

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MOUNT LEMMON FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

A public meeting of the Mount Lemmon Fire District Governing Board was convened on August 21, 2023, at Mount Lemmon Fire Station 310 located at 13170 N. Oracle Control Road, Mt. Lemmon, Arizona.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided at the meeting:

**1. Call to Order** at 4:00 PM by Chairman Perchorowicz.

<b>Roll Call-</b> Chairman John Perchorowicz	present
Clerk Todd Canale	absent
Treasurer Teri Carpenter	absent
Member Tony Mazza	virtual
Member Tom McNurlin	present

Also attending- Fire Chief Joe Gunia, Richard Westervelt, LeRoy Day, Jeanne Mayer, Jennifer Zimmerman, Lou Crum, Aaron Lindflott, and Sean Matias.

**2. Date of next meetings: Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, 2023, at 4:00 PM.**

**3. Call to Public**

- Richard Westervelt as a taxpayer, voiced his concern regarding a MLFD employee being at his shop while wearing his firefighter shirt, he referenced the occurrence about a year ago and again four months ago. Richard Westervelt went on to describe an event on January 27, 2023, he went by the shop and tried to open the door, but it was locked but he saw the person through the window. Westervelt feels that fire personnel should not be doing personal business on district time. Westervelt said he thinks his name was Peter. Jeanne Mayer added that she talked to an Orange County firefighter who said he wanted to go to the media regarding the incident, but she told him not to. Mayer also said she saw Peter cut a tree on his property; she has pictures. Jennifer Zimmerman said she does not agree with the concern. Chief Gunia said he was aware of Peter Norton stopping by his shop, per Mount Lemmon Fire District policy there has been no violation. Due to the concern of a few members of the community, Chief Gunia notified all employees to not engage in any non-district business that would hinder their ability to be call ready.

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the July 17, 2023, Regular meeting.**

- Chairman Perchorowicz had a few grammatical corrections.

-Motion by Member McNurlin, second by Member Mazza to approve Minutes of the July 17, 2023, Regular meeting as corrected. Motion passed 3-0.

**5. Reports and Correspondence:**

**A. Financial Report July 2023**

- Chief Gunia informed the board that the ARPA reimbursement was deposited under grants in the report.

-Motion by Member McNurlin, second by Member Mazza to approve July 2023 financial report. Motion passed 3-0.

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**B. Fire Chief's Report-** Reviewed by the Board. Report on file.

- Chief Gunia added some updates from the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, MLHOA meeting. Chairman Perchorowicz asked the status of the Fire Hydrant signs. Chief Gunia said everything has been delivered, and Pima County will start installing the posts after monsoon season.

**6. New Business**

**A. Volunteer Firefighters Relief & Pension (VFFRPF)**

- In response to a question from Jeanne Mayer regarding the Volunteer Pension Fund, Chief Gunia presented a document (attached) covering the highlights of the Arizona Fire Insurance Premium Tax Refund Program (VFFRPF, under the State of Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management) history and the state statute regarding the VFFRPF.

Ms. Mayer also conducted her own investigation. She spoke to the State Fire Marshall, Ken Price, and he asked her to explore the [www.arizonatreasury.gov](http://www.arizonatreasury.gov) website and scroll down to fire insurance distribution. She found that it stated that in 2004 the statute became effective. "We distribute funds based on PSPRS, which is based on 9-951." She states that there have been funds being distributed into the PSPRS. Ms. Mayer suggested that MLFD reach out to PSPRS. She also concluded that the statute, 9-954, says, "The fire district as a board of trustees, not PSPRS, is responsible for the funds, in section 9-956. This causes an annual audit."

Ms. Mayer was under the impression that the last time someone applied for money from the State was in 2006. Chief Gunia stated that information was incorrect, as he has documentation of several checks that Mount Lemmon Fire District received over the years. In addition, Chief Gunia stated he has copies of the checks that were received from the state. Chief Gunia mentions Ms. Mayer may be confusing the PSPRS with the Volunteer Pension Board, two separate boards. Chief Gunia continued to explain the process as he understands it: there are two applications: one for PSPRS and one for the Volunteers. Both applications are submitted and then PSPRS submits an audit every year to the state. Based off our secondary assessment value, the numbers are run and that money (MLFD does not see that money) is sent directly to the PSPRS. Once the volunteer side is calculated, the check is sent to MLFD for the Volunteer Fund. The last check, for \$16.89 was received in 2018 Chief Gunia read the statute and it states, "Arizona fire insurance premium tax refund program" and believes this is the program Ms. Mayer is talking about. Therefore, part of the money goes to PSPRS, and part of the money goes to the Volunteer Pension, if a district has one. There must be a board and a program to be able to apply for these funds. Chairman Perchorowicz said from a District Fire Board position perhaps it would be wise to reconstitute the Volunteer Pension Board. Chairman Perchorowicz asked Ms. Mayer and Chief Gunia to get together and compile their information and report back at a future board meeting.

-No motion

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**7. Unfinished Business**

**A. Station 310 Remodel/Expansion**

- Chairman Perchorowicz informed the Board that he wrote letters to Senators Kelly and Sinema and Congressman Ciscomani for their assistance on understanding our process of approval so that we can move forward with selecting a contractor and a start date. Chief Gunia added that he did receive the cost reimbursement agreement from USFS, in that document it referenced an approval being issued in December.

- No motion

**B. Fire Hazard Mitigation Letter**

- Chief Gunia informed the board that the district's insurance company recommended that we do not provide a mitigation letter due to the liability it brings to the district. Chief Gunia went on to say that our insurance company feels our current Community Fire Hazard Severity Form and the ISO rating is adequate. There was a brief discussion, and it was decided that we will continue with our current process.

-No motion

**C. Banking**

- Chief Gunia presented the two options for investing the renovation monies, the choice of ICS Savings at 3% with the ability to move the money at any time or the CDARS which has a 4, 13, 26, and 52 term. It was agreed that 75% of the monies be put in an ICS Savings account.

**8. Adjournment**

- Motion by Member McNurlin, second by Member Mazza, meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

**Dated this 18th day of September 2023.  
Mount Lemmon Fire District Governing Board**

*John Perchorowicz*  
John Perchorowicz (Sep 19, 2023 09:19 PDT)  
Chairman Perchorowicz

*h*  
Todd Canale (Sep 19, 2023 20:12 PDT)  
Clerk Canale

*Teri Carpenter*  
Teri Carpenter (Sep 19, 2023 10:26 PDT)  
Treasurer Carpenter

*Tony Mazza*  
Tony Mazza (Sep 22, 2023 08:57 PDT)  
Member Mazza

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Member McNurlin