

**MINUTES OF THE WHETSTONE FIRE DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 21st 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:00PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL/ AFFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Chairperson Steve Hasson called the meeting to order at 6:36pm. The meeting was held in the Whetstone Fire District Station 321 classroom, 2422 N Firehouse Lane, Huachuca City, Arizona.

Members Present: Chairperson Bruce Harris
Clerk, Scott Wayne
Board Member, Rodney Weichelt
Board Member, Michael Estrada
Board Member, vacant

Absent:

It was determined a quorum existed with four board members present.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: NONE

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

No members of the public wished to address the board.

6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDANCE:

A. CHIEF'S REPORT:

Sam Foster: All right, for the month of August we had 77 calls for service. 47 were the combination of fire, EMS and service calls for our engine that's currently still at International for warranty work. They are still waiting for backward part; they've not gotten any update from the suppliers since August. Hopefully we will have it back soon, we've missed out on a lot of opportunities to make money with it.

Bruce Harris: This is the one that just keeps shutting itself down.

Sam Foster: Yes, this is the truck that we had DEF Fluid issues with. It was sent to International to get that system replaced, it was replaced, we picked up and it didn't make it back past Rita Road on I-10 before it decided to shut down. The issue ended up being a computer. Part of the computer got burned up, we are waiting on the new computer. The new refrigerators for the medic units have come in. We have bought smaller fridges; the crews are in progress of getting those installed and rebuilding the ambulance cabinets. We also were looking for siren speakers for the because we want to go ahead and start utilizing it in a support role so that we can have staff come in and backfill on the calls, which in the long run save us money on overtime. We have two possible interested buyers in the Tiller; one is

somebody down in Mexico or department down there was interested in buying it and the other is a gentleman that wants to restore the truck into a PR or parade truck or a truck to where it would basically travel the country and I believe it is to be involved with, breast cancer, firefighter cancer, MDA and a couple of other things where they're trying to raise money with the truck. Basically, and this is one of the checks that we had previously approved for surplus, it went up on auction but did not need meet the reserve.

Rodney Weichel: You know we've been talking about selling this truck to Mexico for awhile, is this a new gentleman that we are talking about?

Sam Foster: I believe he was interested before and spoke to Chief Jervis, but I don't think I made it to the board. Onto Staffing, we now have one full-time open position; Lieutenant Speer stepped down to a per diem position. We did test one qualified applicant who would have had the certification to be full-time, unfortunately he did not pass the testing so we still have that position and are still trying to find applicants for that position.

Scott Wagner: By chance, what testing was it?

Sam Foster: It was the PAT. We have two other positions for part-time and we do have a handful of candidates that we can probably test here next month or so. We are still pushing forward with our recruitment programs and seeing what else we can get in. We did have one late application come in yesterday. We are still getting a few Applicants coming in, the problem is a lot of them just don't have a qualification for full-time. We are developing Engineer Position and testing process for that for promotions. We have currently we have the three captains and we have the one lieutenant. Engineer positions would make more sense. It's just more tailored to how we're operating now out of the one station. We were awarded \$39000 in a grant from the Arizona Department Homeland Security, submitted by Chief Jarivs, for radios. Initially he had asked for \$97,000 to purchase 15 portable radios. The amount we were awarded will provide funding for five, possibly six radios. The staff have been asked to go up and seek some demos from some of the top name radio companies so we can demo them and decide which one ones to go with. We have also made it through the first phase for the Leary Foundation Grant. Lieutenant Spear did a lot of work this one; request was made for new fire hose and appliances on the trucks. We received two Philips AED's. They were included in the purchase of the Tempest cardiac monitors. These are going to go on the ambulance until the Tempest Company can turn on the AED portion of their machines. Until then, we get to keep those AED's and our plan for them is to put on the engines afterwards. We plan on a future purchase for the new vehicle lockout program; this something that Captain Speer brought up and I think its good idea, a lot of departments offer lockout programs for vehicles. So, like, you don't have to necessarily call out a locksmith. However, the practice of it is going to something we're going to have a waiver for because there is a possibility of damage to the vehicle by us, using a Slim Jim or wedges or anything like that. We'll have to develop that waver before we start rolling it out and I would like to have our lawyer look it over just to make sure that it's going to be sufficient to protect us from any kind of liability.

