



MEETING MINUTES

The Fire Board of the Rio Rico Medical and Fire District (RRMFD) met in regular session on Thursday, May 28, 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 called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Frank Bejarano

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

- Present: Frank Bejarano, Brad Beach, Michael Carlson & Hank Thysell
- Absent: Gabe Martinez (new member; not sworn in)

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

5. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of minutes

i. Regular Session and Executive Session of April 30, 2026 MC, BB

- Motion to approve regular session and Executive Session of April 30, 2026 made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Correspondence

- Email from Mariposa Community Health Center Senior Director of Nursing Services acknowledging Adriane Demotica and Ana Morales in handling a difficult situation professionally-maintained a calm, respectful approach. Their actions truly reflect the professionalism and dedication expected and upheld within the department.
- Thank you email received from Michael Carlson to the Fire Corps volunteers for their support during live training and recognition email from DC Renteria acknowledging the Fire Corps for their support as Fire Corp volunteers and for RRMFD training mission.

b. Fire Chief's Report

- Report presented by Chief Adam Amezaga. Report on file and on the website
- Michael Carlson has been cleaning, de-badging and polishing 2016 Sprinter to be used for the Fire Corps vehicle. Fire Corp put in almost 44 hours at the trainings, at minimum wage saves the District approximately \$2,700.00. Started with 11 members, lost 2 ½ due to medical conditions and physical challenges; of the 8 remaining active members of which 6 are actively participating the remaining 2 have signed up for activities we haven't done. Need to work on scheduling to utilize all participants. Finalizing documentation with an official kick off meeting being planned
- Hiring process completed – Three individuals hired, one from the academy and two senior employees from Nogales Fire

c. Fire Marshal Report

- Report presented by Fire Marshal Cluff. Report on file

d. Fire Board Member Report

- Brad Beach gave kudos and a thank you to Michael Carlson for starting the Fire Corp and for all he does. Kudos to the District for their outstanding job - teamwork, leadership and training.

e. Financial Report

i. Presentation of Financial Reports of April 2026

- Report presented by Ana Holman. Report on file
- Meeting scheduled with SCCT for transfer of funds and closure of accounts
- Ana Holman noted we have a Fire Corp volunteer, Mrs. Carlson, volunteering in the Admin Office on Fridays and she sent us a thank you note for being so nice to her and she feels very welcome!

7. OLD BUSINESS

MOVED TO ITEM 7 c.

a. 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 legal advice regarding the Santa Cruz County Treasurer

- 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**

iii. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the Santa Cruz County Treasurer

- Motion to move into Executive Session made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- Entered Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.
- Returned from Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.
- Notes i. and ii. read

b. Discussion and possible action re: Santa Cruz County Treasurer

i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the Santa Cruz County Treasurer

- Motion to instruct Jeff Matura to move forward with the agreement as proposed with the changes with the provision, should the county push back against the collection of further funds, Jeff can remove that specific clause and we can move forward made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

MOVED TO ITEM 8 g.

c. Discussion, review and possible action 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

- Brad Beach and Hank Thysell want to attend
- Will check with new board member regarding attending and the regulatory courses

d. 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 noted this item was tabled last month to talk with PSPRS personnel to understand why the radical change in numbers but we have yet to talk with them.
- Item tabled for next month

e. Discussion and possible action re: Services Provided to Areas Outside the Rio Rico Medical & Fire District Boundaries (Including South32) – Compensation Structure and Service Expansion

i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to Services Provided to Areas Outside of RRMFD District Boundaries (Including South32)-Compensation Structure and Service Expansion

- Frank Bejarano noted this ties in with information presented in reports- Patagonia responding outside of the City and RRMFD responding outside of our area. Fire Marshal noted it is

annotated on the district maps where the division begin and end. Lack of knowledge, ignorance on their behalf has much to do with how RRMFD is reacting. Suggests referring to the map and defining divisions as we are deploying which could put RRMFD at risk and unnecessary use of resources

