REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT BOARD
Wednesday, April 29 2026, 6:30 PM
98 N. Oak Drive Benson, AZ 85602
Minutes

Call to Order 6:31 pm

Roll Call:

Dana Law Present, Debi Wise Present**,** Sonja Salcido Present, Wade Temple Present, William Clowers Present**,** Chief Nied Present.

A quorum is present.

Item 1: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Item 2: **BOARD COMMENTS//CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Board member comments:
Clerk Wise welcomed and facilitated introductions of the following:

St. David Fire District Board and Fire Fighters in attendance:

Katie Miller Chair, Robin Goodman Board member, Jeff Grant Board member. Chief Andrew Krebs, Captain Alycia Babich, Fire Fighter and District Financials Alex Pope, and Fire Fighter Aiden McCartha.

Special guests in attendance:

Dr. Kane Nixon AZ Fire and Medical Authority, Mary Dalton Executive Director of AZ Fire District Association and retired Assistant Chief of AZ Fire and Medical Authority, and Cathy Traywick Cochise County Treasurer,

Special Guests attending online:
Jeff Matura of Barrett and Matura the Mescal J6 FD Legal Counsel, Elizabeth Riopel from Municipal Accounts and Consulting the Mescal J6 accounting team and Lora Loewenheim Clerk of the Board for the Cochise County Board of Supervisors.

Mescal J6 District Board and Fire Fighters in attendance:
Dana Law Board Chair, Debi Wise Board Clerk, Wade Temple Board Member, Sonja Salcido Board member, and Will Clowers board member. Chief Nied and Mescal J6 Fire Fighters: Captain Josh Olander, and Ben Brewer.

Call to the Public:
Bob Murray submitted his request to speak on the sign-up sheet and addressed the board concerning the approved policy addressing documentation submitted to the board, the (proposed) budget, and the merger.

Mary McCool submitted her request to speak on the sign-up sheet and addressed the board concerning the proposed budget, approved policy addressing documentation submitted to the board, her FOIA requests from St. David Fire District.

No action taken.

Item 3: **APPROVED MINUTES:**
Approved the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting March 25, 2026 and Special Meeting April 15, 2026

Motion to approve the minutes of March 25, 2026 and April 15, 2026 minutes made by Debi Wise; 2nd Sonja Salcido
Discussion: Wade Temple sought clarification on the monthly versus YTD amounts paid to the District attorney.

Vote: Wade Temple Yes, Sonja Salcido Yes, Dana Law Yes, William Clowers Yes, Debi Wise Yes.

Item 4: **APPROVED FINANCIAL REPORT**
Approved the March 2026 Financial Reports, as prepared by Elizabeth Riopel of Municipal Accounts & Consulting

Motion to approve the March 2026 Financial Report made by Debi Wise; 2nd Wade Temple
No discussion.

Vote: Wade Temple Yes, Sonja Salcido Yes, Dana Law Yes, William Clowers Yes, Debi Wise Yes.

Item 5: **PRESENTATION:**
Approved FY26/27 proposed budget as presented by Elizabeth Riopel of Municipal Accounts and Consulting.

Motion to approve the proposed FY 26/27 proposed budget made by Debi Wise; 2nd Wade Temple
Discussion: Debi Wise sought clarification on proposed line-item changes for dispatch fees, and training and prevention which Chief Nied addressed. Chief Nied also provided clarification on the line-item changes that will allow for the hire of another full-time fire fighter, Workman's Comp changes, and grants. Wade Temple sought clarification on the replacement of turn-outs. Chief Nied provided clarification. Chairman Law asked about the replacement of the auditors. Chief Nied and Elizabeth Riopel provided clarification.

Cathy Traywick asked that money not be spent until grant money is in hand. Wade Temple asked about the procedure for budget changes. Cathy Traywick provided clarification. Debi Wise asked about the formatting as compared to the state forms. Elizabeth Riopel provided clarification.

Vote: Wade Temple Yes, Sonja Salcido Yes, Dana Law Yes, William Clowers Yes, Debi Wise Yes.

Item 6: **PRESENTATION:**

Approved to enter joint feasibility study for future merger with St. David Fire District as presented by Dr. Kane Nixon and Mary Dalton.

Presentation and Discussion:
Katie Miller stated that the tax base in Arizona only owns 13% of the land the rest being state and federally owned. Cathy Traywick stated the challenges of the many tax exemptions given to various people. Debi Wise asked about election terms for board members up for re-election.

Chairman Law opened question and answer session for Fire District Board members and fire fighters of both Districts.
Katie Miller asked about the process and what to expect next, and expressed the need for the merger to be a win-win for both districts. Kane Nixon provided clarification.
Katie Miller asked about board meeting accessibility.

Chairman Law opened question and answer session for public questions:
Discussion:
Mary McCool asked about process. Mary Dalton provided clarification.
Bruce Andrews asked about process. Mary Dalton provided clarification.
Bruce Andrews asked about borders, size of Districts, and numbers of mergers. Mary Dalton and Kane Nixon provided clarification.
A San Simon resident asked about medicine distribution and current challenges. Mary Dalton provided clarification from the legislative side.
Bruce Andrews asked about the timeframe of the feasibility study. Mary Dalton said it should take a couple of months.

Question and answer session was closed.

Chairman Law stated that the feasibility study would cost St. David $2,000, which they have already approved, and cost the Mescal J6 Fire District $3,000.

Motion to approve entering into a joint merger feasibility study made by Debi Wise; 2nd William Clowers
No further discussion.

Vote: Wade Temple Yes, Sonja Salcido Yes, Dana Law Yes, William Clowers Yes, Debi Wise Yes.

Item 7: **CHIEF'S REPORT**
Update on District operations.
No action taken

Item 8: **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**
Next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be May 27, ,2026.

Item 9: **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):**
None brought forth.

Item 10: **ADJOURN**
Motion to adjourn William Clowers; 2nd Wade Temple

Vote: Wade Temple Yes, Sonja Salcido Yes, Dana Law Yes, William Clowers Yes, Debi Wise Yes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM

Minutes compiled and submitted by:
Deborah Wise
Mescal J6 Fire District Board Clerk