

APPROVED MINUTES 02242026

**MINUTES
SUN CITY FIRE DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026
9:30 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chairperson Tim Wilmes (at 9:42 a.m. due to technical difficulties).

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Tim Wilmes, Phil LaBarbera, David VanderNaalt, Phil Griswold (via MS Teams), Charles Vickers.

Members Absent: None

Staff: Fire Chief Rob Schmitz, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Casey, Division Chiefs Kyle Henson and Tony Van Roekel, Battalion Chief Ken Murphy, Domonic Filosa (JVG), Office Manager Lisa Neubert

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board member David VanderNaalt

INVOCATION: Board member David VanderNaalt

I. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

A. Board member Phil LaBarbera made a motion to approve the consent agenda item which was the Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2025. Board member Charles Vickers seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the consent agenda item. (M: Phil LaBarbera/S: Charles Vickers; Ayes: Phil LaBarbera, David VanderNaalt, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers. Nays: None. Abstain: Tim Wilmes)

II. CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Special recognition was given to Rusty Bradshaw from CAN, Preston Kise from Recreation Centers of Sun City, Ben from ServePro, Zeb Black from the Independent, and Deb, a Sun City Fire District resident.

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- B. Fire Chief Schmitz read a piece of correspondence received through our website thanking the crews for their kindness to show to a child during a recent fire.**
- C. There were no new hires or promotions for the month of December.**
- D. Fire Chief Schmitz recognized the following personnel for years of service: Captain Matt Lohr for twenty-nine years of service; Captain David Kelley for twenty-eight years of service; Assistant Fire Chief Jason Casey and Captain James Flesher for twenty-seven years of service; Battalion Chief Ken Murphy and Captain Dan Carroll for twenty-five years of service; Firefighter Richard Dykstra for eighteen years of service; Firefighter Joseph Rivera for four years of service; Firefighters Lorenzo McGurgan and Caylob Rogers-Blake for three years of service; Firefighter Boston McGuire for two years of service; Firefighters Andryk Fernandez, Marcus Brewer, Zachary Madden, Nicole Cristobal and EMT Amber Callahan for one year of service. Additionally Chief Schmitz presented Battalion Chief Ken Murphy and Captain Dan Carroll with their twenty-five-year service pins as they were in attendance.**
- E. Firefighter Jerry Thompson retired on December 24, 2025 with twenty years of service.**

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Budget and Finance

- 1. Dominic Filosa (JVG) presented the financial and bank reconciliation report for the month of December 2025. Board member David VanderNaalt made a motion to accept the December 2025 financial report. Board member Charles Vickers seconded the motion. The board voted to accept the finance report for the month of December 2025. (M: David VanderNaalt/S: Charles Vickers; Ayes: David VanderNaalt, Phil LaBarbera, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers. Nays: None. Abstain: Tim Wilmes)**
- 2. Chief Schmitz discussed how much revenue the two largest non-profit entities would pay in taxes to the district if they did not have their non-profit status. If Royal Oaks were to pay fire district taxes based on their current limited property value, which is the value fire district taxes are based on, their tax liability to the district would be \$207,015.87. Chief Schmitz noted that Royal Oaks has made a yearly donation to the district over the past many years of \$25,000 - \$30,000. Banner Boswell Hospital and many of their properties have a non-profit status. If Banner Boswell were to pay fire district taxes on their non-profit properties in the district based on their current limited property value, their tax liability to the district would be \$911,755.73. Boswell does not make any donations to the district but do provide refreshments at the hospital for the crews periodically.**

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B. Legal and Insurance

- 1. Fire Marshal Kenny Kovac presented Resolution 26-0127A, a resolution to adopt 2024 International Codes Local Amendments. This will allow for updating of fire and life safety codes in the district as pertains to building construction. Board member Phil LaBarbera made a motion to approve Resolution 26-0127A, a resolution to adopt 2024 International code Amendments. Board member Charles Vickers seconded the motion to approve Resolution 26-0127A, a resolution to adopt 2024 International code Amendments. The motion passed. (M: Phil LaBarbera/S: Charles Vickers; Ayes: Phil LaBarbera, David VanderNaalt, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers. Nays: None. Abstain: Tim Wilmes)**
- 2. There was no report for PSPRS.**
- 3. Chairperson Wilmes noted that there is a motion in state legislature to repeal the legalization of marijuana.**

C. Fire Department Operations

- 1. The report for fire department operations was given for December 2025, which included an overview of the incident counts, types, and response times.**

D. Emergency Medical Services / Ambulance Operations

- 1. The ambulance operations report was presented for the month of December 2025. The report included the incident counts, types, and transport.**
- 2. Division Chief Henson reported the following for the EMS Division:**
 - a. EMS Documentation Training (all staff).**
 - b. Airway Training.**
 - c. EPCR form enhancement.**
 - d. CQI.**
 - e. TIP (Treatment in Place) Update – Chief Schmitz report that since July 1, 2025, there has been 1,340 TIP calls, with a billing amount of \$422,856.20. To date, \$100,225.63 has been collected, with adjustments of \$15,627.82, leaving \$307,002.75 uncollected so far. Chairperson Tim Wilmes asked about the 3% fee assessed for credit card payments and what we can do about this. Division Chief Henson explained that the 3% fee is assessed by the banking company used by MARS/AMB, our third-party billing agent.**

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There is really no way to remove it, however a statement will be added to all billing statements advising patients that there is a 3% fee for credit card payments, but cash (check) payments are not assessed this fee.

