



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

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, June 9, 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).

Members of the committee participated in roll call.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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- Chairperson Leslie Hine
- Vice Chairperson Philip Henn
- Committee Member Sheila Amoroso
- Committee Member Peter Burns
- Committee Member Scott Peterson
- Committee Member Kim Taha
- Committee Member Jerry Wetta
- Committee Member Anton Wilke

None

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Brian Moore (Chairman of Daisy Mountain Fire District), Brian Tobin (Daisy Mountain Fire Director), Scottsdale Chief Tom Shannon, Rural Metro Fire Chief John Kratz, Connor Waite (Daisy Mountain Fire Department), Dan Jarrett, Dave, Dave Hamilton, David Maxwell, Delene, John Krajnak, Jon Binsbacher, Mark Robens, Matthew Woods, Scott Peterson, Steve, Travis Wood and additional members of the public

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Administrator, Gary Neiss; Town Clerk, Kandace French-Contreras and Administrative Assistant, Carrie Carter.

Call to Order: Committee Chairperson Leslie Hine called the meeting to order and introduced agenda item #1.

ITEM # 1: Approval of the minutes from the May 26th, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Committee member Alton Wilke **MOVED to APPROVE** with corrections. Committee Member Kim Taha **SECONDED** the motion. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

ITEM # 2: Presentation and discussion regarding the City of Scottsdale and Daisy Mountain Fire District.

Chief Brian Tobin presented a video highlighting the achievements and important milestones of the Phoenix Automatic Aid system. Adding, the Phoenix Automatic Aid is the second largest Fire Department in the US, and provides service to 28 jurisdictions across 4 counties.

Chief Tobin continued to explain the relevance and history of Enhanced Mutual Aid. The program was put in place in 1988 and allows the Rural Metro Fire Department to enter into the borders of Scottsdale and Phoenix in the Northeast portion of the Valley. Both Rural Metro and Automatic Aid units can be dispatched into these areas without prior approval. The program is a limited program and it is intended for the City of Scottsdale and the Rural Metro Fire Service to respond to limited mutual aid calls that occur within one mile or less from the Scottsdale boundary lines. This agreement was intend for specific areas and for single unit responses.

Chief Tobin explained why Rural Metro was not approved to join the Automatic Aid program. He said there are many requirements to participate in the automatic aid system. All members of the Automatic Aid must comply with the requirements. These requirements are put in place in efforts to protect the fire fighters. Some of these requirements include the dispatch system, training and officer standardization and consistency with equipment.

Chief Tobin explained the governance process for the fire program. The program is comprised of the Central Arizona Life Safety Council, the Regional Operations Consistency Committee, Regional Fire Fighter Training, One Regional Alarm Room Dispatch Center and the National Best Practice Stands and Benchmarks program.

Chief Tobin concluded his presentation and advised the Town of Carefree to follow the lead of Cave Creek and hire a consultant, to review Carefree's fire program and provide guidance for a future fire program.

Lastly, Chief Tobin asked the Safety Committee to reference the 2011 Fire Service Proposal for the Town of Carefree.

Chief Tobin opened his presentation to questions from the committee members and members of the public.

Committee Member Burns asked Chief Tobin if Daisy Mountain would be interested in a future fire service partnership with the Town of Carefree. Chief Tobin stated that Daisy Mountain Fire Department does not currently contract out fire services, but is proposing a contract option for the Town of Cave Creek as well as the Town of Carefree (if Carefree determines to pursue a contract with Daisy Mountain. Daisy Mountain is part of a district that is funded by property tax. He continued to explain that Daisy Mountain Fire District is an option, but would need to review a fair and equitable plan to fund a potential partnership.

Committee Member Burns asked Chief Tobin if Chief Ford assembled an estimated cost for staffing and the initial equipment fair estimates.

Chief Tobin agreed the cost estimates were fair.

Chief Shannon provided a brief overview of Scottsdale's fire department and provided insight on their efforts to join Automatic Aid in 2003. Scottsdale was able offer strong resources such as Scottsdale's radio infrastructure and a strong, tenured workforce.

Chief Shannon explained the greatest challenge for the Scottsdale Fire District is that 153 of the 280 Scottsdale Fire Staff are projected to retire or leave in the next 3 to 7 years. To overcome the staffing hurdle, the City of Scottsdale will need to recruit skilled and tenured staff. In addition, the departure of the staff will impact the City's Pension liability costs.

Chief Shannon opened the presentation and offered to answer questions from the committee.

Committee member Scott Peterson asked Chief Shannon what steps the City of Scottsdale took to fund the improvement projects to participate in the Automatic Aid Program.

Chief Shannon responded that the City of Scottsdale used contingency funds, such as capital improvement deferrals and contingency monies.

Mr. Peterson inquired how the City of Scottsdale will financially support the fire program, in the future.

Chief Shannon explained the fire service is not a revenue business. The City of Scottsdale had to move general funds and reprioritize money to staff and fund the fire department. The Scottsdale Fire Department has had their own capital improvement project as well as applying for considerations for general funds.

Scott Peterson asked Chief Shannon if the residents in the City of Scottsdale would consider a tax increase.

The Scottsdale Fire Chief Shannon explained that the City of Scottsdale needs to find a sustainable source of funding and prioritize future funding options.

Chairperson Hine asked what experience the City of Scottsdale has with contracting services to another town such as Carefree.

Chief Shannon explained that he would consider providing service to the Town of Carefree as an additional service area, with all the current services offered to the residents of Scottsdale. Such as all hazardous mitigation services, community education, prevention services, emergency call response, etc.

Chief Tobin also explained that Daisy Mountain may be uniquely qualified, because they service both incorporated communities and non-incorporated communities and fire service is all they do. Daisy Mountain specializes in all hazard emergencies, emergency operations, urban services and special operations.

Committee Member Burns asked Chief Shannon if Chief Ford's 2.4 million dollar cost estimate was a responsible estimate. Chief Shannon believes the City of Scottsdale would estimate 3.9 million per fire station. The 3.9 million dollar estimate includes a fully equipped fire station and is their budget is determined by the Scottsdale's Fire Department budget, divided by the number of Fire Stations with in the City of Scottsdale. A contracted rate with Carefree would presumably not include all of the costs being allocated for a typical in-house fire station. Scottsdale would like to further review the Carefree's assets and overhead cost to determine a more accurate figure.

Chief Shannon expanded on a previous question, would Scottsdale be interested in a partnership with Carefree. Chief Shannon explained that Scottsdale is not in the business of accruing new territories, but would be responsive if the Town of Carefree did not have any fire protection options. Chief Shannon explained that he would encourage Carefree and Cave Creek to review the best options and consider a single provider such as Daisy Mountain, Phoenix or Rural Metro.

Committee Member Burns asked Chief Shannon if Rural Metro staff would be required to exempt from the required training from the Phoenix Training Academies.

Chief Tom Shannon answered by saying that he could not commit to keep any employees who did not meet the training system.

Committee Member Taha asked, if there is a benefit for Carefree and Cave Creek together with a single partner. If so, what would the benefit be?

Chief Shannon replied by saying that he would encourage Carefree and Cave Creek to look for a singular solution due to location and synergy. Chief Tobin expressed that he too felt it is important for Carefree and Cave Creek to work together to provide a fire solution.

Chairperson Leslie Hine wrapped up the meeting by thanking both Chief Tobin and Chief Shannon.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:39 pm.

Carrie Carter, Administrative Assistant