Bruce Harris: Why would we want to do that?

Sam Foster: It's a service to the community that a lot of agencies offer and basically we would go though the training and use the lockout on regular calls for lockouts with kids, dogs or other animals stuck in cars. We have performed them in the past but would like to use the proper lockout kits and go through the proper training.

Bruce Harris: Is this something we'll be charging for?

Daniel Speer: It would be something we could charge for. My recommendation would be to still get the lock out kits and train the guys in the proper procedures for using the lock out kits.

Rodney Weichel: I think it's a great idea.

Sam Foster: We did have a new medication roll out that we, we have gone through the training and we are planning to put on the ambulance either tomorrow or by the end of the week. It's a drug for traumatic bleeding; it's something to get started in the field before they actually get to the hospital because it has a big effect on the outcome of the patient overall, something they would get in the hospital. But the sooner we start it we're able to start out in the field. It can improve patient outcomes. The hospital want to roll out new drugs for hypertension along with these are some drugs that may require us to have an IV Pump on the ambulance. I was talking with the coordinator from the hospital and what they're going to try to do to help us with that is they're on to try to find funding so that they could cover the cost of those pumps when they rolled us out.

Bruce Harris: These are things we never had on the ambulances before?

Sam Foster: We haven't had them before. For these particular medications, the way that the protocols are written, they have to be dialed in on a pump to make sure that they're getting the appropriate dosage. If they do roll these drugs out for us, we'll have to have a pump on the truck. But hopefully, and that's what we're hoping for, is that the hospital will be able to cover that charge. I think they can run about two to five thousand dollars each and we'd probably at least two for our front lines. They would be great to have to and that capability would be excellent for us. It gives us a lot more options as far as like how to treat hypertension in the field. Training I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Firefighter Eddy Prospero and Firefighter Andrew Genone for successfully passing the state exam for Fire one and two, these two were in the academy that just finished up and I would like to also state that everyone in that academy, except one student passed on the first attempt. So we're actually really happy with the results of that. He's got two more attempts to pass. Captain Speer and I went up to Phoenix and completed the fire instructor two program, we are awaiting the state results for that. Captain Spencer and Captain Dickey tested their inspector one course, were also waiting for their results. We are using Rescue One, which is a training platform that was initiated previously. We're going to use it to schedule and deliver things like our statutory trainings and some of the annual things that we need to do to satisfy the ISO. We are going to start our annual employee Evaluations, so the guys will get moving on that one as well.

Sam Foster: We have been working hard on our social media presence; we now have an Instagram account and Facebook page. Jon Kroft and Andrew Genone are doing a lot of work to try to improve our, our presence and our reach with videos and photos to include promoting our smoke detector program. The feedback has been incredibly positive. I have also reached out to Jones and Savage and you know kind of kind of gave them a pitch of doing some collaboration projects in the future. They both are agreeable to that. They were pretty excited about it as well. In fact Chief Jones says that's one of their focuses and he's trying to improve their social media presence as well. We have identified 47 addresses within the boundaries or adjacent to the boundaries of the district that are not in the district. So I'm going to be drafting letters of annexation for those folks to read just to let them know you're not in the district and then with instructions on how to annex. So we may be seeing requests for annexations for single partial lots coming in here pretty soon. Also, I had talked with Captain Haros from Fry. They have a hands only CPR and I know it's something that we've been trying to get down here as well as been working to try to get that for us and they have a program that they have built, they have a class for their own instructors. I told him that we'd be interested in doing that and collaborating with him on that. It's also something that would help with the accreditation at the hospital that's actually where. I brought it up, was at that meeting, so they're more than willing to do that with us as well. And while we were talking about that we also talked about some of the events over at the middle school there, trying to offer our help and get involved in

that with 161 and the next month we plan holding a safety fair. We usually do a trunk or treat and a haunted house, this year. We opted not to do the house. We're going to help with the larger production being put on by the Leatherhead Society. I'd like to see if we could just kind of help out with that one for the area. But what I do want to make sure that we still have the trunk or treat for the kids, that is one that I think the community should hold on to. So I want to make sure that that still happens. We don't have dates on that yet. But I'd like to invite you guys when we hold those events.

