



*Note: These Minutes were approved by the Board on 1/18/17.*

# Sedona Fire District

2860 Southwest Drive, Sedona, Arizona 86336  
Telephone (928) 282-6800 FAX (928) 282-6857

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Station #1 – 2860 Southwest Drive – Sedona – Multipurpose Room  
Wednesday, December 14, 2016 / 4:00 PM**

~ MINUTES ~

### I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

**Board Present:** Ty Montgomery, Chairman; Corrie Cooperman, Clerk; Tim Ernster, Abe Koniarsky, Dave Soto – Members

**Others Present:** Fire Chief Kris Kazian; Assistant Chief Jeff Piechura; Division Chief Ed Mezulis, Fire Marshal Gary Johnson; Finance Director Gabe Buldra - JVG; Battalion Chief Buzz Lechowski; Deputy Fire Marshal Jon Davis; Human Resources Manager Betty Johnson; Tricia Greer, Recorder to the Board; Bill Whittington, Attorney; 1 Member of the Public

Board Chairman Ty Montgomery called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

### II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. **Vote to go into ARS §38-431.03(A)(3) Legal Advice; ARS 38-431.03(A)(4) Instructions to Attorney; and ARS 38-431.03(A)(7) Consideration of position and instruct Representatives re: Negotiations for Purchase, Sale or Lease of Real Property: Location, Placement, Construction Options, and Acquisition for operational needs.**

Board Chairman Ty Montgomery opened the meeting at 4:00 PM and then *moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to ARS §38-431.03(A)(3) legal advice; ARS 38-431.03(A)(4) instructions to attorney; and ARS 38-431.03(A)(7) consideration of position and instruct representatives regarding negotiations for purchase, sale or lease of real property: location, placement, construction options, and acquisition for operational needs; Board Clerk Corrie Cooperman seconded and the motion unanimously passed at 5 to 0.*

- B. **Reconvene into Public Session – Discussion/Possible Action on above item.**

### III. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

- A. **Salute to the Flag of the United States of America and Moment of Silence to Honor all American Men and Women in Service to Our Country, Firefighters, and Police Officers.**

Mr. Montgomery called the public session back to order at 5:11 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Division Chief Ed Mezulis asked all to remember the 11 Police Officers and 6 Firefighters who died in the line of duty during the last month; and also, honored the memory of Astronaut John Glenn.

*Mr. Montgomery then moved to direct the Chief to proceed as discussed in Executive Session in the listed matter; Board Member Dave Soto provided a second and the Board unanimously passed the motion.*

- B. **Consent Agenda – Discussion/Possible Action:**
1. **November 16, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.**
  2. **November 16, 2016 Executive Session Minutes.**
  3. **November 21, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes.**
  4. **November 21, 2016 Executive Session Minutes.**

*Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented; Mrs. Cooperman seconded and the motion unanimously passed.*

- C. **Public Forum:**
1. **Public Comments.**

## 2. Executive Staff Response to Public Comments.

No one requested to speak.

### D. Business:

#### 1. Organizational Meeting of the New Fire Board; Election of Board Officers – Chairperson and Clerk pursuant to ARS 48-803 and SFD Board Rules of Procedure.

Chief Kazian stated per the Fire Board Rules of Procedure, on a biennial basis after the November elections (even though this year, there were only 2 candidates for 2 seats and no election was required), the Board elects a Chairman and Clerk. Mr. Montgomery opened the discussion. *Mrs. Cooperman nominated Mr. Montgomery to continue as the Chairman* and stated he brings a tremendous amount of skills and leadership to the Board, as well as has a good understanding of fiscal and legal matters; *Board Member Tim Ernster provided a second; Mr. Montgomery recused himself from the vote, which passed with the other 4 Board Members voting in favor.*

*Mr. Soto then moved to nominate Corrie Cooperman to continue as Clerk*, and stated she is held in high esteem and respected for her service to the Board. *Mr. Montgomery seconded* and also said Mrs. Cooperman is a great asset and has helped him over the last few years. Mrs. Cooperman stated she would accept the position if chosen; *upon the vote, Mrs. Cooperman recused herself and received the other 4 Board Members' votes.*

#### 2. Financial Report and Updates – Finance Director Gabe Buldra.

- a. Discussion/Possible Action: Review and Approval of November 2016 Finance Report.
- b. Mayer Ambulance Billing Status/Update.
- c. Status of DHS Rate Increase Request.