E. Resource Management

- 1. Battalion Chief Van Roekel and Chief Schmitz presented the board with a request for the purchase of a new EMS cargo van to replace the current 2009 pickup truck that is being used by the EMS division for delivery of supplies. The current pickup truck has transmission issues, and the replacement of the transmission is more than the vehicle is worth. A new cargo van, graphics, safety partition, and shelving would not exceed \$55,000. Board member David VanderNaalt made a motion to approve the purchase of a new EMS cargo van not to exceed \$55,000 including graphics, safety partition, and shelving. Board Clerk Phil LaBarbera seconded the motion. The board approved the purchase of a new EMS cargo van not to exceed \$55,000 including graphics, safety partition, and shelving. (M: David VanderNaalt/S: Phil LaBarbera; Ayes: Phil LaBarbera, David VanderNaalt, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers. Nays: None. Abstain: Tim Wilmes)**
- 2. Division Chief Tony Van Roekel reported the following for fleet/apparatus and equipment:**
 - a. New Vehicle Project – Braun Ambulance.**
 - b. New Vehicle Project - Sutphen Pumper.**
 - c. EMS Supply Vehicle replacement.**
 - d. Updated Pumper Pricing/Specifications.**
 - e. LA/MR Vehicle Grant Opportunities.**
 - f. Support fleet detailing.**
 - g. Wear Test.**
 - h. Helmets.**
 - i. Rental Equipment**
 - j. Grant Funding.**
- 3. Division Chief Tony Van Roekel reported the following for buildings/facilities and teams/members:**

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- a. FS131 Range.
- b. FS133 Elevator Maintenance.
- c. Kitchen Hood Cleaning.
- d. Annual Alarm/Suppression Training.

F. Training/Professional Development

1. Battalion Chief Ken Murphy gave the following report for the training division:
 - a. Adashi C&C Train the Trainer January 28th. Tactical tablets to go in service the same day.
 - b. Recruit Class 26-1 began 1/19. 5 recruits doing well, expected to graduate in late April.
 - c. Gearing up for Captain's Promotional process in March/April.

G. Move-Up Engineer's process concluded. All 4 candidates (Krohn, McGurgan, MacComb, Peters) successfully complete3Administrative/Special Projects

1. No report.

H. Public Education/Community Outreach

1. Prevention volunteer hours summary.
 - a. Fire Marshal Kenny Kovac reported that the department was ranked number for compliance nationally by Brycer, a third-party compliance agency the department uses for various annual inspections such as fire extinguisher, hood system, etc. for commercial businesses.

The summary of prevention hours for volunteers was presented for December 2025. The total number of volunteer hours was 33 hours.

2. Community relations program report.
 - a. The report for the Community Outreach program was given for December 2025. There was a total of 257 citizens served for December 2025. Installation of lock boxes is scheduled through the middle of February 2026.
3. There was a community event for the month of December 2025.

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4. The volunteer inspection summary report was given for the month of December 2025. There was a total of 40 inspections completed.

I. Fire Prevention

1. The construction inspection summary report was given for the month of December 2025. There was a total of 23 inspections completed.
2. Fire investigation reports.
 - a. The fire investigation report was given for December 2025. There was one formal fire investigation for the month.
3. Large community projects.
 - a. An update was given on the large community projects within the Sun City District. There are currently six large community projects in Sun City.
 - b. There was an update on the ongoing projects in Youngtown. There are currently two large community projects in Youngtown.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. There was no executive session.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Chief Schmitz reported on the cost of recruitment as requested at last month's meeting. Chief Schmitz reported that the department is required to send a recruit training officer (captain) to every academy in which we have recruits. The breakdown is from one to five recruits in which the department must send one captain. From six to ten recruits, the department must send two captains, and so on. The cost per RTO (captain) during the academy is \$87,965.12. The cost to send one recruit to the academy is \$36,173.53, with the total cost for both one recruit and one RTO (captain) being \$124,135.65. The cost per recruit and RTO (captain) does decrease when sending two – five recruits as the cost of the RTO is spread over multiple recruits.

VI. NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Chairperson Wilmes announced he will not be running for another term on the board. His seat is up for election this election year. He stated it was his opinion that board members and fire chiefs should not exceed eight years in their respective positions. This allows enough time to accomplish whatever they set out

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to do during their tenure. This also allows for “new eyes” to look at things from a new perspective.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Mayor LeVault said to keep up the good work and that he, along with three members of the Youngtown Council, will be re-running for election this year.

B. USCFFA Chapter Vice Chairperson Chris Marine reported that the union is still working with PFFA (Phoenix Fire Fighters Association) to work on new ways for funding fire districts. He reported that the Craig Tiger Act for mental health counseling is sunseting this year and they are working on renewing or extending the act. Additionally he reported that labor is working with senior staff on succession planning and will be presenting a new MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) this year.

VIII. NEXT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

A. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on February 24, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sun City Fire Department Community Room located at 18602 N. 99th Avenue Sun City, AZ.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Board member Charles Vickers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Board member David VanderNaalt seconded the motion. The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. (M: Charles Vickers/S: David VanderNaalt; Vote – Ayes: Tim Wilmes, Phil LaBarbera, David VanderNaalt, Phil Griswold Charles Vickers. Nays: None.)

FOR THE BOARD

Phil LaBarbera

Board Clerk

PL/lbn