Scott Wagner: Nice job!

Sam Foster: Thank you.

Rodney Weichel: I'd like to add-on to the trunk or treat and the Halloween event, Huachuca City School, eighth grade club is also doing a concession stand at the Halloween event, maybe we can collaborate with them to get them engaged. Jennifer Martell, she's the eighth grade club coordinator on-campus.

Scott Wagner: I like it. It's good, complete report

B. FIRE BOARD CHAIRMAN REPORT: NONE

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. A. Review, Amendment, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Special Meeting Minutes for June 15th 2022, Regular Meeting for June 29th 2022, Public Hearing for June 29th 2022, Executive Session Minutes for June 21st 2022 and Special Session Minutes for July 27th 2022;

Bruce Harris: Do we have any of those minutes? Clerk Scott Wagner states, yeah, there's some that I just wanted Cathy to look over, I talked to her shortly before the meeting started and I think I have everything matching the agenda with the minutes. And so I think the June 29th is done now and I'm pretty sure June 15th is done. I've got six left, they think they're relatively short. I'm still hunting down between these two recorders and what's on my computer still trying to make sense with dates.

Bruce Harris: At least we're moving in the right direction. I think we got, so we're not going to have any action on this tonight until we get them finalized. Agreed, we may have some relief for that. We're going to discuss that.

Bruce Harris: Before we move on to the next item, you sent me this link on Amber Script that they will be able to transcribe these minutes. Is that going to be a good thing if we have them do them for us? That would sure take the burden off a Scott.

Cathy Dyer: I think its good resource for you guys if you decide to go with it; I sent you the link so that you can jump onto the site. I already have myself and I've taken the tour and I think I am to the point where we can create an account. The only thing I haven't done is get a set of minutes sent to them to transcribe so we can see how it comes back. There will be a transition where we have to go and may be correct names or something to that effect. But I think it might be easier for the board to be able to at the end of the meeting, to just turn over the recorder, we send it and have then get it back quickly.

Bruce Harris: But the executive sessions still have to stay in-house.

Cathy Dyer: Yes, by law, the state statutory requirements require executive session minutes are kept confidential.

Bruce Harris: Well, personally, I think it's a good idea that we should probably moving, if these guys are experienced at doing that and we should probably have a quick turnaround, we do need to stay compliant with the legal stuff here to make sure that these get transcribed in a timely manner.

Cathy Dyer: That, and I think it would be a relief on the Board because there have been periods of transitions with moving positions from person-to-person, having this would keep things consistent with the minutes for the board.

Rodney Weichelt: I suggest we try it and do a trial run.

Cathy Dyer: I'll go through with the demo and send them one set to be transcribed for you all to review next month.

Bruce Harris: Yeah, I personally think it's a good idea.

MOTION:	No Motion Made
RESULT:	
MOVED BY:	
SECONDED:	

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Annual Audit Presentation- Audit Presentation Presented Telephonically by Saunder's and Company for Whetstone Fire District's Fiscal Year 2020-2021

