



# Sedona Fire District

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## SFD PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

### LOCAL BOARD MEETING

Station #1 / 2860 Southwest Drive / West Sedona

Thursday, May 26, 2022 / 1:00 PM

~ MINUTES ~

#### I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Pursuant to notice, a regular meeting of the Sedona Fire District (SFD) Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Local Board was called to order by Chairman Dave Soto at 1:05 p.m. on, Thursday, May 26, 2022. Executive Assistant Kim Smathers recorded the minutes. A quorum was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, proceeded with business.

**Board Present:** Dave Soto-Chairman, Craig Cushenberry; Lynn Zonakis, Kai Kincheloe – Members. Kim Smathers and Keona Freeman, SFD.

##### 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.

#### II. CALL TO PUBLIC

##### A. Public Comments.

##### B. Executive Staff Response to Public Comments.

There were no requests to speak.

#### III. REGULAR BUSINESS

##### A. Discussion/Possible Action: Approve Minutes of October 21, 2021 SFD PSPRS Local Board Meeting.

*Chairman Soto moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2021 SFD PSPRS Local Board meeting. Board Member Zonakis seconded. There was no further discussion and motion passed unanimously.*

##### B. Discussion/Possible Action: Approve Appointment of new, local board secretary.

*Chairman Soto reviews former secretaries, Kerrie Tarver and interim, Keona Freeman. Chair motions to approve Kimberly Smathers, after asking if position will be accepted. No other nominations are made. Kai Kincheloe seconds the motion and, with no further discussion, the motion to appoint is passed unanimously.*

##### C. Discussion/Possible Action: Multiple changes to retirement process.

*Keona Freeman states that major changes have been made to the retirement process, affecting the local board and putting the responsibility for regular retirements and DROP on the employee, rather than having to be approved by the Board. Board will still have disability and line of duty death cases. Chair Soto asks about SFD staff being available to advise and consult and Ms. Freeman reiterates that staff role has been simplified and the employee will work directly with PSPRS. PSPRS is working to notify personnel of changes in the system and should be notified of retirements at a minimum of 3 months in advance. Board Member Cushenberry asked about the 10-day notice in the legal language and whether that would be a burden, especially in cases of disability retirements. Ms. Freeman stated that there were things that she could not address and that leads into the next discussion point of hiring an attorney to advise on these questions. Member Cushenberry then asked if the Board is still required to meet twice a year. Chair Soto stated that those meetings would cover the financial meeting and another meeting to cover updates, changes,*

*etc. Member Cushenberry urged the Board to read the legislation and changes. He then asked Member Kincheloe how all the changes were going over with fire personnel. Member Kincheloe stated that there are now several staff who will not be thinking about retirement for several years because of the Tier changes, and that those who need to know are already using the new system. Chairman Soto stated that SFD is very fortunate to have the staff here, in place, to support.*

**D. Discussion/Possible Action: Hire of local board attorney in accordance with HB 2381.**

*Ms. Freeman states that PSPRS is requiring local board to official appoint a local attorney, on record. Member Cushenberry asked why, as we are already using a local attorney and Ms. Freeman states that they need an official appointment on record with PSPRS. He then asked if there was a further financial commitment on SFD. Ms. Freeman said that she will have to research and advise. Member Kincheloe stated that with Mr. Neiderdeppe's office, there are 2 recommendations from the firm and that might be more depth in case backup is necessary on an issue. He stated that it may be possible to contract with the firm instead of an individual. Payment options were discussed and Ms. Freeman stated she will follow up on that as well, as it's always been a pay as you go situation. Member Kincheloe moved that Mr. Neiderdeppe be appointed the attorney of record for the SFD PSPRS Local Board. Ms. Freeman stated that she will need to reach out to Mr. Neiderdeppe to ensure he will accept the appointment and request his availability to come in and brief Board on legislation changes. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.*

**IV. ADJOURNMENT: 1:33 p.m.**

*Kimberly Smathers*  
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Kim Smathers, Local Board Secretary

*SFD Multipurpose Room is accessible to the handicapped. In compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act, those with special needs, such as large print or other reasonable accommodations, may request them by calling 928-282-6800.*

Posted by: **Kimberly Smathers** Date: **11/22/22** Time: **16:25**