Finance Director Gabe Buldra said the November Finance Report was in the Board's packet of information; starting in November, the tax levy revenue was at \$2.4 Million with \$2 Million projected and we are still trending ahead of projections. Non-levy revenue was at \$152,723; personnel expenses were under budget at \$865,539; followed by Vehicles and Equipment at \$45,709; Utilities and Communications at \$24,175; Managerial at \$79,424; and in the past, Mr. Buldra did not include Capital and Contingency line, but added it this month, which shows we spent \$21,612 in November; total revenue year to date is \$7.8 Million, which is \$622,000 over budget – the predominate reason being related to timing on the tax levy revenue, as well as ambulance revenues. Under Expenses, Personnel year to date is trending under budget and reflects timing of benefit costs and tax revenue. At the end of November, total expenses were \$5,963,915, which is under the budgeted amount by \$639,000.

Mr. Buldra noted under percentage of expenses, our highest expense is Personnel at 73% followed by Capital/Contingency at 15% and Managerial and Operations are both at 6% of our total expenses. He noted small changes in personnel expenses affect our budget, and there will be an impact by upcoming news on the state pension fund, PSPRS. Chief Kazian said it is lower than typical at 73% is because of a larger Capital expense at the beginning of the year. With additional upcoming expenses and major impacts in the future, the Board will see the cash position, year over year, at \$1.2 Million increase, some of which is from surplus and savings last year and some, purely a factor of timing on collection of revenue. Mr. Soto asked if the percentage of expenses for Personnel was in line with other districts in Arizona; Mr. Buldra replied it is out of line, but fortunately for SFD, to the positive; he said some departments are at 80 to 90% of costs which causes major struggles every year in balancing budgets; SFD is better positioned to absorb changes and impacts on Personnel line items.

Mr. Buldra then presented an update on SFD performing ambulance billing for Mayer Fire District (MFD). Chief Kazian said SFD began that service in September 2015, and wanted to take a look at how closely we have met projections. Mr. Buldra said MFD's data was not complete for the previous year, but the missing piece is the actual budget impact to Mayer; MFD previously used MSN for ambulance billing during the period of September 2014 to August 2015, which collected at 89.4% after statutory write-offs (including insurance adjustments and Medicare settlements); the rate MSN charged was 8% of total collections which was \$62,609; after SFD took over in September 2015, we had a collection percentage of 91.1%, a 1.2% increase in collection. In addition, we agreed to charge them 6.5% fees and in that same period of time, SFD billed \$50,560, which saved Mayer \$12,000 and got a slightly higher collection rate. For SFD, before the agreement with MFD, our ambulance billing division was at \$130,723; post-agreement, SFD added a full-time (previously, part-time) biller and the cost of that division went to \$159,773, but with revenue received for services, SFD decreased the cost of its ambulance operation by

\$21,000 and netted a profit of about \$21,000. He said this shows how a shared services model can work well for both entities in combining resources.

Chief Kazian commented we did not calculate the value of having an additional full-time person, but have become more efficient in our own billing, meaning more collection for SFD. Board Member Abe Koniarsky asked if we are in a position to provide this service for other districts as well. Chief Kazian said we had other agencies look into it and are open to that discussion in the future. He said personnel in ambulance billing are busy and we may require another biller, possibly part-time, if we took on another agency's billing. MFD is happy with the service we provide. HR Manager Betty Johnson added the synergy between the 2 employees in ambulance billing is outstanding and our past due accounts are down to 2 weeks from 6 to 8 weeks previously and at a profit to SFD, which comes down to the right people sitting in the right seats doing the right things.

Mr. Buldra reported the Department of Health Services sent a letter confirming they have received our application for a rate hike on ambulance services; DHS had 30 days to determine it was administratively complete, and another 30 days to determine questions they may have for us; SFD would have a period of time to respond. After completion of DHS analysis, we will receive the results of their findings; he anticipates another 3 to 4 months before receiving the findings on the overall application process and by late Spring, to have our new rates in place.