James Saunders: The audit presentation begins. Saunders and Company start with they appreciate the Boards confidence in having them complete our annual audit and continues on to describe the process; Basically, an audit consists in our looking at your financial statements to ascertain, that one, they are presented in accordance with general accounting standards and two, that the underlying information support those financial statements and other words, as everybody is verified in the states, the financial statements and other supporting documents match and support the accuracy of the financial statement. And once we have done that, then we have to issue a report. Our report is issued on generally accepted accounting auditing standards. In the United States and in Arizona fire districts are also we're also required by a separate set of standards set by the Attorney General of the United States, called general government auditing standards. We have here one of those standards and then we issue a report under both of those standards return under one of those standards that our opinions as to what we found when we look at you financials and the underlying information. That report is on page five of the brochure; the Independent Auditors report we issued you, titled Independent Auditors Report. That report starts out as reportable statements, and managers responsibility with the statement, your portion of it, auditors responsibility, our portion of it and then at the bottom of the page, it says in our opinion the Financial Statements referred to above, present fairly in all material respects, respective financial position, governmental activities, each major fund, and accurate bank fund information for the Whetstone Fire District as of the end of the year. We did all that

we've discussed and we found everything to be correct, matching and we didn't have any problems or issues with it. The other part of the of the Government Fire District Audit in Arizona, the state legislature, has deemed fit that we have to appear to the government auditing standards; mentioned earlier, those standards mandate that we have to look at your internal control and your compliance with laws, rules and regulations, that necessitates that in all good things another report found on page 79; the independent auditor report on control and compliance passage to financial reporting. In brief summary what that means is that your procedures, policies and control that we have in place are to ensure the correct Financial reporting in the state, in other words it is what you do when you have bank reconciliations, it says that you are controlling the bank accounts you have other reconciliations and other reporting positions there and even with these other procedures, at different people having to do different things. And that is how you control the financial statements and how you control and minimize risk exposure to losses. And given the next explanation to internal control; given limitations during our audit we did not find any deficiencies in internal control that we would consider material weakness. We've looked at your internal controls and in a brief summary of method and we found them to be adequate for your size entity and your current situation. The other half of that report is compliance and other matters, unless you're compliance with laws, rules and regulations that are required by the Internal Revenue Service, reporting requirements required by government agencies, other issues as far as financial reporting and financial compliance with laws and rules. Results of those reports disclose no instances of non-compliance in any of those matters as required of you to do this audit under government auditing standards and we didn't find any non-compliance with and rules, laws and regulations. The last thing is our state legislature requires additional standards. They have to have their own individual standards for fire districts and they had to come up with a compliance issue for fire Districts in relation to title 48 sections 805. What that simply says is that you have to tell the county that you don't plan on overspending what you have either available in reserves or what you have anticipated spending towards the end of that year. Exceptions are bond issues. At the end of the year, we have to look at; was this reported to the county and did you do what you said you were going to do and not overspend your available funding. The last page, page 683, Reporting compliance, beginning with your responsibility, our responsibility, very similar to everything else, our opinion says that the district complies with the requirements of everything above, for the year ending June 30th 2021. Which says you did in fact comply with title 48-805 and its all related requirements set by the ARS, and that you did what you said, and we agree with you. Given that, that is what we are required to discuss with you, is your compliance, and any issues we found with them which in summary, we didn't find anything wrong and we thought the district was in reasonably good shape, and compliant with everything we need to be to and that the financial statements are reasonably accurate and fair and correctly presented. Given the whole, do you have questions, is there any issues or something you'd like to discuss or things you'd like to ask about the audit or the auditor's report of the financials, so at this time, are there any questions?

Bruce Harris: No Questions, we're in compliance.

James Saunders: Well, If you do have questions later on, just as a call were happy to answer. Presentation ends the board thanks Mr. Saunders for his time and services.

MOTION:	No Motion Made
RESULT:	
MOVED BY:	
SECONDED:	

B. Review, Amendment, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Regular Meeting Minutes for August 17th 2022

No minutes provided, Scott Wagner will get them completed.

Bruce Harris: Before we move on to the next item. I want to backtrack just a little bit. Back up to the minutes. You sent me this link on Amber Script that they will be able to transcribe these minutes. Is that going to be a good thing if we have them do them for us? That would sure take the burden off a Scott.

Cathy Dyer: I think its good resource for you guys if you decide to go with it; I sent you the link so that you can jump onto the site. I already have myself and I've taken the tour and I think I am to the point where we can create an account. The only thing I haven't done is get a set of minutes sent to them to transcribe so we can see how it comes back. There will be a transition where we have to go and may be correct names or something to that effect. But I think it might be easier for the board to be able to at the end of the meeting, to just turn over the recorder, we send it and have then get it back quickly.

