REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT BOARD
Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 6:30 PM
98 N. Oak Drive Benson, AZ 85602
Minutes

Call to Order 6:30 pm

Roll Call:

Chairman Dana Law Present
Clerk Debi Wise Present
Cynthia Drummond Present
Wade Temple Present
William Clowers Present
Chief Nied Called in telephonically at 6:40 pm

A quorum is present.

Item 1: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
Any public questions, comments, or concerns may be submitted in writing to the info@mescalj6fd.gov email so the Board may review them at a later date.

Item 2: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 30, 2026 made by Wade Temple; seconded by William Clowers.

No discussion.

Vote:
Wade Temple Yes
Cynthia Drummond Yes
William Clowers Yes
Debi Wise Yes
Dana Law Yes

Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 30, 2026.

Item 3: **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Motion to approve the September 2026 Financial Reports made by Wade Temple; seconded by Cynthia Drummond.

Discussion:
Chairman Law stated the report would be presented by Steven Rodriquez of the James-Vincent Group in place of Ben Archer-Clowes. Mr. Rodriquez presented the report by phone, walked the Board through each section, and offered to meet with board members outside the meeting for more detail. He stated that Ben Archer-Clowes will evaluate the time the firm has spent against its monthly fee and may provide an update on the fee. Each board member stated they had no questions.

Vote:
Wade Temple Yes
Cynthia Drummond Yes
William Clowers Yes
Debi Wise Yes
Dana Law Yes

Approved the September 2026 Financial Reports prepared by the James-Vincent Group.

Item 4: **RESOLUTION 2026-01: APPROVAL OF GRANT FROM THE HOWARD BUFFETT FOUNDATION:**

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-01, approval of the grant from the Howard Buffett Foundation, made by Wade Temple; seconded by William Clowers.

Discussion:
Debi Wise noted several typographical errors in the intergovernmental agreement; Chief Nied stated the agreement is the County's template. Chief Nied stated the Howard G. Buffett Foundation is providing grants to several fire districts in Cochise County through the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, that the Board of Supervisors has approved it, and that once the District submits the resolution the funds will be released. Debi Wise asked how the grant is structured; Chief Nied provided clarification.

Cynthia Drummond asked whether the Board chooses how the funds are used; Chief Nied stated the Board selects the use, states it in an agreement, and must then use the funds for that purpose. Debi Wise asked about the deadline to decide; it was noted the agreement allows until June 30, 2027, and Chief Nied stated that was his understanding.

Vote:
Wade Temple Yes
Cynthia Drummond Yes
William Clowers Yes
Debi Wise Yes
Dana Law Yes

Approved Resolution 2026-01, approval of the grant from the Howard Buffett Foundation.

Item 5: **RESOLUTION 2026-02: APPROVAL OF RURAL WATER ACCESS AGREEMENT:**

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 made by William Clowers; seconded by Wade Temple.

Discussion:
Chairman Law stated the agreement was prepared by the District's attorney, and that if a resident wishes to make a water tank available to the District, the agreement will be signed, dated and notarized.

Chief Nied stated the agreement is part of phase 6 of the District's six-phase wildland protection plan, which can be completed at any time during the earlier phases. He described the plan to work with Pima County Wildland and the Office of Emergency Management on mailers, two education sessions, and chipping days for vegetation residents remove. Chairman Law asked whether the chipping would come through DFFM or Pima County; Chief Nied stated it is available on the Pima County side for now, and the District is still working with Cochise County on the rest of the District. Chief Nied stated the District's greatest wildfire risk is along I-10.

Debi Wise noted other districts in the state have begun similar programs, and that vegetation cleared along I-10 several years ago has grown back.

Vote:
Wade Temple Yes
Cynthia Drummond Yes
William Clowers Yes
Debi Wise Yes
Dana Law Yes

Approved Resolution 2026-02, approval of the Rural Water Access Agreement.

Item 6: **PRESENTATION: PILOT PROGRAM REVIEW AND PROPOSAL—COOPER MUNSON, PRINCIPAL, "THE BOARD SECRETARY":**

Motion to approve the service agreement with The Board Secretary made by Debi Wise; seconded by Dana Law.

Discussion:
Cooper Munson, Principal of The Board Secretary, presented by phone a review of the first month of the pilot program, in which he prepared the minutes of the September 30, 2026 meeting and the agenda for this meeting. He described the proposed services: agendas, minutes, notices and resolutions in the District's format, checked against Arizona Open Meeting Law before the Clerk reviews them; an ADA-compliant website with hosting and upkeep; an online portal for document and website requests; a shared

records folder; and consulting and IT support, including the move from Microsoft to Google Workspace for email. He introduced James Munson, his partner, who also attended by phone.

Cynthia Drummond asked whether IT issues, such as a software problem on the Chief's laptop, would be covered at no extra charge; Mr. Munson stated they would. Debi Wise stated the lowest separate ADA quote was approximately $460 per month and the current IT bill was $1,200 last month. Cynthia Drummond stated the last two IT bills with ADA came to approximately $1,660, and that the District would save approximately $250 per month in the first year and approximately $100 per month after that.

Cynthia Drummond asked whether the term must be three years; Mr. Munson stated the 36-month term keeps the current rate for that period and a 24-month term is available. Cynthia Drummond asked about ending the agreement; James Munson stated the agreement has an initial term and may be terminated for a material breach by either side. Chief Nied stated the District is not yet required to have an ADA-compliant website but that it serves residents who need it.

Vote:
Wade Temple Yes
Cynthia Drummond Yes
William Clowers Yes
Debi Wise Yes
Dana Law Yes

Approved the service agreement with The Board Secretary.

Item 7: **CHIEF'S REPORT:**
Update on District operations. Chairman Law read the Chief's report on Chief Nied's behalf. Chief Nied provided updates by phone on hazard mitigation collections, the executed GOHS grant for stabilization equipment, and changes to medical supply exchanges and medical direction. Debi Wise asked when the District will hear about the CDS funding request for the fire station; Chief Nied stated he was told by the end of the year.
No action taken.

Item 8: **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE:**
Next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be November 18, 2026.

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

Item 10: **ADJOURN:**
Motion to adjourn made by Wade Temple; seconded by William Clowers.
No discussion.

Vote:
Wade Temple Yes
Cynthia Drummond Yes
William Clowers Yes
Debi Wise Yes
Dana Law Yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

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