



SEDONA FIRE DISTRICT

2860 Southwest Drive, Sedona, Arizona 86336
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PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM LOCAL BOARD MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

Thursday, December 4, 2025 • 3:00 PM

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- a. Salute to the flag of the United States of America
- b. Roll call of Board Members

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 Chairperson Helen McNeal at 3:04 PM on Thursday, December 4, 2025. A quorum was present and the meeting, having been duly convened, proceeded with business. Ms. McNeal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Present: Helen McNeal, Board Chairperson; Greg Eberlein and Craig Cushenberry, Members. Lynn Zonakis and Kai Kincheloe, Members, were absent.

Others Present: Keona Freeman, SFD HR Manager; Gwen Witherspoon, SFD employee. Christi Weigand, Local Board Secretary, was absent.

2) MEMBERSHIP STATUS UPDATES

- a. New DROP entry, as of July 1, 2025: Division Chief Jordan Baker – Effective 10/24/2025
Keona Freeman, HR Manager, advised the Board that Division Chief (DC) Jordan Baker entered the DROP Program, effective October 24, 2025. Ms. Freeman congratulated DC Baker and acknowledged his service. She noted DC Baker will stay with SFD for another five years.

3) REGULAR BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/Possible Action: Formally accept newly hired SFD Firefighters into PSPRS system, review Declarations of Pre-Existing Conditions, if any:
 - Kevin Ahlers, Firefighter
 - Brandie Smith, Firefighter
 - Brian Burke, Firefighter

Ms. McNeal asked the Board if there were any questions or comments regarding the new hire applications and information. Mr. Eberlein, Member, commented that he reviewed the packet, noting that Kevin Ahlers and Brian Burke were already existing (PSPRS) members and Brandie Smith is a new addition to PSPRS. He further noted one individual had a pre-existing condition listed that was not a concern.

Ms. McNeal moved to accept the newly hired SFD firefighters, Kevin Ahlers, Brandie Smith, and Brian Burke into PSPRS under SFD. Craig Cushenberry, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by the Board.

- b. Discussion/Possible Action: Appointment of Keona Freeman as SFD PSPRS Alternate Local Board Contact.

Ms. McNeal noted that Ms. Freeman is currently fulfilling the role in Ms. Weigand's absence. Mr. Cushenberry stated that he was glad to have her (Ms. Freeman).



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Ms. McNeal moved to accept Keona Freeman as the SFD PSPRS Alternate Local Board Contact. Greg Eberlein, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by the Board.

- c. Discussion/Possible Action: Vote to approve September 4, 2025, SFD PSPRS Local Board Minutes.

There were no questions, comments, or changes.

Ms. McNeal moved to approve the September 4, 2025, SFD PSPRS Local Board minutes. Craig Cushenberry, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by the Board.

Ms. McNeal asked if there were any further items to discuss. Mr. Cushenberry commented that it is great to be apprised of the firefighters that are leaving, as suggested a couple of meetings ago, and he is unfamiliar with some of the SFD crews. Mr. Eberlein commented that 24 (firefighters) have less than five years (of experience), almost one third. Ms. McNeal noted that SFD is hitting a generational change.

4) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 PM

/s/Original signed by Helen McNeal

Helen McNeal, SFD Local Board Chairperson

9/23/26

Date

Approved by the Local PSPRS Board 9/23/26