***Mr. Montgomery then moved to approve the November Financial report, as submitted; Mrs. Cooperman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.***

Mr. Buldra informed the Board the PSPRS financial reports for 2016 were just released; SFD received its individual actuarial report on Friday; the numbers did not come out favorably and for this current fiscal year, SFD has been paying 24.56% for PSPRS retirement benefits, and the new rate proposed for next fiscal year is 34.5%; he explained that PSPRS looks at how the plan performed, assumption changes, legislative changes, as well as amortization table of the unfunded liability. This year, the estimation of earnings for the plan overall went from 7.83% to 7.5% and PSPRS reform last year had a much more significant impact; it created a new tier of employees effective 7/1/17, but also changed the cost of living increases for people already in the plan; this increased our unfunded liability, which increased our rate. The average employer contribution rate for agencies across the state is 52%; based on our projected payroll for 2018, the rate increase would mean an increase to our budget of \$660,000 in PSPRS expenses. Staff had projected the rate increasing to about \$30,000 in costs. Mr. Buldra said this is not strictly a Sedona Fire issue, but is statewide with other large districts increasing; for example, Northwest Fire will have an increase of \$1.7 Million next year, the City of Tucson for fire and police will have an increase of \$50 Million, and Phoenix of \$75 Million. This report blindsided many agencies, and as discussed at last month's Board meeting, the best thing to do is continue to work on our unfunded liability. Mr. Buldra's firm will be doing analysis on ways to address unfunded liability because it is the majority of the cost.

Last month, Mr. Buldra discussed the effect of the Hall legal decision and wording in the actuarial report states it is likely to have a "less than significant impact" on the 2018/19 contribution rates. A retired actuarial that works with the James Vincent Group does not think the Hall decision will have much impact, but is still "digesting" numbers on the PSPRS reports; Mr. Buldra will have more information next month. Mr. Koniarsky asked if this would become an annual increase; Mr. Buldra said this is the first time the actuary projected for future years, and they show the plan to somewhat stabilize going forward with minimal 1% to 2% increases year over year. Mrs. Cooperman said the reasons PSPRS gave were because investment for this last fiscal year came out so poor at .6%, and the other was reform legislation which they called short term changes; she asked why would this amount continue and go forward, when they are doing this because of "short term" situations. Mr. Buldra responded the return on investment piece was a smaller percentage of the impact and in the overall plan accounted for roughly 3% of the total impact, but increasing projected cost of living in pension reform will carry through the lives of those retirees and current participants in the plan.

Mrs. Cooperman stated PSPRS has not lowered our contribution rates in "good years", so she is curious as to why in a "bad year", they raised the rates; she asked if SFD could make a formal complaint or objection. Mr. Buldra replied the only thing we could bring forward to PSPRS is any errors in underlying data, such as inadequate information from PSPRS on the census. Mr. Ernster asked during the proposition's push to convince voters to be

in favor, if anyone projected that this could be a result; Mr. Buldra said to his knowledge, this result was not presented to anyone; Mr. Ernster remarked it is hard to believe it was missed. Mr. Buldra said as he continues going through the actuarial reports, he would compare SFD's data set to PSPRS's to see if there is any foundation to make a claim. Mr. Montgomery said we will begin budget planning in the next 2 months, and have made an effort to keep the budget to no more than 3 to 4% increases each year, but due to this, we probably lost that ability with the projected PSPRS increase. Chief Kazian said one of the assumptions in the actuarial is salaries go up 4% of the budget for PSPRS members, and based upon step raises and other programmed costs in the next budget, our Firefighter salary line goes up 5.3%. He is concerned and has been talking to other Fire Chiefs about their budget impacts. Mr. Buldra pointed out SFD will be jumping up 10% in our contribution rate and stay there because PSPRS is projecting over the next 10 years, 1 to 2% increases year over year at the new higher level, but at this point, we do not know what will happen. Chief Kazian said in budget dollars, this is a 40% plus increase in pension costs for public agencies across the state; this will have a large impact and ripple effect across the state, and SFD has no choice in the matter; he reiterated this is nothing SFD could have done or seen coming, but our hope is that it does plateau and we will see only 1 to 2% increases annually, but there could be surprises.

