



Approved
May 12th, 2021

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

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

WHERE: VIA ZOOM ONLINE*

TIME: 12:30 P.M.

SILENT ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheila Amoroso
Peter Burns
Philip Henn
Leslie Hine
Scott Peterson
Kim Taha
Jerry Wetta – Joined at 12:34
Anton Wilke

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Neiss (Town Administer)
Samantha Gesell (Zoning Clerk)
Carrie Carter (Receptionist)
Kandace French Joined at 12:53 (Town Clerk)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Not Applicable

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

Call to Order: Gary Neiss, Town Administer, 8 Sundial Circle, Carefree AZ

Committee members reviewed the rules of the public body (Code of Conduct, Open Meeting Laws, Robert Rules and communication).

Mr. Neiss acknowledge and thanked all committee members for signing the code of ethics. He then continued to explain the history and relevance of the Code of Ethics.

Mr. Neiss discussed the Open Meeting Policy. He explained that Open Meeting occur any time a committee is approved by the Town Council. It is the responsibility of the committee members that a quorum does not meet outside of the posted public meeting forum. The advisory committee has eight committee members so more than four may not meet to discuss issues before the Committee.

Open the floor for questions and concerns.

ITEM 1: Introductions
Exhibit 1.4

Newly appointed Committee members discussed career accomplishments, personal successes and areas of expertise. Collectively, committee members demonstrate extensive knowledge in the following areas (but are not limited to): Finance, Health Services, Local and State Government, Non-Profit, Real Estate, and Retail Management. Skill sets include Project Management, Strategic Analysis, Tax reform, Contract and Bonds.

Mr. Neiss closed introductions by acknowledging that the committee is made up of a diverse group of talent, with various experiences. These experiences will help cultivate better financial solutions. He continued to explain that it is unnecessary for committee members to be experts in fire and emergency services, but their knowledge and involvement in business world will be a common element throughout the process.

ITEM 2: Appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
Exhibit 1.5

Mr. Neiss transitioned to next agenda item: the appointment of the Public Safety Chairperson. He outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Public Safety Chairperson. This role would act as the “captain of the ship,” and will help lead the discussions, cultivate the ideas and decision points of the committee. Mr. Neiss would take the lead in writing the reports for the group. After a summary of the role description, Leslie Hines was prompted to volunteer as the Committee Chairperson. Peter Burns made a **motion** to appoint **Leslie Hine** as **Chairperson**. There was a **second** motion by Aton Wilke. The motion was carried **unanimously** with an **8-0 vote**.

Town Administrator, (Gary Neiss) introduced the role and responsibilities of the Vice Chairperson. This person would sit in place of the Chair’s absence. Committee Member **Philip Henn** offered his services as the **Vice Chairman** of the Public Safety Member. Peter Burns moved to **Motion**. The motion was **second** by Committee Member Kim Taha.

The motion was carried **unanimously** with an 8-0 vote.

ITEM 3: Discussion and possible action defining the Purpose and Goals of the Committee
Exhibit 1.6

Committee purpose will be to evaluate current and future levels of public safety service within the following areas: (1) Fire & Emergency Services (2) Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO).

Goal of the committee will be to review and recommend solutions for the Fire & Emergency Services and the Maricopa County Sherriff’s Department.

Goal One: Fire & Emergency Services

Mr. Neiss explained that there are external pressures for the Town of Carefree to join Automatic Aide. These pressures include the expiration of a ten year master contract with Rural Metro. The contract is

scheduled to expire June of 2022. Additionally, the Town of Cave Creek has been exploring the possibility of transitioning to automatic aide. Currently Rural Metro does not participate in automatic aide services. As a result the Town of Cave Creek will be required to seek out an entity that offers automatic aide services.

The Committee will participate in future presentations. These presentations will help define automatic aide, the steps are needed to join an automatic aide program; and lastly what are the cost and benefits associated with Automatic Aid?

Goal Two: Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Neiss explained that the Maricopa Sheriff's Department offers the most cost effective option to the Town of Carefree. At one point the Town of Carefree explored alternatives to the MCSO. Upon review, it was determined that Scottsdale was the only viable option; but a partnership with Scottsdale would be costly and Town of Carefree would not have control over policies created by Scottsdale. For these reasons it was determined that a partnership would not practical for the Town of Carefree. Therefore the Committee will not look to replace MCSO, but instead focus on how the Town will enhance the level of services from the MCSO?

The committee will be tasked with exploring options to proactively engage the community and better understand what the level of service residents expect for the Town.

Upon the conclusion of the MCSO overview, Mr. Neiss asked the committee members if anyone had questions regarding the conversion points. All questions from the panel were answered.

ITEM 4: Discussion and possible action establishing future agenda items and presentations **Exhibit 1.8**

Mr. Neiss explained that the current predicament caused by the Town of Cave Creek, has created an immediate need to present fire protection solutions to the Carefree Town Council (as easily as September and or October). MCSO can be pushed out to December or January.

Mr. Neiss asked the committee members if anyone had any concerns or objections surrounding timeline recommendation. All committee members agreed with the time line.

Mr. Neiss introduced future meeting topics and outlined future presenters (such as Scottsdale, Daisy Mountain and Rural Metro).

Committee members requested additional resources to help formulate a there decision making and provide better more context surrounding the future topics. Some areas would include: a comparison of services from neighboring towns, the rate of response, and the level of service. Mr. Neiss committed to provide additional information to help guide the decision process.

ITEM 5: Discussion and possible action establishing future meeting schedule

Exhibit 1.9

Mr. Neiss laid the ground work for future meeting times, by asking members for scheduling recommendations, meeting frequency, and to consider if meeting held in person or via zoom. Mr. Neiss asked for meeting recommendations from the committee members. After conversing, the committee decided to have Gary Neiss send an email to all participants. All committee members will respond to the email with their meeting preferences.

ITEM 6: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:01pm.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2021.

Prepared By: Carrie Carter
April 8, 2021

Dated this 7th day of