

Meeting Minutes

Resident Bond Public Safety Subcommittee

Regular Meeting

November 13, 2024 | 4:30 p.m.
Chandler Fire Department
151 E Boston St., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Donovan at 4:32 p.m.

Roll Call

Subcommittee Attendance

Chair Trinity Donovan
Shannon Portillo
Cicely Rocha - Miller
Charles Schinke
Michael Simon
Nora Ellen
Bill Crawford

Staff Attendance

Thomas Dwiggin, Fire Chief
Keith Hargis, Assistant Fire Chief
Haley Bartosik, Fire Admin Manager

Action Agenda Item No. 1

1. October 9, 2024 Resident Bond Public Safety Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Move Resident Bond Public Safety Subcommittee approve the meeting minutes of the October 9, 2024, Regular Meeting.

Action Agenda Item No. 1 Motion and Vote

Subcommittee Member Simon moved to approve the meeting minutes of the October 9, 2024 Regular Meeting; Seconded by Subcommittee Member Rocha-Miller.

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Discussion

2. Fire Department Projects Presentation

CHAIR DONOVAN introduced the discussion item and called for a staff presentation.

KEITH HARGIS, Assistant Chief, gave the following presentation:

- Fire Department Projects

CHIEF HARGIS presents on Fire Station 284.

MICHAEL SIMON, Subcommittee Member, asked: Where would the new station go? In the interim, what is the timeline for the new station and how does it affect the stations in place? CHIEF HARGIS, Assistant Chief, advised that the Station 284 would require a phased-in approach to construction to keep it operational during the building process. The station will keep the same general layout as Station 282 but condensed due to the space available. The estimated timeline is approximately two years from design selection to move-in date.

MICHAEL SIMON asked: What changes would be made compared to Station 282 and would these changes adjust the timeline? CHIEF HARGIS advised that any changes would be small in nature and would involve contractor or design team improvements.

CHAIR DONOVAN asked: What does it look like in terms of the priority for this project? THOMAS DWIGGINS, Fire Chief – The project is currently identified in the CIP and is five years out for design and six years out for building. As Fire Chief, this is priority number one due to the facility's age and repairs needed.

SHANNON PORTILLO, Subcommittee Member asked for a clarification on the process and if Trinity, Subcommittee's Chair, represents the subcommittee's prioritization of projects. CHAIR DONOVAN – Yes, the prioritization of projects from the committee will be represented to the Steering Committee.

MICHAEL SIMON – Would this allow for an additional truck and where would that come from? CHIEF DWIGGINS – Previously, the City did not build for expansion as fire stations were built and we now project for population increases and include the number of bays based on future demands. This will allow for trucks to be moved to locations that now have the space.

CHIEF HARGIS presents on Station 2812.

SHANNON PORTILLO – Why do we use the word “district” internally when we use District 28 regionally? CHIEF HARGIS – There is a lot of different terminology; some cities use fire protection zones to refer to their geographical districts they are responsible for, but the District 28 nomenclature refers to the regional district.

CHIEF HARGIS presents on Emergency Vehicle Replacement including Special Operations Vehicles, Water Tender, Fire Engines, and Aerial Ladders.

CHARLES SCHINKE, Subcommittee Member – How many vehicles are we looking to replace in this cycle? CHIEF HARGIS – In the 10 year cycle, we will replace nearly every apparatus aside from three ladders replaced in 2019. CHIEF DWIGGINS – The topic of costs tripling for vehicles is also a topic of discussion, as many communities may not be able to withstand these increases. There is a commitment to continue to attempt to reduce costs of trucks moving forward. CHIEF HARGIS – We also use cooperatives to try and obtain standard pricing, which can come at the loss of flexibility.

CICELY ROCHA-MILLER, Subcommittee Member – What is the long-term plan for the ambulances? CHIEF HARGIS – The ambulances will be funded through an enterprise fund that will be self-sustaining. The initial capital investment will be from the City to fund the purchase of ambulances, staffing, and equipment. A capital replacement fund is included in the projections, as well.

NORA ELLEN, Subcommittee Member – Do we charge residents to use the ambulances? CHIEF HARGIS – The individuals using the ambulance service are charged. Ambulance costs are determined by a standard regional rate set by the state so Chandler will participate in the same regional rate that is utilized by many jurisdictions currently.

MICHAEL SIMON – How do the ambulances affect manpower? CHIEF DWIGGINS – The Department will add 27 firefighters and is planning to start Academy in January of 2026 for graduation in 2027.

CHAIR DONOVAN – In thinking of insurance negotiations, the benefit of a regional rate is that they lose the ability to get ambulance service everywhere if they choose not to go with the standardized rate.

CHIEF DWIGGINS – EMTALA laws require service no matter insurance status. The Department of Health Services sets the regional rate and one of the values is that when Phoenix wants to raise the rate, it will remain consistent amongst municipalities. This also provides Council the authority to reduce rates if we change from regional standard.

CHARLES SCHINKE – Would Station 2812 receive brand new equipment? CHIEF HARGIS: Yes.

CHAIR DONOVAN – Is the equipment included in the construction price? CHIEF HARGIS: Equipment and engines are included in the cost.

CICELY ROCHA-MILLER – Would you say that the city will eventually continue to grow in terms of demanding another station? CHIEF DWIGGINS – Yes, Chandler is going to continue building up, and we expect to see that continue and as population density rises, so does call volume. Call type

is also changing – behavioral health is becoming more common than previously typical calls and it is likely we would eventually need another station or another ladder or engine.

CHIEF HARGIS presents on Public Safety Training Center Building A Remodel and Fire Fleet Building.

CHAIR DONOVAN – Was there a range of likelihood of what might pass in a bond for you to request? As we think about prioritization, what are you anticipating in terms of all being likely to go in the bond? CHIEF DWIGGINS – Everything in here would be in this bond. There were other projects that we wanted to see in the bond, but they were not in the top priority.

MICHAEL SIMON – How far out do you start looking at tasks that did not make the list? CHIEF DWIGGINS – For example, we wanted to put portable bays to house reserve trucks and strategically place them throughout the city. It won't hurt service without them, but they would be an enhancement. CHIEF HARGIS – Other projects that do not have as large of dollar amounts are financed through general fund, as well.

CHAIR DONOVAN – All Subcommittee members will prioritize projects individually. The Subcommittee does have the option to recommend that the bond question goes out for public safety or can recommend separate questions. The next meeting will be to confirm the prioritization of public safety projects.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

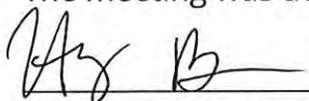
Calendar

The next Resident Bond Public Safety Subcommittee meeting date is December 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chandler Fire Department, 151 E. Boston Street, Chandler, AZ 85225.

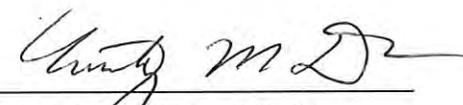
Adjourn

NORA ELLEN motioned to adjourn, and CICELY ROCHA-MILLER seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.



Haley Bartosik, Secretary



Trinity Donovan, Chair