meeting – Holidays
- All Staff Meeting
- BSO/BC Meeting – Discussed Processes and Timelines
- EMS, Training, and IT Divisions – Equipment and Programs Meeting – Meetings/Classes
- Radius Rapid Deploy Demo at PFD Regional Dispatch
- Attended Guadalupe Fire Chief Wayne Clement’s Retirement
- East Valley AC Meeting
- L264 and Gilbert FD – Charity Ride Flag Raising Superstition Harley

Significant Incidents:

Trail Rescue

- 03.26.25 – Trail Rescue at Broadway Cave
- BC261, LT263, E263, M263
- Dispatched for a fall/stranded hiker
- Crews made contact with the hiker, who stated that he fell approximately 100ft the night before
- The hiker stated he tried to start a fire in an attempt to signal people
- Hiker self-extricated the following morning
- Crew evaluated, treated, and transported the patient to Banner Desert

2n1 Medical

- 03.31.25 – AJUSD Bus Barn
- BC261, E263, M263, LT263, E61, L264
- Report of the patient being run over and pinned between two buses
- Upon arrival patient was under a bus, not trapped
- Crews, evaluated, treated, and transported the patient to Banner Desert

Pediatric Incident

- 04.01.25 – Pediatric Code
- BC261, E261, M261
- Crews arrived on the scene of a pediatric code
- Crews treated and transported Code 3
- “Hot wash” accomplished after the incident

Residential Fire

- 04.11.25 – N Starr Rd
- E262, E261, E263, LT263, BC261, BC203, E265, L264, M263, U208, M261, T261
- Rubbish fire that extended to 3 separate structures, spanning over 2 properties
- Access issues due to multiple piles of debris
- No Hydrants – Tender operations for water supply

- Defensive fire
- No civilian injuries were reported
- 1 FF transported for heat exhaustion

Mountain Rescue

- 04.12.25 – Siphon Draw Trailhead
- BC261, E262, UTV262, M261, SQ219
- Hiker 1 mile in on the trail
- Chief Complaint of cramping and difficulty standing
- Patient extracted off of the trail via UTV262
- Crews, evaluated, treated, and transported the patient to Banner Goldfield

Divisional Report Training & EMS

District

- Acting Fire Chief
- Radius Rapid Deploy Demo
- Captains Meetings – Data Collections Tips and Tricks
- Labor Management
- After Action Review for Special Events

Regional Partners

- Scottsdale Fire Training Academy Visit
- Banner Goldfield ER Director Meeting

Training

District

Extrication Training

- Preparation for in-house Multi-Company Extrication Training to enhance operational proficiency
- Conducted a comprehensive Wildland Field Day, attended by all suppression personnel, to strengthen wildfire response capabilities.

Candidate Development Program

- Facilitated four sessions since the last board meeting, encompassing:
- Mock Interviews
- Physical Training (PT) Sessions and Skills Course
- Recorded an average attendance of 20 candidates per session.
- Of those, 10 candidates from the program advanced to the Intern Academy, with 5 progressing to Chief Interviews.

Regional Partners

Technical Rescue Team (TRT) Training

- Training sessions:
- Confined Space Operations
- Trench Rescue Procedures
- Engine 262-B participated in a Rescue Conference hosted by the Pinal County Sheriff's Office (PCSO).

Academy Class 25-1

- Recruits are demonstrating strong performance and are currently in Week 11 of the East Valley Regional Academy
East Valley Fire Cadets (EVFC)
- The District provided support to the East Valley Fire Cadets during their Family Day event.

EMS

District

- Paramedic Preceptor Training
- Captains Meetings
- NREMT Recertification Complete
- Operative IQ Training
- Completion of Renaissance Festival –
- 708 contacts
- 20 transports

Regional Partners

- EMS ROCC
- Regional Retirement Care Council

Transportation Services

- Submitted AZHDS Automatic Rate increase of 2.2%
- AEMS Education Committee Meeting AEMS Board of Governors Meeting
- East Valley Agencies Meeting
- EMS ROCC
- EMS ROCC – Billing Subcommittee Meeting
- SFMD 457b Transition Meeting
- Banner Goldfield Meeting
- Republic EVS Ambulance Demo
- Labor Management Awards Meeting
- Budget Managers Quarterly Meeting
- Boys and Girls Club Fundraiser

Support Services

- Labor Management Meeting
- Budget Managers Meeting
- TRWC Coverage Meeting
- Special Events Monthly Meeting
- Project Meeting w/ Builder
- Knox Box Representative Meeting
- After Actions Meeting for Special Events & Intern
- Boys & Girls Club Fundraiser
- Comm Ops Meeting
- Captain Ehrlich's Retirement
- Meeting w/ Economic Development and Planning at City
- Attended Fire Chief Wayne Clement Retirement Event
- Battle of the Badges
- AED/CCR with City Staff
- Junction Mission Chapel Open House

- Station 263 Tour with AJ Youth Advisory Group

Resource

- Investigator Class
- Radio Updates
- New E261
- Annual Hose Testing Completed
- Engineers Check-Off with Shop Mechanics
- Rotate Apparatus through Annex for PM
- Facility PM
- Budget Process Meetings
- Uniform Committee
- Recruit Uniforms
- PPE Turnouts
- Bills and Purchases

Administrative Services

- All Staff Meeting
- PSPRS Transition Deep Dive Meeting
- HighGround Bond Consulting Meeting
- Captain Ehrlich Retirement
- Budget Managers Meeting
- Labor Management Awards Discussion
- 24-ARPA-109 Initial Meeting (\$273,000 Award)

8. New Business / Future Agenda Items

None

9. Announcements / Document Signing

President Weddell spoke Gala on May 2nd Golf on May 3rd
Chief Whitney April Pool's Day

10. Adjourn

Motion by Director Cross to adjourn the board meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Seconded by Director Moeller

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

Governing Board Approval:

DocuSigned by:
Connie Van Driel
98EB0CECDE81421

Board Clerk Connie Van Driel