Bruce Harris: But the executive sessions still have to stay in-house.

Cathy Dyer: Yes, by law, the state statutory requirements require executive session minutes are kept confidential.

Bruce Harris: Well, personally, I think it's a good idea that we should probably moving, if these guys are experienced at doing that and we should probably have a quick turnaround, we do need to stay compliant with the legal stuff here to make sure that these get transcribed in a timely manner.

Cathy Dyer: Well that, and I think it would be a relief on the Board because there have been periods of transitions with moving positions from person-to-person, having this would keep things consistent with the minutes for the board.

Rodney Weichelt: I suggest we try it and do a trial run.

Cathy Dyer: I'll go through with the demo and send them one set to be transcribed for you all to review next month.

Bruce Harris: Yeah, I personally think it's a good idea.

MOTION:	No Motion Made
RESULT:	
MOVED BY:	
SECONDED:	

C. Review, Amendment, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Quit Claim Deed Granted to the Fire District for the Lot 90 Hodgins Acres, Lot Currently Addressed as 2424 N. Calle Segundo.

Bruce Harris:

What is the status with this?

Sam Foster: So this is in regard to property behind us over here, the Water District, currently has their office there and we have our training grounds and some storage there, we share the building. This is a document that was in effect. It is a quick claim deed. It is an effective deed. The deed has an heir, who is helping her with her estate. From my understanding, she's getting to the point where she needs to help with her with her stuff and she has a son that's helping her with this stuff and he sent an email stating that they wanted to act on this. They wanted to take action on this and reclaim the property from Fire District. I have spoken to the Cochise County Attorney, who also spoke with Chief Jarvis previously on this matter, his opinion on this is that he is not a real estate lawyer and doesn't have a lot of expertise in that area? That at first looking at this, his opinion is that we do have exposure with the situation, but he would like us to speak to somebody who is more specialized in real estate and he had given us a reference to a real estate attorney from Pima County. I do have that contact information. I've just have to reach out to him. I have left a message for our other attorney as well to see if she had spoken with Chief Jarvis or is aware of this issue too, to see if there are other laws to look at it. I'm not so sure that this is something that is going to hold up very well. The Deed is 41 years old, following up with the real estate attorney is the direction that we were given and if there's not any concern with it, I'd like to continue with that direction and see what we dig up.

Bruce Harris: Yeah, I think we need to resolve this and see if we have legal standing on this, then we need to make sure that we go forward with that. One thing that I notice here is that there was a question before from the water company that the property was deeded to them, but this says clearly it's deeded to the Whetstone Fire District.

Rodney Weichelt: The deed says that it has to be used for the purpose of the fire. I mean we're still using the land, we're just not using the entire building we have and we do have a fire truck stored there. We're following the rules, the stipulations, for one thing. That does violate the deed, what we're doing allowing the water district to stay in there?

Sam Foster: According to the lawyer, that's the one thing that gives us exposure, is by allowing them to operate in a portion of the building.

Mike Estrada: With the lease that we have. We have to talk about that, that's the thing that's violating the deed, We don't want to violate this, they may have to leave property and then we'll just use the facility for the fire district's needs. Decisions were made by previous boards and I know that this is something that's carried over for 20 years, but if that is the thing that gives us the exposure aspect of this, for the reason for them wanting the property back... The lease is up less than six months away, I would like to see what either attorney and a real estate attorney say

Rodney Weichelt: Statues of Limitations?

Bruce Harris: Ok, so just proceed forward with what you've got.

Sam Foster: That's what I'll do.

MOTION:	No Motion Made
RESULT:	
MOVED BY:	
SECONDED:	

D. Review, Amendment, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Revised Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Whetstone Fire District and the City of Sierra Vista for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Billing Services;

Sam Foster: So this is an adjustment to what we already pay for existing services, that we have the City of Sierra Vista. Who does our medical building, rates going from \$14 per call to \$16 per call. That's about a \$2000 annual difference.

