

**GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
March 16, 2021 9:00 a.m.
3885 East Golder Ranch Drive, Tucson, Arizona**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Fire Board Chairperson Cox Golder called the meeting to order on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Board Chairperson Vicki Cox Golder, Board Vice-Chair Richard Hudgins, Clerk Wally Vette, and Board Member Steve Brady

Excused Absence: Board Member Albert Pesqueira

Staff Present: Fire Chief Randy Karrer, Assistant Chief Patrick Abel, Assistant Chief Brandhuber, Community Relations Manager Anne-Marie Braswell (via Zoom), Finance Manager Dave Christian, IT Manager Herman Rascon (via Zoom), Board Services Manager Brooke Painter, and Legal Counsel Donna Aversa (via Zoom)

2. SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FIRE BOARD REPORTS

Clerk Vette reported that he attended the Union's annual archery event. He stated that, although it was not as well attended as previous years, it was a very nice event.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public issues presented.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. PRESENTATION BY PINAL COUNTY SUPERVISOR JEFFREY MC CLURE PROVIDING AN INTRODUCTION AND AN UPDATE OF CURRENT EVENTS IN PINAL COUNTY

Pinal County Supervisor McClure introduced himself as the District 4 representative. He provided the Governing Board an update on redistricting goals in Pinal County stating that Pinal County is hoping to break 500,000 in population; therefore, districts would be relined based upon population. He provided an update regarding the current and potential justice of the peace in Pinal County. He answered questions from the Governing Board about the makeup of the current board of supervisors. He also provided the Board an update on the economic development opportunities in Pinal County.



B. PRESENTATION FROM MARK READER (STIFEL) ON AN UPDATE ON THE CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION CONCEPT TO FUND THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT'S PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS) UNFUNDED LIABILITY USING BOND ISSUANCE AT A LOW INTEREST RATE

Mark Reader of Stifel provided an update to the Governing Board on the concept to pay the unfunded liability utilizing bond issuance at a low interest rate. Chief Karrer stated that this would require no increase to our tax rate, in response to a question from Vice-Chair Hudgins. Chief Karrer noted that the proposed bills to allow fire districts to participate in the COP has passed both the House and the Senate. He explained the projected timeline. The presentation is included with the meeting minutes.

C. PRESENTATION BY HERMAN RASCON ON THE USDD SYSTEM

Manager Rascon provided a presentation on the USDD system, as requested by the Governing Board last month. Manager Rascon and Chief Karrer answered questions from the Board.

Board Member Brady excused himself from the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. APPROVE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16, 2021 REGULAR SESSION

B. APPROVE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16, 2021 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Vice-Chair Hudgins to approve the March 16, 2021 Consent Agenda

MOTION SECONDED by Clerk Vette

MOTION CARRIED 3/0

7. **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Karrer presented the fire chief's report to the Governing Board. He noted that the current healthcare insurance provider is proposing a 6% increase. He continued that staff is looking at other options. Chief Karrer asked Manager Christian to provide an update to the Governing Board on the possible sale of the property adjacent to 379; Manager Christian provided the update. There were no further questions or comments from the Governing Board.

- BOARD SERVICES REPORT – Board Services Manager Painter stated that her report was included in the board packet. Chairperson Cox Golder complimented Manager Painter and her staff on the new furniture in the administration lobby. There were no further questions or comments from the Governing Board.



- COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT – Community Relations Manager Braswell stated that her report was included in the board packet. There were no further questions or comments from the Governing Board.
 - LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT – Vice-President Ward reported that the Samaniego archery event was very successful; they were able to raise about \$5,000 for foster children in the area, a cause for which Firefighter Samaniego was very passionate about. There were no further questions or comments from the Governing Board.
- B. BUSINESS/GOVERNMENTAL/PERSONNEL ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Brandhuber presented the Business/Governmental/Personnel Assistant Chief's report to the Governing Board. There were no further questions or comments from the Governing Board.
- C. LOGISTICS/PLANNING ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Abel presented the Logistics/Planning Assistant Chief's report to the Governing Board. He noted that he and Chief Miller have submitted conceptual plans for Station 378; Robson is evaluating an appropriate site that would meet the needs. He has walked through with the architects and contractors for the Station 374 remodel project. This should lower the costs from the previous quote. There were no further questions or comments from the Governing Board.
- D. EMERGENCY/LIFE SAFETY SERVICES DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief Robb presented the Deputy Chief's Report to the Governing Board. Chief Robb answered a question from Clerk Vette regarding the number of code compliance inspections. There were no further questions or comments from the Governing Board.

8. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE UPDATED AND REDESIGNED SALARY SCHEDULE FOR NON-UNIFORM PERSONNEL

HR Manager Delong introduced Igor Shegolev and his team from HR Knows, who presented to the Governing Board the updated and redesigned salary schedule for non-uniform personnel. The new schedule would address compression issues and adjustments for market changes; it would address inconsistency in steps for journey level versus professional level positions, and would help to control labor costs. Mr. Shegolev, Manager Delong, and Chief Brandhuber answered questions from the Governing Board. Manager Christian answered a question from Clerk Vette about the impact to the budget.

MOTION by Clerk Vette to approve and adopt the updated and redesigned salary schedule for non-uniform personnel

MOTION SECONDED by Vice Chair Hudgins

MOTION CARRIED 3/0



B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SCHEDULING OF A BUDGET STUDY SESSION FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET

Chief Karrer stated that Finance Manager Christian would have the first draft of the budget finalized by the end of March; staff would like to set up a budget study session with the Governing Board.

MOTION by Vice Chair Hudgins to set the first budget study session for April 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Clerk Vette

MOTION CARRIED 3/0

C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-0001 DECLARING THE LISTED DISTRICT ITEMS AS SURPLUS AND DIRECTION TO STAFF TO DISPOSE OF THE DECLARED SURPLUS ITEMS IN A WAY THAT BEST MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT

Chief Hilderbrand explained that the District has accumulated items that we no longer use or need. The Board was provided documentation that listed the items the District is seeking to surplus. Staff is looking to receive approval to classify the listed items as surplus and to place the items on a public surplus auction website. This operation would be directed by Chief Hilderbrand and by Carol Espinoza in Fleet Maintenance.

MOTION by Clerk Vette to approve Resolution #2021-0001 declaring the list of items presented as surplus to the needs of the District and direction for staff to dispose of declared surplus items in a way that best meets the needs of the District

MOTION SECONDED by Vice-Chair Hudgins

MOTION CARRIED 3/0

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE RECLASSIFICATION OF A CHIEF OFFICER POSITION

Chief Karrer explained that at the direction of the Governing Board, succession planning has been a high priority for him. Chief Karrer explained that he is requesting the Board to authorize the reclassification of a deputy or a division chief position to an assistant chief position. He noted that this allows for mentoring, so there are options to the Governing Board when he and Chief Abel retire in two years. He continued that this would be a small impact to the budget, which could be covered with contingency funds. Chief Karrer answered questions from the Governing Board.

MOTION by Vice Chair Hudgins to authorize the fire chief to reclassify a division chief position to an assistant chief position utilizing contingency funds

MOTION SECONDED by Clerk Vette

MOTION CARRIED 3/0



E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT RECONCILIATION AND MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Manager Christian presented the monthly financials and reconciliation for Golder Ranch Fire District to the Governing Board. There were no further questions or comments from the Governing Board.

MOTION by Clerk Vette to approve and accept the Golder Ranch Fire District reconciliation and monthly financial reports as presented

MOTION SECONDED by Vice-Chair Hudgins

MOTION CARRIED 3/0

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION: THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38-431.03.A(3) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTATION OR LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING AN UPDATE ON EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC) COMPLAINTS RECEIVED, NOTICE OF CLAIM RECEIVED, AND POSSIBLE PENDING LITIGATION **Note – executive sessions are confidential pursuant to Arizona law.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Hudgins to enter into executive session pursuant to A.R.S. §§38-431.03.A(3) for the purpose of legal advice with the attorney at 11:11 a.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Clerk Vette

MOTION CARRIED 3/0

Those present in the executive session were the Board Members, Chief Karrer, Attorney Aversa (via telephone), and Manager Painter.

The Board reconvened into regular session at 11:25 a.m.

Chairperson Cox Golder reminded those in attendance Executive Sessions are confidential pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(C).

9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

This provides an opportunity for the Board to direct staff to include items on future agendas for further consideration and decision at a later date, or to study the matter further.

- Regularly Scheduled Meeting – April 20, 2021
- Budget Study Session – April 6, 2021

10. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public issues presented.




11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Vice-Chair Hudgins to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Clerk Vette

MOTION CARRIED 3/0



Wally Vette, Clerk of the Board
Golder Ranch Fire District
b/p

