



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

June 18, 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, June 18, 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 Jeff Ehrlich

C. Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were Chairman Kathleen Chamberlain, Clerk Connie Van Driel, and Director Jason Moeller. Director Shawn Kurian attended via conference phone.

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, Ben Archer and Sarah Simonton with James Vincent Group, and President Colt Weddell. Alena Sampson, HR Manager, was filling in as Board Secretary for Tanya Anderson. Attorney William Whittington attended via conference phone.

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

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

Seconded by Clerk Van Driel

Vote 4 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 retirement, performance, achievements, and special recognition for community members.

Retirement Recognition

24 Years of Service

Captain Jeff Ehrlich

June Service Anniversaries

31 Years of Service

Deputy Chief Cranmer

Engineer Mike Wolfe

19 Years of Service

Captain Alex Dupuis

18 Years of Service

Engineer Brandon Blessum

Firefighter Ryan Rodriguez

Captain Geof Shively

9 Years of Service

Engineer Chris Wohlforth

3. Call to the Public.

None

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

- A. Board Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2025
- B. Adoption of Resolution 2025-06-18-07 authorizing the establishment of a Line of Credit (LOC) with Wells Fargo for Fiscal Year 2025/2026
- C. Transfer of funds for the June 30, 2025, Chase Bond Debt Services Principal and Interest Payments
- D. Transfer of funds for the June 30, 2025, US Bank Bond Debt Services Principal and Interest Payments
- E. Disposition of Surplus Property – Computer Equipment
- F. Emergency Purchase of New Engine for C-67
- G. Preplanners Contract for GIS Data Custodian Services
- H. Pension Funding Policy - 1050

Motion by Clerk Van Driel to approve all consent agenda items for June 18, 2025.

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

5. Public Hearing in Accordance with A.R.S. § 48-805 in order to hear taxpayers' comments on the proposed Superstition Fire & Medical District revenue and expenditure budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

No Motion

No person from the public attended the meeting either in person or on the conference phone.

6. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 2025-06-18-09: Budget Adoption.

A.R.S. 48-805(A) states "a fire district shall prepare an annual budget that contains detailed estimated expenditures for each fiscal year. The budget summary shall be posted in three public places and published on the district's official website for at least twenty days before a public hearing at a meeting called by the board to adopt the budget. Following the public hearing, the district board shall adopt a budget. A complete copy of the adopted budget shall be posted in a prominent location on the district's official website within seven business days after final adoption and shall be retained on the website for at least sixty months."

A.R.S. 48-805(B) states "Not more than ten days after the organization of a fire district and not later than August 1 of each year after the organization, the chairman of the district board shall submit to the county board of supervisors a budget estimate that contains certifications by item and that specifies the amount of money required for the maintenance and operation of the district for the ensuing year."

At the May 21, 2025 meeting, the Board approved the FY2025 / 2026 Tentative Budget and directed Staff to post the Tentative Budget for public comment. The 20-day public comment period is now complete.

The budget the Staff is presenting represents a tax rate of \$3.69 per hundred dollars of secondary valuation for District operations and a \$0.110 special assessment related to the JPMorgan Chase Refinancing Bond debt principal and interest repayment.

Motion by Director Moeller to adopt Resolution #2025-06-18-09 Budget Adoption.

Seconded by Clerk Van Driel
Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

7. Discussion and possible approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Superstition Fire & Medical District and the United Mesa Firefighters, Local 2260, Superstition Chapter, and possible adoption of Resolution 2025-06-18-10.

The MOU was first established and approved by the SFMD Board of Directors in 2017. This document is updated annually to reflect changes within the District. This was a collaborative effort

between the Senior Leadership Team and the Superstition Fire & Medical Firefighters Chapter of Local 2260.

Motion by Clerk Van Driel to approve Resolution #2025-06-18-10.

Seconded by Director Moeller

Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

8. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 2025-06-18-08, a Proclamation honoring Fallen Apache Junction Police Officer Gabriel Facio.

The Superstition Fire & Medical District will formally honor Officer Gabriel Facio, who was slain in the course of serving our community. Police officers are the thin blue line whose sacrifices protect and serve us daily, and we pledge to support them as they risk their lives to safeguard ours.

Officer Facio was critically injured on June 2, 2025, in the line of duty during a traffic stop while responding to a road-rage incident. Despite a courageous week-long battle, he succumbed to his injuries on June 8, 2025. Officer Facio served with exceptional dedication, embodying compassion and commitment as a husband, father, son, brother, friend, and officer. His 20-year journey to become a police officer, including prior service with the Phoenix Police Department, reflected his steadfast devotion to the safety and well-being of the Apache Junction community.

Our District joins the City of Apache Junction, the Facio family, and the broader first responder community in mourning this profound loss. A proclamation from the Board would provide meaningful recognition of Officer Facio's sacrifice, offering support to his family and honoring his legacy within our district and the public safety community.