Bruce Harris: So we already have an agreement with them?

Sam Foster: This is a five-year term

Bruce Harris: Do you think five-year locked in is a good idea?

Sam Foster: Yes, I think it's a great idea

Bruce Harris: We need a motion to approve this.

MOTION:	Approval of the five-year agreement between the Whetstone Fire District and the City of Sierra Vista for Emergency Medical Services Billing Services
RESULT:	All in favor, Motion is passed.
MOVED BY:	Motion made by Rodney Weichelt
SECONDED:	Motion Seconded by Mike Estrada

E. Review, Amendment, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Whetstone Fire District and the Fry Fire District for Automatic Aid for Fire Protection and Other Emergency Services;

Sam Foster: I wanted to get the board aware of what we were looking at and talking about. I was approached by Chief Savage about the matter and he had mentioned that he had spoken to Chief Jarvis, in the past, but that Chief Jarvis had related to him that he didn't think it was something that the board would go for. To make sure, you know, I do think this is a good idea and I think that you guys would probably agree with me too, because what this is going to do is this is going to create a back up for them, it's a mutual relationship. I'm sure you're familiar with an automatic agreement, very commonly practiced. Now they

have mutual and automatic agreements his is how a lot of districts operate small, large really it's economic and increases the safety of the firefighters to be able to have people already on their way when those calls drop. Another thing that this is going to be really helpful for is maintaining, moving towards true closest unit response and this from what I understand, is the goal is the closest unit will be dispatched. The closest, most appropriate unit will be dispatch, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

Mike Estrada: Ability to bill for ambulance Responses?

Sam Foster: That is something that actually is a question that I raised and I did speak with Chief Savage about that matter. Billing probably won't be addressed in this particular document. However, the provisions in this document open up discussion and cooperation between us and on developing protocols. Those protocols are going to be where we're going to have to address our billing.

Mike Estrada: Yeah, I think that should be something that we address, because if we are going to go do that, we need to be able to bill for it. You know we want to help the community first; people want to be able to work as a team. Would like it written in paper so that we don't have an issue and to avoid unwanted situations.

Sam Foster: If you're looking at it from the billing standpoint of it, they already have an agreement with the City and they are both agencies who bill. I had requested to see if the Savage had anything, where they had a written plan on that, and that's what I'm waiting for is the response from that. We start talking about that again as it sits right now. It's the transporting agency that is the one that's going to bill. So whoever gets the transport..

Mike Estrada: At least if that is covered because that was part of the issue before you know, and if there was something in writing, you know we asked Chief Jarvis to try to find that out for us too and he didn't do that at all. He didn't follow-up with that. We don't want to run into any billing issues again. It would be the only thing that that we want to stress because of the previous boards and previous people and because we've been put in a position like that.

Additional discussion takes place regarding the possible processes and expectations of the agreement. Chief Foster will continue working with the Chief Savage and hope to have a completed document to produce to our Attorney as well as the Board soon.

MOTION:	No Motion Made
RESULT:	
MOVED BY:	
SECONDED:	

F. Review, Amendment, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Financial Report for August 2022

Cathy Dyer: It's always a pleasure to work with Saunders and Company on the Audit. The Board complements and thanks Cathy for her hard work.