Mrs. Cooperman asked if this increases the employee contribution; Mr. Buldra responded that based on the Hall decision, employees will actually see a decrease in their contributions by 4%. Chief Kazian pointed out the new Tier 3 beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, who are not currently participants in the system, have a 50/50 cost share with employers; also, to our surprise and not previously discussed with the agencies and unknown even to the authors of the legislation, they added Tier 1 and Tier 2 legacy costs for this year of 15.1%; so, hiring new employees in Tier 3 will cost us 23%; however, going forward, due to the legislative reform, a lower trajectory will maintain and cost share will help balance out costs. Chief Kazian commented there are agencies at 91%, 134%, and the average is 52%; so, overall, SFD is in better shape.

### **3. Monthly Staff Report – Fire Chief Kris Kazian.**

#### **a. Incident Counts by Station.**

#### **b. Call Summary and Response Times Year to Date.**

#### **c. Rescue Incidents.**

#### **d. Community Risk Management Update.**

#### **e. SFD Training Report.**

#### **f. Donations to SFD.**

#### **g. Update of Grant Activity.**

#### **h. Update of Recent/Upcoming SFD Activities, Incidents, and Events.**

##### **i. Cottonwood Public Safety Communications Center.**

##### **ii. Wildland Fire Activity.**

##### **iii. Workers Compensation Pool.**

##### **iv. FireStats Data Program.**

##### **v. Over the Edge – Special Olympics.**

##### **vi. Telecom Tech II position status.**

##### **vii. FF Testing Status Update.**

##### **viii. AFDA Conference Reminder.**

##### **ix. Accreditation Update.**

##### **x. APS Utilities Easement Request.**

##### **xi. Oak Creek Canyon Issues:**

##### **a. Cellular Communications projects in OCC.**

##### **b. Midgley Bridge Project Update.**

##### **c. Traffic Matters Movement.**

##### **i. Correspondence/Thank You Letters to SFD.**

Chief Kazian reported the following:

- There were 322 calls in November and we are tracking on pace as expected on year to date totals.
- There was an increase of 6% in average response time, but considering significant traffic increases in Sedona, it is not unexpected.

