



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

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, June 16TH, 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).

SILENT ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson - Leslie Hine

Sheila Amoroso

Peter Burns

Scott Peterson

Kim Taha

Jerry Wetta

Anton Wilke

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Chairperson - Philip Henn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Shawn Gilleland, Neil Pavlov, Ryan Travis, Mayor Peterson, Chief Brain Tobin, Dave Hamilton, David Moore, David Maxwell, Dan Jarrett, Eugene Lindsay, John Krajnak, Dave Neilson, Pete Gorraiz, Dave Wilson, Mark Robens, and additional members of the public 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 Chair Leslie Hine, Town Administer, 8 Sundial Circle, Carefree AZ

Agenda Item One: Approval of the Public Safety Committee Minutes from the May 26th, 2021. Chairperson Hine asked the committee to identify any edits. Committee Member Wilke pointed out that page four should read “who did not.”

Chairperson Hine recommended verbiage which states, Daisy Mountain has not previously contracted fire services with Towns and or entities, whoever with Cave Creek’s new proposal Daisy Mountain would consider contracting fire services to Cave Creek and Carefree (if Carefree decides to peruse that route). Additionally Hine requested to include language that the \$3.9 million was a rough allocation of Scottsdale Fire Department budget, divided by the number of Scottsdale fire stations. If Scottsdale and Carefree decides to partner with one another, the contracted rate may not include all

Committee Member Taha **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the June 9th Minutes subject to approved changes. **SECONDED** by Committee Member Wilke. The motion was **APPROVED** unanimously.

Agenda Item Two: Presentation by Rural Metro

Shawn Gilleland is the Public Information Officer for the Rural Metro Fire Department; Brian Davis is the Western State - Fire Chief and lastly Brian Gilbert is the AZ State, Fire Chief.

Shawn explained the history of the Rural Metro Fire Department. This fire department has been serving the Town of Carefree since 1969. Rural Metro has 13 full stations, 196 full time employees and 12 Fire Chiefs. The Carefree Fire Engine has custom features which help service the day to day operations of a rural terrain and desert wildlands.

Mr. Gilleland explained the day to day activities of the Rural Metro Fire Station. These activities include, but are not limited to: emergency medical response, training, maintaining equipment, mountain and river crossings rescue, fire prevention activities, CPR training for the communities, safety surveys, and fire hydrant inspections.

The Rural Metro Fire engine is staffed with 3 personnel and a minimum of one certified Paramedic and 2 fire fighters. It is at the discretion of the Town to determine how many fire personnel should be present during an emergency response. Officer Shawn Gilleland explained he training is the same material, using the same books, same codes as any other fire personnel.

Officer Shawn Gilleland, reviewed Rural Metro statistics. From 2019 to 2020, Rural Metro’s average response time was 3 minutes and 12 seconds. Overall between the years 2018-2020 the Town of Carefree had a total of 1173 calls. The majority of these emergency service calls encompassed medical 59% medical services, fire and medical alarms (16%) and snake removals (16%). Brush fires made up 1.2% of calls and commercial fires in 2018-2020

comprised of zero calls. Many of the medical services are made up of personal medical emergency, such as chest pains, drug interactions, surgery recovery, strokes, etc.

Mr. Gilleland answered multiple questions pertaining to emergency response:

What was the number of times a brush truck was needed in response to an emergency call?

The response was the brush truck was utilized in all brush fire emergencies (1.2%).

How would Rural Metro categorize the level of activity at the Carefree Fire Station? Brian Gilbert categorized Carefree as a low to medium fire station.

Committee Chair, Leslie Hine asks how many total response calls out side of Carefree. The Carefree fire engine 821 responds to roughly 25,000-27,000 calls per year.

Peter Burns requested statistically data demonstrating quarterly and monthly fire dispatch service trends with in the last 3 years.

Committee Member Taha asked is there an impediment in Carefree that makes emergency services difficult to address. Brian Gilbert explained that Carefree has similar obstacles as other communities. One major benefit of Carefree is the tenure of the staff and geographic knowledge of the area.