Cathy Dyer: I do enjoy working with them; it's always nice when you get good report. We will be starting the audit for year 21 and 22 soon. For the month of August we began with no balance in maintenance and operations at zero dollars. We have been in the line of credit for some time, but we do pay back into the line of credit as revenues come in. So that offsets the interest there. But we have a total payable amount of \$127,105.52. We received \$41,279.82 in real estate, personal property, ambulance revenues, training, just some miscellaneous things that have come in. And from that balance we paid back into the line of credit the \$39,923.44. We are into the line of credit for the entire month of August for 125,962.89. With the revenue that has been coming in and going out from our end the amount of interest that we've had to pay was: \$37.60. And at the last meeting we had questioned what that percentage is, it is just around three percent that were charged on interest when in the line of credit. We ended with our balance with \$176.12 in maintenance and operation. The reserve account balance remains unchanged at \$138,708.60. We haven't gained or lost anything out of that account and the same holds for the volunteer pension as well, with a balance of \$44,425.97. I have anything else outstanding. The most substantial thing that has happened this month is the Public Safety Retirement has issue refunds for overpayments in contributions for numerous agencies, for tier one and tier two members, not all agencies, were affected. But we were one of the 94 that were affected. It costs us 71 thousand and some change. The problem with it was that the way that it works, just like in the previous lawsuit with Hall and Parker, they expect the employers to pay that amount up front and then they credit the employer in their system. So we had to comply, and we had to write out those checks for overpayment contribution amounts to the affected employees and former employees. The revenue that was written on those checks is tied to the pension in the budget so that line will be reduced by those dollar amounts and then when we go to make the contributions into the retirement throughout the rest of the course of the year, that credit will be applied. So you won't see a public safety pension check that needs signatures for the rest of this fiscal year. So we're being paid back for the payments essentially with credit, unfortunately having to pay upfront, is going to put us deeper in credit for a longer period of time with the County. I don't know how much interest will gain. but we'll be in the line of credit longer. I don't see the interest being a very significant amount, but it's just one of those things that you know a lot of departments and districts just weren't prepared for.

Mike Estrada: So who's taken responsibility for that, because that puts smaller departments at risk of not even having money to pay the next month's bills?

Cathy Dyer: There were some concerns that came through in the webinar, it's frustrating because we fortunately we have that line of credit with the county that we can do something like that and it doesn't affect us too bad. But there are some that don't and it's really going to affect a lot and some of them it may hit really hard. Palominas Fire was also affected. I don't know they're dollar amount imagine it will be impactful.

Mike Estrada: And the state aspect hasn't taken any responsibility?

Cathy Dyer: There's a lot of it is new state legislation that's come across, that is being

applied to retirement as a whole and public safety is pretty affected by it. There's a link to the webinar that I can send you as if you just have interest and want to follow along and listen to it.

Mike Estrada: And there's no legal thing that could be done with a lawsuit against them for that right?

Cathy Dyer: I don't think so.

Rodney Weichel: Maybe a class action, started by a larger district.

Bruce Harris: It is what it is.

Mike Estrada: Well, now I understand that aspect of it.

Cathy Dyer: Well, the hard thing is they put a time stamp on the 30th of this month, so they're not even giving us a lot of time or our staff that was affected the time to open another retirement plan that they could the refund into. They all will be taxed on that amount.

Cathy Dyer: You know we're fortunate that we're good, but whole thing was done was kind of difficult because we had three people affected that we're no longer employees, so they required us to reinstate them as an employee because it has to be taxed and it has to be reported as income on the W-2 and 1099.

Rodney Weichel: Those three people did they work this year or did we have to go back to 2021 or 2020?

Cathy Dyer: The overpayments were from 2011 to 2017

Mike Estrada: So that that cost us a certain amount of money?

Cathy Dyer: So far it hasn't cost us anything, because when we report wages for the retirement we withhold Social Security as a district. We withhold that for the employees. So we paid that already throughout the course of that time. So that didn't cost us anything. But what I had to report for FICA is the federal and state withholding for them, because that's the only portion that could be taxed because it was already essentially earned. It's just coming back to him as a course of payment that they want them to report it, but they also want the reporting of interest. But they don't want that tied to their payroll. So I had to make them vendors and write them checks so that they have to be issued at 1099, which they also require for this return. So it was. It was interesting

Mike Estrada: Will it affect the auditor for next year?