- On 11/18/16 in Oak Creek Canyon, there was a propane gas explosion at a resort resulting in injuries to an employee, who was transported by air ambulance, as well as another person receiving lesser injuries; SFD is working with the resort owner and Coconino County; the building is at a total loss and will be demolished; the fire itself was small and out by the time the crew arrived, but the explosion caused significant damage.
- Response by station is provided in the November Fire Chief Report.
- Under Grants, staff has updated the final amounts; a Type 3 engine has been requested and hoping to help alleviate budgetary concerns through grant funding.
- Community Risk Management – Fire Marshal Gary Johnson is retiring in January; plans are coming in, which is a good sign for occupancies.
- Under Training – SFD was in a multi-company drill on I-17 with Verde Valley and state agencies. SFD hosted a UTV recreational vehicle training certification class; as part of our wildland medic program, US Forest Service requires training curriculum and with many UTVs available for rent in Sedona and our agency running on UTV accidents, we recognized the need for training. Battalion Chiefs Lechowski and Cochrane took Blue Card refresher training funded through a previous grant. HR Manager Betty Johnson attended disciplinary challenges in the fire service class. Through partnership with Yavapai College, SFD members attended a train-the-trainer “Nozzle Forward” essentials in firefighting class covering hydrology, better ergonomics, and team tactics to reduce injury and improve effectiveness.
- Cottonwood Public Safety Communications – There is nothing new to report.
- Wildland Fire – Our employees who were at fires in North Carolina came back last month; there were devastating fires in Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina with 14 fatalities in Tennessee; SFD looked at “lessons learned” of the similarities to Sedona with visitors and communications, although different fuel types; we must do everything we can to keep our area safe and protected. SFD has received \$106,000 in net revenue for wildland activity this year with \$55,000 projected –we almost doubled revenue expectations; Assistant Chief Piechura is working to manage our own needs balanced with responses to other areas.
- Workers Compensation Pool – SFD is still working with the group and will keep the Board posted.
- Special Olympics Fundraiser – Chief Kazian repelled a 450’ building in Phoenix as part of Team Sedona with Sedona School Superintendent Dave Lykins and SPD Officer Jacque McQuaid to raise over \$60,000.
- Telecom and Firefighter Testing – HR Manager Johnson said we received 48 resumes for Telecom, but most are not qualified for the Technician position; Telecom Manager Bob Motz is reviewing them; the notice was sent to Telecom-specific and other employment sites. Firefighter testing – SFD received 173 applications through the National Testing Network, narrowed down after initial testing to 132 and of that amount, we drew it down to a combined score of 80 for 88 applicants; those applicants have until 12/29/16 to provide credentials, and from those, we will schedule practical tests and an oral board in February. Operations is creating videos on four practical job parts so candidates can view those ahead of time to know how we expect them to pull hose, use ladders, etc. The oral boards will be geared to the Outward Mindset Arbinger training – reconfiguring the process to find the right Firefighters for SFD.
- AFDA Conference – As a reminder, after election, Board Members are required to take training and AFDA provides that training; Attorney Whittington said if Board Members are re-appointed, they must either attend the training in person or take it on-line within 12 months after each election cycle. AFDA summer conference does not cover all statutory training, but the winter conference in Laughlin does. Mr. Whittington said there is a push to change the statute and if successful, it may be retroactive.
- Presentation on FireStats Program – Chief Piechura said next week, SFD is having orientation from Paul Rotenberg, the FireStats principal. He presented a “snap shot” of the program and a brief demonstration. Data is in the SFD system back to 2011 and is reflected in the presentation – good or bad – of call processing and data sets of 7,399 data pieces as a culmination of all vehicle responses to all incidents throughout the district. Personnel can select specific calls to drill deeper into the information, such as “EMS Delta” calls. The data provided and standards utilized in emergency services is in fractile measurements, and we can see how well we are performing compared to national standards for EMS response in a priority dispatch system – 1 minute, 30 seconds at 90% of the time. FireStats gives us ability to look into data and really evaluate performance of the system, not only to the Cottonwood Communications Center, but coding the system using the inputs provided. Employees in Operations and GIS will receive training. Chief Kazian commented it is easy to operate the “dashboards” and creates data that is highly valuable to us.

- Accreditation for SFD – Chief Piechura explained we are beginning work on this project and it provides the best practices for a fire agency; one criterion is in measuring what we do and utilizing adjustments and adaptations to do a better job at how we perform. SFD is now an applicant registered agency as of last week – this gives the ability to access pricing and training to get best practices reference material and education to bring back to the district. We have a check list of 4,200 items fire agencies should be doing and right now, staff is going through SOPs, which are critical to our updates. With each SOP, we have a performance indicator to track and measure our performance. The goal is to within the next year, have a self-assessment done and submitted to the Chief for review; this will be a gap analysis of what we do and what we need to accomplish; once in registered status, we have up to 3 years to complete the process. There are currently only 254 agencies in the world accredited. Accreditation does not force you to become like a bigger agency, but challenges your agency to see what you need to do and what your community desires for emergency services, strategic planning, and to help make good policy decisions. Chief Kazian said this is all encompassing and requires work at every level of SFD. Chief Piechura said Central Arizona Fire just went through this process; good organizations use accreditation to evaluate and see how mergers or fire authority would fit or other options. Accredited agencies survived very well through financial downturns. Chief Piechura said one of our captains went through accreditation training years ago and will help in implementation.
- APS Easement – Chief Kazian received a letter from APS about another easement; he called to find out details, but they have not gotten back to him yet; this is for an easement on the West side of the building with slightly different dynamics than the previous request denied by the Board earlier this year for an easement on our Station 1 property. After brief discussion, Mr. Montgomery stated we have worked well with APS in the past, but at present, the Board does not have enough information to make a decision; consensus of the Board was to not approve this until APS provides better justification and additional information.
- Cell Tower – Chief Kazian attended a cell tower conditional use meeting at Coconino County in Flagstaff last week, wherein a cell tower on Julie Lane in Oak Creek Canyon was approved. A 130'+ tower was put up yesterday across from Junipine; we are working with providers to co-locate improvements based on coverage maps; we are doing our best to improve our significant communication gaps for 9-1-1 and Code Red usage.
- Midgley Bridge – ADOT crews are working at night through December 23<sup>rd</sup> to install fencing on the bridge; this is the project we requested in conjunction with the City of Sedona to help prevent suicides.
- Traffic Concerns – Oak Creek Homeowner Association is surveying to deal with traffic issues in the canyon; SFD has no ability to tell ADOT how to move traffic, but we have concerns for our emergency response and provided information to the homeowners to give to legislators and address traffic units. It can take an hour or more to get back to our stations from Oak Creek Canyon on busy traffic days. We also are concerned with traffic on SR 179 from Station 6, but in the Canyon, traffic is taxing our ability to provide services. This is keeping our mission critical issues on our “radar” and will let the Board know when they get feedback.

