



MEETING MINUTES

The Fire Board of the Rio Rico Medical and Fire District (RRMFD) met in regular session on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Rio Rico Medical and Fire District administrative office, 822 Pendleton Drive, Rio Rico, AZ.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 - Meeting is being recorded
 - Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Brad Beach
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS
 - Present: Brad Beach, Michael Carlson and Dora Urias
 - Absent: Frank Bejarano
4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC
 - None
5. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Approval of minutes
 - i. Regular Session August 30, 2023.
 - Motion to approve the minutes of the regular session August 30, 2023 made by Michael Carlson, second by Dora Urias
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:
 - a. Correspondence
 - None
 - b. Fire Chief's report
 - Fire Chief power point report presented by Chief Adam Amezaga. Copy of report on file and posted on website
 - i. Emergency calls summary
 - ii. Operational
 1. Equipment, vehicle, station
 2. Training
 3. Operations
 4. Personnel
 - c. Fire Marshal Report
 - Fire Marshal report presented by Fire Marshal George Cluff. Copy of report on file and posted on the website
 - d. Fire Board Member Report
 - Michael Carlson attended Del Campo training- each year gets better, amazing. Home simulated fire room new this year; tenacity of those participating is incredible, they don't give up! Brad

Beach noted he had seen some of the Del Camp training on social media; commended work with other agencies especially Nogales, Sonora. RRMFD vehicle spotted in Nogales, Az. with the migrants.

e. Financial Report

i. Presentation of Financial Reports up to August 31, 2023

- Financial Reports presented by ana Holman
- Financial audit in process this week
- NSFD new annexation project to include 38 parcels (32 parcels paying taxes, 6 parcels not paying taxes) in the Las Colinas area. Special NSFD Board meeting to be held October 5th

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action re: Expansion of RRMFD CON Ambulance Boundaries

i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the Expansion of RRMFD CON Ambulance Boundaries

- Chief Amezaga noted this is still a work in progress in getting CON for southern end; met with Chief Sargent and reviewed paperwork; with end of title 42, coverage of the border area is in question – DHS will be contacted for guidance. Michael Carlson will contact Mr. Russell with Mark Kelly’s office regarding information.

b. Discussion, review and update re: District Fees for Service

i. This is a continuation of previous discussion of District Fees for Service

- Chief Amezaga noted he had legal review the agreement and made recommendations as noted (\$150 half room; \$300 full room). Half room 50% increase would be \$120; full room \$300. Non profit and public service organization fees could be waived at the discretion of the Chief. Discussion amongst board favored \$135 half room and \$270 full room
- Motion to approve District Fees for Service as discussed with the contract at \$135 per day fo half room and double that per day, \$270 for full room, excluding non profits, made by Michael Carlson, second by Dora Urias
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

c. Discussion, review and possible action re: Consolidation of NSFD and RRMFD

i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the consolidation of NSFD and RRMFD

- Chief Amezaga stated the terminology used was incorrect – this would not be a merger, it would be a consolidation of the two districts. Consolidation allows RRMFD to take over NSFD, they will no longer have a board and RRMFD would take over the entire department. Merging would bring two of their Board members to our Board and RRMFD would lose two of their present Board member. Clarifying difference between Consolidation and Merging. NSFD Board has discussed this and are in agreement with moving forward. John Flynn has been contacted regarding the handling of this process at an hourly rate, estimate of cost is \$3,000. Can bring additional information and costs at next meeting or the Board can approve moving forward working and contracting with John Flynn now. Chief Amezaga recommends moving forward; Board recommends moving forward.
- Motion to move forward with the consolidation of RRMFD and NSFD made by Michael Carlson, second by Dora Urias
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote consolidation would

d. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of IGA for “On Call Chief Officer” between RRMFD and Sonoita-Elgin Fire District (SEFD)

- i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the IGA for “On Call Chief Officer” between RRMFD and Sonoita-Elgin Fire District (SEFD)
 - Chief Amezaga noted this was previously discussed with some concerns; had legal review the contract and address some of the concerns (workmans compensation, contractual employee and indemnification). IGA self encompassing for workman’s compensation. Jeff Matura is available by phone.
 - Jeff Matura addressed the board telephonically. Brad Beach asked if Jeff Matura foresaw any legalities with the IGA; always a possibility of some legal issue arising but the benefit and protection that RRMFD has is the indemnity provision section 7 of the IGA. Basically says if something happens during the performance of this IGA that is not RRMFD’s fault, but for whatever reason RRMFD is dragged in to dispute the district can keep indemnity from SEFD (indemnity provision is RRMFD’s protection). If RRMFD were to suffer legal liability, loss, etc. under this agreement through no fault of your own, you can get indemnity from that. Michael Carlson questioned it being flipped around where RRMFD would have to indemnify someone from SEFD to RRMFD and there is an issue we believe caused by SEFD, is there a burden of proof responsibility and how does that work? Jeff Matura noted if there is a dispute as to who indemnifies who or if someone has indemnity obligations to the other, that is almost always resolved through the court system.
 - Chief Amezaga brought up a question posed by Ana Holman regarding exempt opposed to non-exempt employee; salaried opposed to hourly; payment of overtime not allowed to salaried employee unless there is an additional contract (financial issue with auditors). Jeff Matura’s perspective on employee being paid a straight salary, you could be bonusing them out (charging SEFD for services provided) for services above and beyond their normal salary services.
 - Motion to approve the IGA for the “On Call Chief Officer” between RRMFD and SEFD given we will deal with and eventually approve the financial impact of all that for the Chief Officers made by Michael Carlson, second by Dora Urias
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- e. Discussion and possible action re: Appointment of Board Member to fill empty seat of Dean Davis
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to filling the Board Member seat of Dean Davis
 - Chief Amezaga noted there was one individual who submitted a resume and is present this evening
 - Brad Beach asked Mr. Thysell to give some background information. Served in the Navy beginning in 1963 with the submarine service. Joined Border Patrol and was able to take college classes and numerous trainings. Has done numerous hours of volunteer work; needs to be active; understands team work, has fostered 20 children. Reviewed Board information which has accountants, educators and experience and would like to bring his experience to the Board
 - Michael Carlson noted Mr. Thysell has a very interesting, full background but wants to make sure he understands as a member of the Board, we are not involved at all in the operational process of the District; we are responsible for policies and financials and things of that nature and have a fiduciary responsibility to the community. Other than attending trainings and watching or observing or possibly a ride-a-long we are not involved operationally. Pay is great; first year is zero, doubled every year giving a great opportunity to make nothing! But is impressed.

