



MEETING MINUTES

The Fire Board of the Rio Rico Medical and Fire District (RRMFD) met in regular session on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Rio Rico Medical and Fire District administrative office, 822 Pendleton Drive, Rio Rico, AZ.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Meeting is being recorded
- Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Brad Beach

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

- Present: Brad Beach, Michael Carlson, Gabe Martinez and Henry Thysell
- Absent: Frank Bejarano

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- No call to the public

5. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of minutes

i. Regular Session and Executive Sessions of May 28, 2026

- Motion to accept minutes of the Regular Session and the Executive Sessions of May 28, 2026 made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Correspondence

- Mr. Crawford came in person to make a payment and wanted to acknowledge the crew who responded stating they were great and wanted to say thank you. He said everyone that played a part was a blessing and his wife was out in the car and doing well. He was emotionally grateful and said they were double blessed with angels. Responders were Miguel Campuzano, Juan Tapia and Albert Ibarra
- Elliot Anderson, supervisor with forest service gave an "atta boy" to Gilbert Cota and the REMS Team. Hopes to be able to work with them again!

b. Fire Chief's Report

- Report presented by Fire Chief Amezaga. Report on file and posted on the website
- Welcomed new Board Member Gabriel Martinez who introduced himself and gave a brief history of his background.
- Fire Fighter of the Year award presented to Ricardo Ugarte by DC Urbanski. Board member Brad Beach congratulated and thanked FF Ugarte for his mentorship, dedication, commitment, leadership for our District and our community; fortunate to have you as part of RRMFD
- EMS Provider of the Year award presented to Adriane Demotica who also received the EMCT of the Year award recently presented by the AZDHS Southern Region. Board member Brad Beach complimented his parents for raising a fine young man. Love having him in the District-the humor and excitement he brings to the learning process puts everyone at ease. Well deserved award.
- Recently hired personnel acknowledged and pinned:

Jesus Moraila joined RRMFD from Nogales Fire introduced by DC Urbanski who gave a brief history of his experience.

Luis Ramirez originally joined RRMFD as a reserve, now full time from AMR introduced by DC Urbanski who gave a brief history of his career.

- Kudos to Michael Carlson for taking on the challenge of creating the Fire Corp program. Michael Carlson reviewed number of hours members have accumulated through trainings, special projects and administrative office assistance. Currently have 10 members of which 8 are active. Admin and Board thanked him.
- ABC 360 Conference attended by Ruth Hardwick, Maribel Castro, Dee Campuzano and Ana Holman. Ana Holman summarized the conference, all about billing for ambulance services, stating the training is intense as it is put on by lawyers; however, the interaction, connecting and networking with presenters, attendees and vendors made it the best conference so far.
- c. Fire Marshal Report
 - Report presented by Fire Marshal Cluff. Copy of report on file
 - During the recent structure fire, new nozzles made fighting the fire easier and helped keep it contained.
- d. Fire Board Member Report
 - Henry Thysell commented during his tenure he has seen the training, equipment, morale – Congratulations to the Chief and staff
 - Gabe Martinez has received positive feedback from the community, kudos to Chief Amezaga and DC Renteria for training. Would like to see further training with the tower to bring in some revenue - Chief Amezaga noted a fee schedule has been set for use
 - Michael Carlson thanked the Board and everyone for the opportunity to create the Fire Corp; also the crews for their acceptance and assistance
 - Brad Beach commented on June being a busy month with accidents, wildland, community event training. While visiting at the hospital, has seen the crews walk in looking and acting professional with hospital staff giving nothing but praise. Kudos from the top down.
- e. Financial Report
 - i. Presentation of Financial Reports of May 2026
 - Report presented by Ana Holman. Copy of report on file
 - Team of Year award for the Admin staff - \$2.6 + million – Michael Carlson congratulated the team for great work!

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion, review and confirmation re: AFDA/AFCA conference attendees July 14, 15 and 16
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the AFDA/AFCAZ Conference attendees
 - Attendees confirmed – Brad Beach, Gabriel Martinez and Henry Thysell
- b. Discussion and possible action re: Approval and adoption of revised PSPRS Pension Funding Policy
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion regarding adoption of the revised PSPRS Funding Policy
 - Michael Carlson has not spoken with PSPRS - Item tabled until additional information is received
- c. Discussion and review re: Intergovernmental coordination with Santa Cruz County on current and future development within the Rio Rico Medical & Fire District boundaries and its impact on emergency service planning and meeting with John Fanning regarding information, committees and scheduling
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to Intergovernmental coordination with Santa Cruz County on current and future development within the Rio Rico Medical & Fire District boundaries and its impact on emergency service planning. Chief Amezaga and Michael Carlson were to contact suggested committees and bring feedback to the Board