#### E. Items from Staff:

##### 1. Discussion/Possible Action: Station 5 Update – Insurance Repair Quotes/Deductible.

HR Manager Johnson said our Captain injured in the Station 5 fire on October 27<sup>th</sup> is doing much better. Mrs. Johnson is working with insurance, contractors, and service providers on repair expenses outlined in the Board Agenda Communication; she is asking for the Board’s approval to pay up to \$65,000, although it will likely be around \$60,000, and all will be reimbursed except the deductible. Other expenses are still developing and getting additional repairs this week. Chief Kazian said this becomes a project code, brought in and expended; we are working with a vendor for station repairs, and with our insurance company maximizing details. We are hoping to start after the first of the year or sooner, and crews may need to leave the facility for a few days during construction; Chief Piechura is finding alternatives to keep them available to respond. The goal is to impact response as little as possible. Chief Piechura said we are working on options with people in the Canyon and there are concerns with winter freeze conditions on our equipment stored outside. At minimum, crews will be in the Canyon for day time response with potential housing at Station 4 at night; the best option would be to locate somewhere in the Canyon for 7 to 10 days. Mr. Montgomery asked about authorizing contingency funds; Chief Piechura said that would be for other repairs found during the review of the building which are pieces we think we can handle out of our facilities budget; anything that happened as a result of the fire is covered by insurance. He said we have already been paid \$33,000+ and he is not looking to ask for contingency at this time. Mr.

Montgomery said he would strike that sentence and *then moved to approve authorization for staff to complete repairs for Station 5 as they arise not to exceed \$65,000; Mr. Ernster seconded and it passed unanimously.*

**2. Discussion/Possible Action: Purchase Order #10610 in the amount of \$60,924.29 to Stryker Flex Financial for Two (2) Powerload Ambulance Cots and related items.**

Division Chief Ed Mezulis informed the Board SFD partnered with My ID bracelets; the updated product is now available at the front desk with a one size fits all medical ID bracelet which the QR code can be scanned to give EMS personnel basic medical information; SFD is providing them to our Community Paramedic program patients; Mr. Montgomery expressed concern about potential HIPPA violations in accessing private information; Chief Mezulis said any QR reader can be utilized, but patients can choose what information is included; patients can pay an additional fee to attach up to date medical complex records and to regularly update medical history.

Chief Mezulis said SFD is constantly looking for safer, faster, and better ways to provide service. At the beginning of this year, we bought two new ambulances with the Powerload system to augment gurneys we purchased; SFD never had them in our apparatus before and third party information informed that it created safer work environment with less stress lifting and fewer back injuries; and is one of few rated devices for roll over protection for patients and crew. The crews on ambulances that do not have the Powerload are requesting them, as the system works great and we have had no accidental gurney drops due to the locking mechanism. There is no upcoming refurbishment schedule in place and to like-size our 4 first-out ambulances, this proposal is to purchase 2 Powerload systems to augment the safety of our fleet; the manufacturer gave SFD the opportunity for 0% financing option and considering Worker Compensation statistics this year related to moving patients, not only to gurney patient moving, but they are approaching \$50,000 for injuries and lost time; in addition, Chief Mezulis looked at ambulance revenue budgeted, and at October 30<sup>th</sup>, at 33% of the year, we had collected 49% of budgeted ambulance revenue; he said these devices will provide safer apparatus, and ultimately, will be requested and integrated into refurbished ambulances for future approval; we did not plan to buy these initially, but they are working well and providing safer protection for highway speeds and are good products. Mrs. Cooperman said it obviously improves safety and decreases injury which is important.