Cathy Dyer: It shouldn't affect our audit; it will be reviewed and reported as it normally would as with any refund. The way it worked out with the amount that we had to return or have to return to those employees and former employees are almost the exact amount that we budgeted for this year. So it just washed out that budget line essentially. If you looked at it now, it's a wash, zeroed out. We won't make another payment. The other thing was: if there is a remaining balance at the end of the year, you can't get that back. The remaining balance of that credit has to be used by the end of the fiscal year or it rolls into your unfunded liability, which in our case we're 200% funded. So it goes into a savings account. We can't do anything with it but when they do, when they do their actuarial studies that credit could be used to adjust the percent that we contribute for the employee,

which in turn could lower or our contribution rate for next fiscal year. Other than that there's nothing else substantial to report.

MOTION:	Motion made to accept the financial reports for August 2022
RESULT:	All in favor, motion is passed
MOVED BY:	Motion made by Rodney Weichelt
SECONDED:	Motion seconded by Mike Estrada

G. Review, Amendment, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Interim Fire Chief Position Acceptance and Fire Board Expectations and Position Conditions

- **Possible Executive Session; This executive session is authorized under A.R.S. § 38-431.03, Subsection (A)(1), paragraph [Personnel Matters]. Discussion of Acting Chief Sam Foster's Acceptance of the Interim Chief Position.**

Mike Estrada: We tabled this item because Scott was out of town. I don't see it taking more than a quick five minutes to discuss.

Bruce Harris: I don't think it's going to take very long. We want to talk to you guys, also, probably at the next meeting, and just sit-down and basically have a discussion, and that would be that would be all you three, can we make that happen?

Daniel Speer: Yes we can.

Bruce Harris: We appreciate that very much, I think we need to, my personal opinion is we need to all be able to work together. The Board decides to go into executive session.
Meeting goes into Executive Session

- **Adjourn Executive Session; 7:34PM.**
- **Resume Regular Session**

Bruce Harris: We're back in regular session of 7:34PM.

H. Review, Amendment, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Interim Fire Chief Position Acceptance and Expectations as Discussed

MOTION:	Motion made to accept the expectations as discussed
RESULT:	All in favor, motion is passed
MOVED BY:	Motion made by Rodney Weichelt
SECONDED:	Motion seconded by Mike Estrada

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Bruce Harris: Future agenda items: anybody have anything for the future?

Mike Estrada: Just what we already discussed, just to make sure that that other intergovernmental thinks it's ready for us to vote on, and the aspect of that building issue, that that it's kind of being discussed between those two intergovernmental things.

Rodney Weichelt: I'd like to add to the next meeting the training for the Lockout Program. I think that's a good idea. We're already having to unlock people's cars, and so now we just become more service friendly, gives greater visibility, helps change the image, change, the culture, change the mindset we should also bill for that something should be determined at a later date.

Sam Foster: I think looking at what other agencies are doing is appropriate?

Mike Estrada: Also add discussion with the captain's to the future items.

Bruce Harris: Yeah, we'll do that at the next meeting, the discussion with the captains.

Rodney Weichelt: Do we need anybody else besides the captains to be at that meeting, Sam do you recommend anyone?

Sam Foster: That is up the Board.

Mike Estrada: He reports to us, they report to him.

Sam Foster: I would say that the union would be a good source to talk to, but you have the president, the union and those captains.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Bruce Harris: Any board member comments? I have a concern that there are still only four of us and there should be five, and it's like we've just been kind of limping along for months.

Rodney Weichelt: We have better visibility on social media. Now we have an Instagram page. Our Facebook page is up-and-coming we could put out another call to the public to get people to be engaged, but unless you guys know somebody personally.

Mike Estrada: In doing that, I mean I think that Instead of just having someone come in here with a letter, I think we should do our due diligence to bring someone on that's going to be like-minded like us, not to bring someone that's going to have an alternative agenda.

Rodney Weichelt: I say we still put a call out on our social platforms. The right person's going to be on here because I think that now that we have four light minded people, were only going to be better.

Adjournment: 7:16:55

MOTION:	Motion made at this time Adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm
RESULT:	Meeting adjourned
MOVED BY:	Motion made by Rodney Weichelt
SECONDED:	

Bruce Harris, Chairperson

Cathy Dyer, CFO

Approved: _____