

GCIFD Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2024

The Gilbert County Island Fire District (GCIFD) governing board met in a properly posted open public meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. The meeting was held at the Southeast Regional Library – Twain Meeting Room, 775 N. Greenfield Road, Gilbert, AZ

The following agenda items were considered at the meeting:

- A. The meeting of the GCIFD board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Biggs.
- B. Chair Biggs led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.
- C. Roll Call: Chair Biggs and Members Cazden, Farnsworth, and Payne were in attendance. (Absent – Mejia)
Chief Duggan - Gilbert Fire Chief, Kelly Vaughn – Administrator, John Flynn – Fire Consultant and James Candland – Fire Lobbyist were also in attendance.

Item 1: Review and approval of the governing board meeting minutes of March 12, 2024 (GCIFD #24-010):

Motion by Farnsworth / 2nd Cazden: Approve the minutes of March 12, 2024 as presented; Passed 4-0. (Absent – Mejia)

Item 2: Report from Fire Chief regarding the provision of fire and EMS to GCIFD, including but not limited to the following items (GCIFD #24-n/a):

- a) Monthly response and service report: Fire Chief Duggan presented the information from the March and April 2024 response reports (included in board packet). Chief Duggan answered general questions from the board regarding information within the response reports. There were two significant fires over the last two months.

Discussion only – no action taken.

Item 3: Call to the Public: None.

Item 4: Consideration of district financial matters:

- a) Review of monthly financial reports: March and April 2024 (GCIFD #24-011):

The March reconciled finance reports from Maricopa County were presented and reviewed by Administrative Manager Vaughn, as were the monthly financial reports prepared by the district CPA (finance reports included in the board packet). The April financials will be available at the next regularly scheduled meeting in July.

Motion by Payne / 2nd by Farnsworth: To approve the March financial reports as presented; Passed 4-0. (Absent – Mejia)

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b) Review of invoices / payables and authorization for payment (GCIFD #24-012):

The invoices were presented and there was a request for payment for the following (included in board packet for March and April) PolicyLogic, LLC (\$1,933.38); Angela Bertram, CPA (\$175) Town of Gilbert – 2nd half of contract services (\$522,492.50).

Motion by Payne/ 2nd by Farnsworth: To approve the invoices as presented for payment; Passed 4-0. (Absent – Mejia)

Item 5: Review and discussion of Qasimyar v Maricopa County tax classification lawsuit and court ordered refund. (GCIFD #24-013).

The court ordered judgement will require the GCIFD to take several actions as specified by law. Judgements requiring tax refunds are required to be paid in the next fiscal year (ARS 42-16214 Tax Refunds)

- The law specifies how each taxing agency accounts for the judgement within their budget. We'll prepare the GCIFD Tentative Budget for FY24/25 to delineate the tax refund amount.
- The GCIFD has a tax refund liability in the amount of \$38,682 (direct levy) and \$1,165 (fire district assistance tax / FDAT) for an estimated total of \$39,847 (FDAT to be verified by Maricopa County).
- The judgement amounts include court ordered interest of 8% calculated through February 2024. The remaining additional interest accrued from February 2024 to the actual payment date will be calculated by Maricopa County.

More information will become available as the county works out how the refund will be paid back.

Discussion only - No action taken.

Item 6: Consideration of establishing a tentative revenue and expenditure budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 pursuant to A.R.S. §48-853; declaring such for publishing and public notice; and setting July 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. local time for a public hearing prior to adoption (GCIFD #24-014).

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Consultant discussed the proposed budget for FY 24/25, discussed the Town of Gilbert's fire district cost formula and answered general questions from the board regarding the budget. The contract cost with the Town of Gilbert went up slightly from \$1,044,985 in FY23/24 to \$1,053,450 in FY 24/25. The tax rate should stay relatively the same.

Motion by Farnsworth/ 2nd by Cazden: Consideration of establishing a tentative revenue and expenditure budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 pursuant to A.R.S. §48-853; declaring such for publishing and public notice; and setting July 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. local time for a public hearing prior to adoption; Passed 4-0. (Absent – Mejia)

Item 7: Consideration of noticing the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and the Maricopa County Elections Department the district will call for an election of board members on November 5, 2024 pursuant to ARS §48-852 and ARS §16-226.A; will use the Maricopa County Elections Department to conduct the election; and to direct staff to facilitate compliance with ARS §16-227, ARS §16-228 and ARS §16-229 as required for the election of district board members (GCIFD #24-015).

Administrative Manager Vaughn discussed the upcoming election and answered general questions from the board regarding the election. There are three board member positions that are up for reelection, Cindy Biggs, Carlos Mejia and Julie Farnsworth. All signatures must be in by Monday, July 8th. A minimum of 14 signatures are required.

Motion by Payne/ 2nd by Farnsworth: Consideration of noticing the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and the Maricopa County Elections Department the district will call for an election of board members on November 5, 2024 pursuant to ARS §48-852 and ARS §16-226.A; will use the Maricopa County Elections Department to conduct the election; and to direct staff to facilitate compliance with ARS §16-227, ARS §16-228 and ARS §16-229 as required for the election of district board members; Passed 4-0. (Absent – Mejia)

Item 8: Review and approval of legal services addendum for Nicolas J. Cornelius, Esq. on behalf of the Law Office of Nicolas J. Cornelius, PLLC. (GCIFD #24-016).

The board received the addendum for Nicolas J. Cornelius, Esq. His hourly rate increased from \$225/hr to \$285/hr. He will need the addendum reviewed and approved prior to reviewing the IGA between the Town of Gilbert and the GCIFD.

Motion by Payne / 2nd by Farnsworth: To approve the legal services addendum for Nicolas J. Cornelius, Esq. on behalf of the Law Office of Nicolas J. Cornelius, PLLC; Passed 4-0. (Absent – Mejia)

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Item 9: Consideration of items for the agenda of the Gilbert County Island Fire District’s next regularly scheduled meeting (July 9, 2024) and or a special meeting called by the governing board for the purpose of carrying out its powers and duties (GCIFD #24-017):

- Standard agenda items
- Budget Adoption
- Qasimyar Payment Update
- IGA Renewal

Item 10: Announcements:

None

Item 11: Adjourn: Motion by Cazden / 2nd by Farnsworth: To adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.; Passed 4-0. (Absent – Mejia)

Minutes Approved GCIFD: July 9, 2024.

C. Biggs, Board Chair

C. Mejia, Board Clerk

L. Cazden, Board Member

J. Farnsworth, Board Member

L. Payne, Board Member