



**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT BOARD**

Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 6:30 PM

98 N. Oak Drive Benson, AZ 85602

Minutes

Call to Order 6:34 pm

Roll Call:

Chairman Dana Law Present
Clerk Debi Wise Present
Sonja Salcido Present (telephonically)
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:

Chairman Law:

1. North of the tracks outcry over perceived water issues has been addressed by the District and has never been brought up before until this election year.
2. 1800 gallons of water puts out a typical house fire.
3. 1% of calls are on the North side of the tracks.
4. RR blockages on Mescal Rd. are handled by calling the Union Pacific direct line that goes to the conductor.
5. Mitchell Culp accompanied the District staff and all available known options were assessed and deemed unacceptable for District equipment to utilize.
6. On available back roads to N of the Tracks, only the type 6 apparatus will make it. Tenders will not.
7. Proper clean water sources are imperative as the Fire District's equipment are not set up to use unclean sources. Such water will damage the District's equipment.
8. Challengers focus on North of the tracks. Other areas of the District have I-10 issues.



9. The perceived access problems have to be addressed by the community, to appropriate state agencies, not the District.
10. Jake Kartchner has land North of the tracks he has indicated he would allow tanks to occupy. Work is needed to be viable. A use permit would be required afterwards.
11. Recently decommissioned water tender that sat at Owen Kieley's property (for approximately 12 years) was never once called out to assist for a fire, including the brush fire in Kieley's own area.
12. Owen Keiley owes the District an apology for saying the District let a house burn down. The issue was not with the District, but was with dispatch used at the time. District responded as soon as it received the call, approximately 20 minutes later.
13. The misinformation that is being spread throughout the community needs to stop.
14. Mike Nervik resigned from the Board. He was removed from the Strategic Planning Committee after he made it known that he did not like Captain Olander. The Strategic Planning Company said absolutely no animosity. Everyone had to be able to 100% speak freely. Nervik was replaced with Board member Wade Temple by Chairman Law.
15. Bruce Andrews has resigned from the District multiple times, once from the Board and twice as a volunteer.
16. Mike Nervik made false statements about the 2 companies who were in competition with each other, who came out to evaluate existing properties for no money, and assessed that none of the District's properties will work for a new station. Nervik claimed they were the same company.
17. Reiterated that water availability is not a problem. Getting to emergencies within the District is more the problem.

Call to the Public:

1. Mitch Culp submitted his request to speak on the sign-up sheet and addressed the board concerning his looking into the paid property taxes of everyone on the board. Culp stated Chairman Law owed taxes to the District, and attacked Chairman Law's ability to be the Chairman of the Board. Chairman Law responded that he did not think it was true that he owed taxes. Culp thanked the Captain and Chief for driving around with him assessing N. of the tracks and responding to an emergency N. of the tracks. Culp then stated he was a professional drone operator and had flown his drone over an individual's property, who has offered assistance to the Fire District. Culp stated the name of the individual. (the name will be omitted in these minutes, as the individual has previously asked the District that the name not be used in a public manner).
2. Mary McCool submitted her request to speak on the sign-up sheet and addressed the board concerning District financial process, and redactions on public records requests. McCool's concern was later clarified by the District CPA during Item 4 Financial discussion.



3. Owen Kieley submitted his request to speak on the sign-up sheet and addressed the board concerning the brush fire by his house. Former Chief Moran did not request extra water. Keiley then went on to challenge Deborah Wise's comments/rebuttals on social media concerning Keiley's status with the District. Wise stated that Keiley's comments were unsubstantiated during internal review.

No action taken.

Item 3: APPROVED MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of July 29, 2026 and August 5, 2026 made by Debi Wise; seconded by Will Clowers.

Discussion:

Debi Wise stated that under the agenda item for Approval of Minutes, the agenda lists the draft minutes of the July 29, 2026 regular meeting. In addition, the draft minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 5, 2026 were prepared and are available but were inadvertently omitted from the agenda listing. Both sets of minutes are properly before the Board under this agenda item.

Change the date on the minutes from "July 25" to "July 29".

Vote:

Wade Temple Yes

Sonja Salcido Yes

William Clowers Yes

Debi Wise Yes

Dana Law Yes

Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting for July 29, 2026 and the Special meeting of August 5, 2026.

Item 4: APPROVED FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion to approve the financial report of June and July 2026 made by Wade Temple; 2nd Will Clowers.

Discussion.

Debi Wise asked Natalie of Municipal Accounts and Consulting, if the Board had approved the approximate transfer to reserve when the Board approved the budget. Natalie confirmed it had. Natalie addressed a firm-wide policy change, across 5 offices, that will no longer service accounts that use QuickBooks. A termination per the contract, was regrettably sent to the Mescal J6 Fire District. This gives the District a 60-day notice to secure another CPA. Natalie stated it has been a pleasure to work with the District and watching the District come a long way, and grow, over the course of the past 5-6 years.



Vote:

Wade Temple Yes

Sonja Salcido Yes

William Clowers Yes

Debi Wise Yes

Dana Law Yes

Approved the June and July 2026 Financial Reports created by Municipal Accounts and Consulting.

Item 5: ADMIN POLICY UPDATES:

Discussion: Tabled until the next regular meeting.