- Michael Carlson and Chief Amezaga have stepped up to two of the committees with a survey sent for possible meeting dates – on track for July 29th; however, Chief Amezaga will be out of town at that time but will send a proxy if allowed
- d. Discussion and possible action re: Approval and Adoption of the Santa Cruz County CWPP for RRMFD final edition
 - i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the adoption of the Santa Cruz County CWPP for RRMFD final edition
 - Chief Amezaga commented the SCC CWPP was approved by SCCBOS and was to be sent but has not been provided at this time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of financial reports for May 2026.
 - Motion to approve financial reports for May 2026 made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- b. Discussion and possible action re: Public Hearing RE: Rio Rico Medical and Fire District fiscal year 2026-2027 Budget
 - i. Chairman will open the hearing
 - Brad Beach opened the hearing at 7:20 p.m.
 - ii. Chairman will call to all present for those who wish to comment on the budget and each person desiring to speak will be provided 3 minutes
 - Brad Beach opened the hearing
 - No one present to comment
 - Ana Holman noted the budget was posted as required, no comments were received and the proposal is still the same.
 - Hearing closed at 7:26 p.m.
- c. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of Resolution #2026-04 approving and formally adopting the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget
 - Motion to approve Resolution #2026-04 approving and formally adopting the Fiscal Year Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- d. Discussion and possible action re: Approval for Regional AFG Grant cost sharing of 10%, maximum amount \$36,000.00, for SCBA's
 - Chief Amezaga noted last month the Board approved the agreement to go into the regional grant and the payment of fees for the grant writer. Grant has been submitted but our portion has not been 100% allocated; however, the representative said it would roughly be \$360,000 with a 10% match would be \$36,000 but the grant writer does not believe it will be that high determined but the representative said max would be \$360,000 at 10% would be
 - Motion to approve the Regional AFG Grant cost sharing of 10% with a maximum amount of \$36,000 for the SCBA's
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- e. Discussion and possible action re: Approval to purchase 14 sets of PPE as per quote plus tax and shipping
 - Chief Amezaga commented PPE is only rated for 10 years, new members and replacements for current members. Two quotes one for fiscal year 2025-2026 and one for fiscal year 2026-2027
 - Motion to approve the purchase of 14 sets of PPE per quote, half being in this fiscal year and the other half being in next fiscal year plus tax and shipping made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell

- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- f. Discussion and possible action re: Approval to purchase three thermal imaging cameras as per quote plus tax and shipping
 - Chief Amezaga noted the Board has approved one through the AFG Grant, one through Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and one will be through Fiscal Year 2026-2027
 - Motion to approve the purchase of one additional thermal imaging camera to the two that have been previously approved and that we acquire them all at the same time per quote plus tax and shipping made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- g. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of change to the Wildland SOG
 - Chief Amezaga noted RRMFD follows state guidelines for rest and recuperation days. If on a 14 day assignment they would be given two days off for r & r. If they are not on duty those two days they don't get paid; if on duty they would be paid. Last year RRMFD gave three days r & r and would like to realign with the state changing it back to two days. There is a stipulation, should they work 21 days they are entitled to three days r & r.
 - Motion to approve the change to the change to the Wildland policy to align with the state made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- h. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of Beach Fleischman FY25-26 Audit Engagement Letter for an estimated fee, excluding expenses, of \$27,500.00
 - Ana Holman noted we will be saving money as we consolidated with NSFD on the financial side there will only be one audit
 - Motion to approve Beach Fleischman FY25-26 Audit Engagement letter for an estimated fee, excluding expenses, of \$27,500 made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- i. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of Zoll Billing software agreement to move from Triton to Zoll.
 - Chief Amezaga commented RRMFD would be moving from one system to another as current is becoming antiquated and asked Ruth and Ana to look at information while at the conference. Ana noted that Zoll originally was the most expensive; while at the conference spoke with Zoll who now has a new module which allows cost to be billed per call with entire system (import, integrate, mailing, billing, collecting, receiving payments). Ruth believes this program will allow RRMFD to move forward and allow Ruth to phase out in a couple of years. Michael Carlson asked if contact was made with clients already using Zoll and if this would add efficiency to the billing department and ease to our customers. RRMFD attended dinner with Zoll and some current clients who commented it was like night and day – all in one place. Will take approximately 3 months to set up including training
 - Motion to approve the move to Zoll billing software from Tri Tech made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- j. Discussion and possible action re: Creation of policy for volunteers
 - Michael Carlson queried if this should be part of the RRMFD policy to include Fire Corp volunteers
 - Item tabled until August meeting
- k. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of request to use RRMFD Structure PPE and SCBA to compete in a Bi-National FF event in Mexico
 - Mexican firefighters have invited RRMFD to participate (3-4 people) in the competition in Mexico. Follow rules for entering and exiting Mexico. Brad Beach queried insurance coverages for personnel and equipment-Ana will check with carrier. Board members encouraged the participation

- Motion to approve request to use RRMFD Structure PPE and SCBA to compete in a Bi-National FF event in Mexico August 15th made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- 1. Discussion and possible action re: Approval to authorize the Fire Chief to seek a replacement Type 1 4x4 Ambulance as per proposal
 - No proposal at the present but would like the authority to look at the government auction sight; full burden cost (ambulance and equipment) or just the ambulance. Michael Carlson asked how this fits within the budget just approved (would come from Capital), is this a pre-owned vehicle and suggests tabling until we have values; Brad Beach would prefer all inclusive value.
 - Tabled for additional information
- m. 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: 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
 - ii. **Note: No action is taken during an Executive Session. Any action taken by the Board will take place during an open meeting**
 - Motion to enter Executive Session made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
 - Entered Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.
 - Returned from Executive Session at 8:29 p.m.
 - Notes i. and ii. read
- n. Discussion, review and possible action re: Personnel matter
 - Motion to keep vacation policy as is made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Next Board Meeting – July 23, 2026 (please note date change)
 - Michael Carlson asked Eva to contact PSPRS for dates to discuss PSPRS Liability
 - Tabled items

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Dated this 24 day of Sept, 2026.
Rio Rico Medical & Fire District Elected Official

Brad Beach,  Clerk of the Board

