



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE TOWN OF CAREFREE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 2021  
WHERE: VIA ZOOM \*  
TIME: 1:30 P.M.

*Members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee participated by technological or methods pursuant to §A.R.S. 38-431(4).*

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairperson - Leslie Hine  
Vice Chairperson - Philip Henn  
Sheila Amoroso  
Peter Burns  
Jerry Wetta  
Anton Wilke

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Scott Peterson  
Kim Taha

Chairperson Hine opened the meeting at 1:30 pm.

**AGENDA ITEM #1** Approval of the Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting minutes dated October 06, 2021 minutes.

Committee Member Burns **MOVED TO APPROVE** the minutes of the Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting dated October 06, 2021. **SECONDED** by Committee Member Amoroso. **CARRIED** unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #2** Committee Staff Updates

Committee Member Burns expressed frustration due to the lack of responsiveness from Rural Metro regarding his request back in September, asking for clarification of the Rural Metro call data.

Town Administrator Neiss and Chairperson Hine commended Town of Carefree Administrative Assistant, Carrie Carter for her support with the Public Safety Advisory Committee, posting agendas, taking minutes etc. and wished her the very best in her future endeavors.

**AGENDA ITEM #3** Review and discussion of PSAC Fire Service Recommendations

Chairperson Hine expressed the importance of the Committee articulating their recommendations, as they will help to form the presentation to Town Council.

Ms. Hine recapped details of the October 18, 2021, Cave Creek Town Council meeting regarding the presentation by a Consultant Economist that Cave Creek engaged, to provide an overview of the financing of their fire service. Those committee members who also attended (via zoom), provided relevant input.

Committee Member Amoroso was pleased to see that the Economist recommended to have a stable revenue source to meet the needs of a fixed cost. Being that the Town of Cave Creek is heavily reliant on sales tax, the Economist recommended they diversify their revenues to make sure they are protected in recessionary periods. To create a stable revenue source for the fire contract, he also recommended a property tax and discussed a combination of a sales tax and property tax. Concluding, a more stable revenue source should be part of the answer.

Committee member Burns added, it appeared that the Economist recommended funding of 50% sales tax and 50% property tax. Noting, that there is a contingent in Cave Creek committed to the opposition of a property tax. The opposing citizens would prefer to bond for all their one-time capital needed to purchase a fire station and acquire trucks and equipment. Mr. Burns added that there is hope in Cave Creek that within the next 3-5 years, they could extinguish their sewer bonds and their subsidy to the water utility which would free up general fund monies.

Chairperson Hine questioned if the engagement of an Economist Consultant in the Town of Carefree's process would be necessary and at what point would such expertise be useful?

Committee Member Wilke reminded the group that when the Town of Carefree made its presentation to Town Council regarding water, they brought in professional finance people as part of the presentation. Mr. Wilke felt that was very effective and important when convincing a constituency for a vote.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of public education and getting information out that's useful and complete to aid Carefree citizens in their own decision-making process.

Chairperson Hine presented via PowerPoint the Committee's "Working Draft In Progress Recommendation to Town Council. Exhibiting the groups evolving additions and revisions to the working draft document. The Committee provided additional edits to the draft recommendation, working toward a final recommendation to be presented to Town Council at a future date.

**AGENDA ITEM #4** Committee discussions/input on future fire service contract.

This item to be placed on a future agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM #5** Town Council presentation date, format, and future meeting dates.

Chairperson Hine expressed the importance of having a date confirmed for finalizing the recommendation document that will be presented to Town Council. Ms. Hine's initial

thinking was the Committee should be prepared with this to go before Town Council sometime in January 2022. Committee member Wetta asked Town Administrator Neiss when he needs to start negotiating with Rural Metro and how long can that wait? Town Administrator Neiss explained that a January date would be best, as it allows for the M.C.S.O discussion to take place and a picture of public safety in Carefree to be discussed at one time. Mr. Neiss believes it would be a healthier approach to layout the overall picture for the residents and Town Council so that they can see the picture holistically and make some of those policy decisions collectively rather than piecemeal. Town Administrator Neiss noted that this meeting would be a special session with Town Council outside of the regular session. Mr. Neiss suggested a Special Meeting date of Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. to have a Joint Session between Town Council and the Public Safety Advisory Committee and hopes to hold this meeting in person.

Chairperson Hine confirmed four (4) meeting dates prior to the January 11 ,2022 Special Meeting.

- Wednesday, November 03, 2021
- Wednesday, November 17, 2021
- Wednesday, December 01, 2021
- Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Ms. Hine expressed the importance of utilizing these four (4) meetings to build the framework for the recommendation presentation to Town Council.

Town Administrator Neiss noted that he will be meeting with Captain Brandimarte with M.C.S.O., who oversees the Town's district, on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. This meeting is to discuss their presentation to be made to the Public Safety Advisory Committee at either the November 03, 2021, or November 17, 2021, meeting.

Chairperson Hine asked for volunteers from the Committee, to form a small writing/design team to put together the outline of the recommendation to be presented to Town Council in January. Chairperson Hine, Committee member Amoroso and Town Administrator Neiss agreed to begin the work with the goal of having a fairly well populated report and presentation to share with the group by the December 15, 2021 Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting.

Chairperson Hine commended the Committee for all the hard work, contributions and dedication put forth, by consistently coming together and moving this whole process forward.

**AGENDA ITEM #6** Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.



Samantha Gesell, Planning Clerk