Item 6: SEALED BID PROCESS FOR TENDER 173

Motion to approve the made by Debi Wise; 2nd Sonja Salcido.

Discussion:

Debi Wise read:

"A.R.S. § 48-805(B)(18) expressly authorizes a fire district board to "sell or otherwise dispose of any real property, facilities or equipment if the district board determines the real property, facilities or equipment to be surplus."

Detailed procedural requirements (appraisal, minimum bid percentage, etc.) apply only to real property.

There are no comparable statutory mandates for competitive bidding, public auction, or formal sealed bids when disposing of personal property/equipment.

The District's existing policy and decommission and disposal wet signature form align with this statutory framework. A direct sale by the Chief of a decommissioned vehicle valued at \$5,000 or under is therefore permissible in Arizona, provided:

1. The board has determined (or the policy authorizes the Chief to determine) that the vehicle is surplus, and

2. The sale follows the District's adopted surplus-property policy and is documented appropriately (title transfer, receipt of funds into the district account, etc.).

Districts may (and commonly do) adopt policies that:

1. Set a dollar threshold (here, \$5,000 and below),

2. Authorize the Fire Chief to declare the item surplus/decommissioned and complete the disposal at the Chief's discretion, and



3. Require only internal documentation - wet signature decommission and disposal form.

Once the board has adopted that policy, no further board action is required for individual sales or disposals at or under the \$5,000 threshold. Completing the form and handling the sale/title transfer/receipt of funds in accordance with the policy satisfies both the statute and good governance practices.”

Debi Wise asked Chief had he decommissioned the truck. Chief affirmed he had. The truck is no longer an asset to the District, and will not pass ADOT inspection to be used on public roads. A buyer has come forward and offered the District \$5,000 for the decommissioned water truck. No other offers had been presented to the District.

The Board acknowledged that the decommissioned water truck has been declared and accepted by the Board as surplus under District policy, and further acknowledge and ratify the Chief’s authority to sell the vehicle for \$5,000 to the business that has submitted the offer, with proceeds to be deposited into the District’s General Fund, pursuant to A.R.S. § 48-805(B)(18).

Vote:

Wade Temple Yes

Sonja Salcido Yes

William Clowers Yes

Debi Wise Yes

Dana Law Yes

Approved direct sale of decommissioned 1984 water truck.

Item 7: PRESENTATION: RURAL WATER SOURCES:

Chief will present on our rural water issues.

Discussion:

Tactical considerations for District-wide structure fire water usage. 4700 gallons of water arrives on scene via 2 Mescal J6 FD tenders that hold 1250-and-3500-gallons respectively. Mutual aid tenders arriving on-scene includes Benson’s-3500 gallons, St. David’s-3500 gallons, Pomerene’s-4000 gallons, and the availability to call Sundance Fire’s 4000 gallons. Mescal J6 FD’s third tender, if available, to come on-scene, holds another 1700 gallons. total on-scene water is approximately 20,000 gallons of water available, if the mutual aid is required. The typical scene requires 1500 – 5,000 gallons of water for normal structure fires.

Chief also explained how the tenders connect to create a constant flow. Also explained different structure fire scenarios, the hazards, and the water usage for those scenarios. Citizen responsibility to keep grasses and trees trimmed.



No action taken.

Item 8: BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

Soni Salcido is announcing her impending resignation, this will result in a board vacancy. If interested, please send your letter of interest and any supporting docs to info@mescalfdj6fd.gov by September 11, 2026.

Chairman Law stated:

Board Member Sonja Salcido has informed the Board that they will be submitting a written resignation effective at some point in the next 2 weeks. In anticipation of that vacancy, I move that the Board:

1. Acknowledge the impending resignation and resulting vacancy;
2. Authorize staff to post a public notice of the upcoming vacancy on the District website, at the fire station(s), and any of our usual places.
3. Accept letters of interest from qualified electors of the District through end of day on September 11, 2026; and
4. Direct that the letters of interest be presented to the Board for consideration at a future meeting on September 16, 2026 at 6:30 pm once the resignation becomes effective and the seat is formally vacant, consistent with A.R.S. § 48-803(B).

Motion to approve made by Dana Law; 2nd Wade Temple.

Discussion:

Debi Wise stated: A board member may submit a written resignation that is effective on a future date. The seat does not become vacant until the effective date of the resignation.

The board may begin soliciting applications, posting a notice of the upcoming vacancy, and accepting letters of interest before the resignation becomes effective. This is common practice and is not prohibited by statute.

The Special Meeting and Executive session will be set for Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 pm.

Vote:

Wade Temple Yes
Sonja Salcido Abstain
William Clowers Yes
Debi Wise Yes
Dana Law Yes

Item 9: CHIEF'S REPORT
Update on District operations



No action taken

Item 10: FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting: Special Meeting September 16 @ 6:30 pm and next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be September 30, 2026.

Item 11: FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

None brought forth.

Item 12: ADJOURN

Motion to approve adjournment made by Wade Temple; 2nd Will Clowers
No discussion:

Vote:

Wade Temple Yes

Sonja Salcido Yes

William Clowers Yes

Debi Wise Yes

Dana Law Yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

Minutes compiled and submitted by:

Deborah Wise

Mescal J6 Fire District Board Clerk