- Mr. Thysell noted he would pay us to get out of the house! Asked if he would be allowed to visit the stations and talk with the crews. Brad Beach recommends he contact Chief Amezaga or Deputy Chief Urbanski to set up visits. Chief Amezaga recommended he review the Board policies.
 - Dora Urias stated she knew Mr. Thysell through the Cardinals (youth football)
 - Chief Amezaga noted the next Board meeting was the 25th and would be within time limit. Brad Beach stated he would like to take this to a vote tonight; Chief Amezaga noted it was an option.
 - Brad Beach noted he has known Mr. Thysell through the school (Security Officer), involved in the district, the community and Santa Cruz County. Only candidate that applied, job position was posted and tonight was the night to vote. Brad Beach motioned to appoint; Chief Amezaga suggested a discussion; Brad Beach felt there had been discussion; Michael Carlson requested an offline discussion for the Board in an Executive Session for a personnel issue. Brad Beach noted he would still like to take it to a vote; the position was posted; Mr. Thysell went through the proper channels and submitted paperwork on time; if anyone else had wanted to apply for the position they had plenty of time. Chief Amezaga noted Dora Urias would be the tie breaker.
 - Motion to appoint Hank Thysell to fill empty seat of Dean Davis for RRMFD made by Brad Beach
 - Dora Urias stated she felt it was like a personnel issue and asked if it could be tabled.
 - Brad Beach noted there could be a second, no second, the motion dies. There was no second, motion died. Brad Beach told Mr. Thysell we would invite him back and possibly have more candidates.
 - Michael Carlson noted that was not necessarily the case, would like the Board to talk about pros and cons and if need be another candidate, if not, we can contact Hank.
 - Brad Beach noted based on what he sees, he is highly qualified, the motion died and the Board will move on
- f. Discussion and possible action re: CAD and AVL mapping for tracking of ambulances
- i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to CAD and AVL mapping for tracking of ambulances.
 - Chief Amezaga noted this is the state initiative required in 2024.
 - DC Urbanski and BC Renteria attended meeting with all Chiefs and Sheriff's office; need to act ASAP to allow for installation and training; gathering information regarding cost of equipment, installation, licensing and annual fees.
 - Chief Amezaga noted there are some options with group purchasing, but waiting may cost more. This was not put in the budget so will need funding from contingency fund or capital replacement fund. Tubac Fire and Sonoita Elgin moving forward; feels RRMFD should join with. Approximate cost per unit is \$7,000, annual fee \$500-\$700; managed by IT Department that services the county; contingency fund has \$338,000, costs can be pulled from both accounts. Michael Carlson recommends moving forward executing this keeping in mind approximate cost \$100,000. BC Renteria noted the county is using a vendor who can deliver units more quickly
 - Motion to move forward with the CAD and AVL mapping for tracking ambulances to take advantage of working with other Districts to do this made by Michael Carlson, second by Dora Urias
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

- g. Discussion and possible action re: Executive Session – The Fire Board may vote to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) for personnel matter
- i. Note: The Chairperson will confirm Chief Amezaga received at least 24 hours notice
 - Confirmed notice received by Chief Amezaga
 - ii. Note: Executive Sessions are confidential pursuant to A.R.S. section 38-431.03(C)
Anything discussed within Executive Session is to remain within Executive Session
 - iii. Note: No action is taken during and Executive Session. Any action taken by the Board will take place during an open meeting
 - iv. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the personnel matter
 - Brad Beach read Notes ii., iii. and iv.
 - Brad Beach moved from Regular Session to Executive Session 7:00 p.m.
 - Returned from Executive Session at 7:31 p.m.
 - Brad Beach read Notes ii. and iii.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of financial reports for August 2023.
 - Motion to approve financial reports for August 2023 made by Michael Carlson, second by Dora Urias
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

9. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Next Board Meeting October 25, 2023 5:30 p.m.
- b. Possible special meeting for Appointment of Board member and CAD AVL expense

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m. by Brad Beach

Dated this 2nd day of November, 2023.

Rio Rico Medical & Fire District Elected Official

Dora Urias, Dora Urias Clerk of the Board