Chief Kazian said these two ambulances are not scheduled for refurbishment in the near future. Chief Mezulis said we have a third party manufacturer who will install this device and replace flooring; these apply to our first-out ambulances and all are scheduled to be refurbished in the future. Chief Mezulis said there is the potential one of these vehicles will go to refurb, and this system cost would be added. Mr. Montgomery asked about the extended warranty; Chief Mezulis said it covers everything for 7 years and customer service is great and the next day with no problem with the Powerload. Mrs. Cooperman commented the financing at 0% as long as we pay it off in 3 years is really good. Chief Mezulis said it is \$23,000 for the first payment with the install fee and then, \$14,000 for two years. He said payment will be due on receipt of goods in the spring of 2017 and 2018. Chief Kazian said this is a safety issue. Mr. Montgomery asked about the weight limit on the gurneys and Chief Mezulis responded it is 750 pounds. *Mrs. Cooperman moved to approve Purchase Order #10610 for the purchase and financing of 2 new Stryker Powerload systems for 2 of the fire district's ambulances at a cost of \$60,924.29 with the use of Stryker financing of zero percent interest for a 3 year term, and furthermore, authorize the use of contingency funds for the amount of \$23,800.25 to provide for acquisition and installation; Mr. Montgomery seconded and the motion unanimously approved.*

**F. Items from Board Members:**

**1. Update: Shared Services Committee – Dave Soto.**

Mr. Soto stated there have been no new organized meetings of the committee, but discussions are on-going with the Chiefs regarding the shared Fire Marshal concept. Chief Kazian said there was one very brief discussion with Copper Canyon based on PSPRS issue that it might make more sense now; he also met with Verde Valley Fire District to see if there was an interest in a similar type model, but they are focused on getting their new consolidation with Clarkdale on-line before making a decision. There is no other real movement that SFD is involved in at this time; he will keep the Board updated.

#### **IV. FIRE MARSHAL'S SAFETY MESSAGE**

Chief Kazian said this is Fire Marshal Gary Johnson's last safety message for the district before retiring; Gary became a volunteer Sedona firefighter in 1978; in 1985, he moved up through the ranks and was selected to be the Battalion Chief for volunteers and remained in that position until 1991, when he became the volunteer Deputy Chief; in 1995, he was hired full-time as a Fire Inspector; he took over the Public Information Officer role in 1999 and in 2000, became the Senior Inspector; in 2011, he was promoted to Fire Marshal and will retire on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 after serving SFD and the community for 39 years. Fire Marshal Johnson was awarded Employee of the Year in 2005, and Customer Service of the Year in 2008; he has accomplished many great things for SFD; the Chief constantly hears from community members regarding Gary's outstanding service in fire prevention activities, and Gary understands the complexities of their business. He noted staff will miss Gary's knowledge of organizational history and his help in day to day work. He wished him the best, and acknowledged the hard work and progress they have made together over the last 5 years. Gary's formal walkout ceremony will be on Thursday, 1/5/17 at 3:00 PM in the bays at this station and invited the public to attend.

Fire Marshal Johnson thanked Administration and Receptionist Jodi Fowler for her work on the Toys for Tots flyer with its simple but powerful reminders about holiday safety. He informed the Board the crews recently went on a carbon monoxide call involving 8 people in a home with 7 of them being transferred to the hospital; he reminded everyone of the importance of checking furnaces to make sure they are properly working and also, of having carbon monoxide monitors in your home. Fortunately, the outcome for the hospitalized people was positive, but early detection is critical. Mr. Montgomery thanked him on behalf of the Board for his service.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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Corrie Cooperman, Clerk of the Board

:tg