



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT BOARD**
Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 6:30pm
98 N. Oak Drive Benson, AZ 85602
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 6:31 pm

ROLL CALL

Chairman Dana Law Present
Clerk Debi Wise Present
Sonja Salcido Present telephonically
Wade Temple Present
William Clowers Present
Chief Nied Present.

All Board Members are present constituting a quorum.

Item 1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Law noted that Board Member Salcido has submitted a written resignation effective Sept 16, 2026. The Board will interview candidates first. After returning to open session, the Board will act on the resignation, declare the vacancy, and consider an appointment.

Item 2 EXECUTIVE SESSION — NEW BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Chairman Law noted the next item is an executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) for discussion or consideration of appointment to the Governing Board, including review of applications and interviews for the open Board position. The candidates were given written notice more than 24 hours ago under A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1). No candidate requested a public interview. Interviews will be held in executive session.

Motion for the Board to convene in executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) for discussion or consideration of appointment of a Governing Board member, including review of applications and interviews for the vacant Board position.

Made by Debi Wise; second Will Clowers.

No discussion

Vote:
Chairman Dana Law Yes



Clerk Debi Wise Yes
Sonja Salcido Yes
Wade Temple Yes
William Clowers Yes

Approved to enter into executive session.

The Board recessed into executive session 6:34 pm.

The Board reconvened into to open session 7:49 pm

Item 3

RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER SONJA SALCIDO

A. RECEIPT OF WRITTEN RESIGNATION

Board received the written resignation of Board Member Sonja Salcido dated to take effect on September 16, 2026.

B. ACCEPT RESIGNATION AND REMOVE FROM BOARD AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

Motion to accept the written resignation of Sonja Salcido from the Governing Board, effective immediately and that Ms. Salcido be removed as an authorized signer or user on all District financial accounts, and related financial access, and that the Clerk of the Board and the District's financial institution be directed to take all steps necessary to affect that removal.

Made by Debi Wise; Second Will Clowers

Discussion: Debi Wise thanked Sonja Salcido for her contributions to the Fire District's website historical blog and for a good working relationship with all of things she has done.

Vote:

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

Accepted resignation of Board member Salcido and approved removal Ms. Salcido from all District financial accounts.

C. DECLARATION OF VACANCY



Motion to declare a vacancy on the Governing Board pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 38-291(3) and 48-803(B), based on the accepted resignation of Sonja Salcido.

Made by Dana Law; Second Wade Temple

No discussion

Vote:

Chairman Dana Law Yes

Clerk Debi Wise Yes

Vacant

Wade Temple Yes

William Clowers Yes

Approved declared vacancy on the Governing Board.

Item 4

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER

Board will consider appointment of an interim member to fill the vacancy pursuant to A.R.S. § 48-803(B).

Motion to appoint Cynthia Drummond as an appointed member of the Governing Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Sonja Salcido, pursuant to A.R.S. § 48-803(B), and to serve until the term ends November 30, 2028.

Made by Debi Wise; Second by Wade Temple.

No discussion.

Vote:

Chairman Dana Law Yes

Clerk Debi Wise Yes

Vacant

Wade Temple Yes

William Clowers Yes

Approved Cynthia Drummond appointed to fill the vacancy.

Motion to approve Cynthia Drummond be added to the District's financial accounts as an authorized signer and that the Clerk of the Board be directed to complete all processes and documentation required by the District's financial institution.

Made by Dana Law; Second Debi Wise.



No discussion.

Vote:

Chairman Dana Law Yes

Clerk Debi Wise Yes

Vacant

Wade Temple Yes

William Clowers Yes

Approved addition of Cynthia Drummond to the District's financial accounts.

The Oath of Office was administered by Chairman Law and signed. Ms. Drummond took her seat at the Board table.

Item 5

PRESENTATION BY BEN ARCHER-CLOWES, JAMES-VINCENT ACCOUNTING

Presentation by Ben Archer-Clowes of the James-Vincent Accounting Group will present a proposal for engagement of accounting services.

Discussion:

Contract will include an initial transfer fee of \$5,000 for the District data from the former accounting firm to the new one.

Remote Accounting Clerk Services: Accounts Payable and Receivable services utilizing bill.com and the accounting software increasing internal controls to multiple levels, and stream lining approval processes. Accurately code, and process payments, while also entering it into the accounting software streamlining audits and budgets. This also creates audit controls. \$1250 monthly.

External Finance Director: Yearly budget services, long term Strategic financial planning, monthly bank reconciliations, monthly financial reports and monthly budget summaries, presentation of monthly reports during meetings, support to internal staff, develop reports that will assist MJ6FD in tracking expenses in comparison with the budget and various expense accounts, Monthly and yearly journal adjustments, submit annual budgets and audits to appropriate agencies, ensure MJ6FD follow industry standards of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the government accounting standards board (GASB), \$2850 monthly.

Annual Audit Support: Schedule the District's yearly Audit and prepare all files for the Auditing firm, and manage the Audit. \$5,000 annually.

The total is approximately \$1600 more per month than the current (resigning) accounting firm with many more services included.



3-6 months after initiation of contract James-Vincent Group will assess the time needed to manage MJ6FD accounts, and is optimistic the contract price(s) will be lowered.

James-Vincent Group manages approximately 40 Fire Districts in AZ and approximately 10 Districts in CO, and some of the largest Fire and Medical Districts in AZ, and 3 Cities, including 3 larger S.E.AZ FDs who highly recommended their services to Chief Nied.

JVG Group staff is all inclusive to include full time, expert consultants in the areas of accounting, tax, and financial consulting, offered by CPAs, auditors, accountants, financial consultants, and Chief Financial Officer.

Motion to approve engagement of James-Vincent Accounting for accounting services as presented, authorize the Fire Chief to execute the engagement letter or professional services agreement in the form presented, and authorize payment of fees in accordance with the approved engagement.

Made by Debi Wise; Second Will Clowers.

No discussion on the motion.

Vote:

Chairman Dana Law Yes

Clerk Debi Wise Yes

Cynthia Drummond Yes

Wade Temple Yes

William Clowers Yes

Approved hiring of the James-Vincent Accounting Group.

Item 6

ARIZONA STATE LAND AGREEMENT — REPEATER ON HAYSTACK HILL / TEP TOWER

Arizona State Land Department agreement for access related to the repeater on Haystack Hill / TEP Tower. Chief Presentation.

Discussion: Exit 291-302 has no radio coverage for MJ6FD.channels. This is a many years' project in the works. Bluespan is installing repeater for free, saving thousands of dollars.

Motion to approve the contract with the Arizona State Land Department for access related to the repeater located on Haystack Hill / TEP Tower, in the form presented, authorize the Fire Chief to execute the agreement, and approve payment to the Arizona State Land Department in the amount of \$2,400 a year for access.



Made by Debi Wise; Second Cynthia Drummond.

No discussion on motion.

Vote:

Chairman Dana Law Yes

Clerk Debi Wise Yes

Cynthia Drummond Yes

Wade Temple Yes

William Clowers Yes

Approved entering into a contract with the ASLD for District communication services.

Item 7

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ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Wade Temple; Second Will Clowers

Vote:

Chairman Dana Law Yes

Clerk Debi Wise Yes

Cynthia Drummond Yes

Wade Temple Yes

William Clowers Yes

Adjournment: 8:50 pm

Minutes compiled and submitted by:

Deborah Wise

Mescal J6 Fire District Board Clerk