- Chief Amezaga noted a meeting would be set up with the Patagonia Fire Chief, himself and the and the Deputy Chiefs to review mapping – EMS is defined, fire is not. Will work on response model to present to Patagonia
 - Brad Beach asked when we respond to vehicle accidents do we bill insurance? Chief Amezaga commented RRMFD can bill, but very rarely do we receive compensation. Also concerned with mine traffic and hazmat issues.
- f. Discussion, review and possible action re: Meeting with Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisor, John Fanning regarding contact information, committee formation and scheduling
- i. This is a continuation of previous discussion with Board of Supervisor John Fanning regarding committees, contact information and scheduling
- Met with John Fanning to discuss being participatory and a plan. He wants to help but many people are reaching out to him. Michael Carlson noted an email was received with information regarding committees RRMFD should be in contact with. Michael Carlson would like to be involved with the infrastructure committee. Chief Amezaga wants to be on the committee regarding growth of Rio Rico, population and tax base. As a citizen Michael Carlson is more concerned with the infrastructure; roads handling additional traffic; fire department coverage and law enforcement
 - Frank Bejarano noted RRMFD would like to be proactive and make decisions for the county that will impact RRMFD and the community
 - Chief Amezaga and Michael Carlson will reach out to respond to email received.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of financial reports for April 2026.
- Motion to approve financial reports for April 2026 made by Brad Beach, second by Henry Thysell
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- b. Discussion and possible action re: Board member background checks
- Chief Amezaga noted HR monitoring of personnel and showing good faith to the community
 - Suggested fingerprinting for submission for background information
 - All Board members will be fingerprinted at the next Board meeting
- c. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of SERS Agreement
- JTED affiliated – RRMFD would provide mentorship, guidance and oversight for students
 - Motion to approve the SERS Agreement made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion approved unanimously by verbal vote
- d. Discussion and possible action re: Adoption of Fees Schedule
- Chief Amezaga noted with the construction of the training tower there was discussion for use of the facility. Reached out to Tucson agencies for their fee schedules which are very hefty but have few participants. Not looking at fees as income but more for maintenance costs of the facility; start at a lower rate and adjust as needed, memberships would reduce rates for use, RRMFD would have a safety officer present during use. Agency using facility would provide equipment and personnel. When RRMFD hosting training, there would be no charge to participants (propane training).
 - Discussion amongst Board members included fees for non-profit (waived); instructor fees would be the base fee plus ere's, prices are good for services, recommended approving with review in 90 to 180 days.
 - Motion to adopt Fees Schedule as presented and revisit it within six months or sooner as the Chief deems appropriate made by Michael Carlson, second by Henry Thysell

- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- e. Discussion and possible action re: Approval to purchase E-One E-180 Spartan Custom Cab Pumper SO#149252 in the amount of \$1,160,106.00 plus a 15% variance
 - Chief Amezaga noted many meetings, crew input, different models considered, however availability limited (3-4 years) and grant extension would be through January 2028. Worked with vendor to outfit unit; will need striping, radios, thermal imaging camera and tools mounting (RRMFD will buy equipment for vendor to install); grant amount is \$946,000 cost to RRMFD approximately \$215,000 for brand new truck.
 - Motion to approve purchase of the E-One E-180 Spartan Custom Cab Pumper SO#149252 in the amount of \$1,160,106.00 plus a 15% variance which Chief will do his utmost not to spend made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
- f. Discussion and possible action re: Approval for publication of the 2026-2027 Budget Proposal as presented by the Budget Committee
 - Ana Holman noted the Budget Committee was made up of Michael Carlson, Frank Bejarano, Chief Amezaga and Ana Holman. Budget proposal presented by Ana Holman who noted the bond obligation of \$475,000 will need to be paid; tax for bond was .05%, however, due to increased valuation bond tax will be reduced to .048%. Frank Bejarano noted diligent use of funding and great work by the committee. Ana Holman noted Capital Purchases list of \$359,420 preapproved with conditions. Michael Carlson commented the amount going into Capital Reserve is dismal and the Board will be taking a tighter view on expenditures. Commended all for tremendous job staying within budget. Frank Bejarano mindful of ideas for cost savings and expenses, January changes with Medicare will affect revenue
 - Motion to approve for publication the 2026-2027 Budget Proposal as presented made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

MOVED TO ITEM 7 a.

- 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
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 - Motion to move into Executive Session made by Michael Carlson, second by Brad Beach
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
 - Entered Executive Session at 8:06 p.m.
 - Returned from Executive Session at 8:28 p.m.
 - Notes i. and ii. read
- h. Discussion, review and possible action re: Personnel matter
 - Motion to approve paying approximately \$2,000 for medical expenses for reserve made by Brad Beach, second by Michael Carlson
 - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
 - Revision to policy to be discussed at future Board meeting
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- Motion to move into Executive made by Michael Carlson, second by Hank Thysell
- Entered Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.
- Returned from Executive Session at 9:29 p.m.
- Notes i. and ii. read

j. Discussion, review and possible action re: Personnel matter

- Frank Bejarano complimented Board members for their great discussion. Addressed Chief Amezaga noting at this time there will be no motion as we had discussion.
- Brad Beach thanked Frank Bejarano for the format used for discussion
- Frank Bejarano continued stating the Board is open to what is going on and not make a decision at this time. Members will complete the evaluation form and send to Eva for compilation for review and decision at an upcoming meeting. Thanked Chief Amezaga for his time, the efforts he has made, he's done a great job, proud of the efforts you have made, the work you have done. Some small recommendations to be discussed, point of reference and understanding on how the Board is thinking.
- Chief Amezaga commented he has jumped through every hoop the Board has put him through. At the end of the day, whatever the Board decides, will keep doing what he's doing, knows what he needs to do, he's good with their decision. Has built a great team, enjoys coming to work, he's happy. Actions speak for him.
- Frank Bejarano noted everything discussed is very positive – Chief won't be disappointed.

9. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

a. Next Board Meeting – June 25, 2026

- Tabled item #7
- Volunteer portion of policy

Volunteer portion of policy

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Dated this 25 day of June, 2026.
Rio Rico Medical & Fire District Elected Official

Brad Beach,  Clerk of the Board