Motion by Clerk Van Driel to approve Resolution #2025-06-25-08.

Seconded by Director Moeller

Vote 4 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

9. Senior Leadership Team Reports

Fire Chief Report

Chief Whitney reported the following:

- Bond meetings
- Bi-weekly strategy
- HighGround Speaker Training
- AJ Chamber of Commerce
- All-Staff & FC Forum communications meetings
- Legislative meeting with AFCA, AFDA, PFFA
- Labor/Management
- PFFA Conference presentation on L/M
- East Valley Fire Chiefs
- Pinal County Elections meeting
- R/M Meeting

- Personnel meetings
- Firefighter Day at Camp Courage
- AJPD support
- Ops meeting

Emergency Services

District

- Labor Management
- All Staff and Fire Chief Forum
- Limited Bid prep
- Limited Bid process
- Assist AJPD with any needs

Regional Partners

- Meet with Chief Steeves – upcoming academy

Significant Incidents:

Working Fire:

- Date: 06.07.25
- Location: W. Saddle Butte
- Response: E263, M263, E262, T262, E217, E213, L264, BC202, U208, M261, T264, LT263, BC261
- Report: Fifth-wheel trailer is fully involved and with immediate exposure to the west immediately. Crews got a quick knockdown and fire control—report of one person with smoke inhalation.
- Patient evaluated and treated. The patient refused any further treatment or transport. No FF injuries reported.

2nd Alarm HazMat:

- Date: 06.14.25
- Location: S. Reverence Rd.
- Response: E217, HM255, E221, E212, LT219, BC261, M263, M262, E263, E216, E215, L209, L264, M264, E414, L253, M261, CRV201, U251
- Report: Initial report of a yellow substance being discharged in and around the pool. Substance identified as chlorine. The discharge was attributed to mechanical failure of the pump system. Equipment was secured, and the community R/P shut down the pool area until repairs could be made.
- There were 12 total patients, and five were transported. No FF injuries reported.

Divisional Report Training & EMS

District

- All Staff
- Fire Chief Forum
- Bond Committee
- Labor Management
- BSO Selection Process
- RTO Selection Process
- Unified Command for Apache Junction Police Officer Facio Fundraiser

Regional Partners

- East Valley Agencies Meeting
- AEMS EleGARD presentation – Chief Fox
- East Valley Assistant Chief’s Meeting
- Four Peaks Medical Center Pre-drill and drill

Training

District

- Probationary FF Packets – Digital format on Vector Solutions
- Advanced hydraulic workshop
- Can-Act-As Engineer packet

Upcoming:

- Workshops for Captains’ promotional process
- 2025/2026 Training Calendar

Regional Partners

- Four Peaks Helicopter drill – Simulated crash/mass casualty
- LG Plant Tours

Upcoming:

- New test site for Captains’ Tactical

EMS

District

- BSO Interview Process
- EMS Committee Meeting
- CQI with Dr. Solem
- Operative IQ Training
- Unified Command AJPD Fundraiser

Regional Partners

- EMS ROCC
- AEMS EMS Conference Presenter
- EleGARD Trial Results

Transportation Services

- EMS ROCC
- All Staff Meeting
- New Hire Paramedic Training
- Chase Doyle, Wren Doyle, Joseph Alonzo
- Meeting with Tempe Fire – Discussed our ambulance program
- AZDHS Ambulance inspection of unit C-89
- Officer Facio Fundraiser/Funeral Service
- East Valley Agencies Meeting

- AEMS

- Education Committee Meeting
- Functional Group Meeting
- Odyssey Conference Host

Support Services

- All Staff Meeting
- Labor Management
- Wildland Preparedness Meeting with GOP Worker Bees
- Special Event Task Force Meeting
- Fire Chief Forum
- Comm Ops Meeting
- Officer Facio's Funeral
- Fleet Superintendent Croshaw assisted with Lead Mechanic interviews for the City

Resource

- AZIAAI and NAFI Investigator Certification
- Annex Updates
- Safety Committee – Turnout Recommendation
- Budget Process Meetings
- Facility PM
- Bills & Purchases – End of Year
- Temporary Quarters

Administrative Services

- Pinal County Elections Meeting
- HighGround Speaker Training
- ARPA-SLRF – Approved for Reimbursement \$75,733.00
- Nationwide Transition Meeting
- Liberty National Supplemental Insurance
- All Staff and Fire Chief Forum
- Admin Staff Attended Officer Facio Fund Raiser
- ELBO Payout

10. New Business / Future Agenda Items

None

11. Announcements / Document Signing


12. Adjourn

Motion by Director Moeller to adjourn the board meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Seconded by Clerk Van Driel

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

Governing Board Approval:

DocuSigned by:

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Board Clerk Connie Van Driel