Shawn Gilleland continued the presentation by explaining Carefree's Mutual Aid Request. In the course of about 4 years, the Town of Carefree requested 7 mutual aid calls. Of the 7 calls, 2 were cancelled, prior to the arrival of the mutual aid unit.

Under the current Rural Metro contract with Carefree, Rural Metro maintains the town owned apparatus and equipment. If the fire engine is out of service, Rural Metro supplies Carefree with a replacement fire truck. Captain Travis has effectively saved the Town of Carefree over \$225,000 through grants for fire safety equipment.

With the conclusion of the presentation, Chairperson Leslie Hine transitioned the meeting into a question and answer forum.

Town Administrator Neiss asked, what happens if Cave Creek decides to enter an agreement with Daisy Mountain and join automatic aid? What happens if the fire house in Cave Creek? What are the financial implications of Carefree supporting a second fire house from Rural Metro? The response from Brian Gilbert was that Rural Metro is committed to keep the fire station in the Town of Cave Creek and will remain in place to serve the unincorporated residents of Cave Creek. Mr. Neiss asked, what is the possibility of the Rural Metro lease expiring in the Town of Cave Creek? Is there a possibility that Rural Metro relocates if the lease expires? Rural Metro started dialogue with the owner of the Cave Creek fire house to discuss a long term lease or the possibility of Rural Metro potentially purchasing the fire station.

Fire Chief Brian Gilbert explained that the mutual aid process is a standard practice throughout the nation. The Mutual Aid standard is managed by the AZ Fire Chief. Rural Metro is not a member of Automatic Aid because they are a private company.

Committee Member Wetta – Asked if the Town of Cave Creek is mentioned in the contract between Rural Metro and Rural Metro. The response from Chief Gilbert was – no. Rural Metro serves areas that do not have access to fire services. Rural metro has determined now to provide fire services to communities on a voluntary subscription basis in all communities (with the exception of Carefree). Generally less than half of the community participates in the voluntarily based subscription process. Low subscription levels results in fewer resources for

Rural Metro. Rural Metro will also respond to a call whether or not the caller part takes in the subscription process.

Committee Member Scott Peterson, asked what the average subscription cost is for an average home owner? Chief Gilbert responded with \$550.00, and it is based on the square footage of a home.

Committee Member Amoroso asked if Rural Metro provided 401k's or pensions to the Rural Metro personnel. Chief Gilbert responded that 401ks are provided.

Committee Member Wetta asked what the current life span of the current fire apparatus is? Chief Gilbert explained that the average life expectancy is 10 to 15 years. There is a need to consider replacing Carefree's Fire Truck. Town Administrator Gary Neiss explained that the Fire Engine is an American La France product. American La France went out of business, making it difficult to find parts for the fire truck. The Town of Carefree will need to replace the fire truck with in one to two years.

Jerry Wetta asked, what is the price range of a new fire truck? Chief Gilbert stated that specs for new units are \$400,000. It will cost an additional \$30,000 to \$40,000 to fully equip a fire truck.

Mr. Neiss responded, stating that Carefree's specs were based on the unique needs the community which would cost about \$525,000.

Committee Member Peterson asked why was Rural Metro not approved to participate in Automatic Aid? Chief Gilbert is a private practice that has the ability to provide emergency service at a more economic cost. Rural Metro would be interested in participating in Automatic Aid, as a private entity Rural Metro will not be able to participate in the program.

Committee Member Burns asked if there is a formal measurement to calculate customer satisfaction. Chief Gilbert explained that there isn't a formal measurement, but Rural Metro gauges customer satisfaction based on subscription services.

Mr. Burns asked how Rural Metro measures the emergency response time. The 3 minute and 19 second measurement starts when the fire house hears the bell to the time the fire apparatus is on the emergency site.

Committee Member Burns reviewed the 10 year contract for between Rural Metro and Carefree is \$1.5 million. Mr. Burns asked if the same level of service would be offered at the same rate, if Carefree renews the contract. Chief Gilbert explained that Rural Metro has exceptional fire fighters, and should be properly compensated for the services that they provide.

CHine wrapped up the meeting. Town Administrator Gary Neiss offered to send out a series of questions to the committee members, which will create a foundation for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.