MEETING MINUTES

The Fire Board of the Rio Rico Medical and Fire District (RRMFD) met in regular session on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Rio Rico Medical and Fire District administrative office, 822 Pendleton Drive, Rio Rico, AZ.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
   - Meeting is being recorded
   - Meeting called to order by Frank Bejarano @ 5:31 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS
   - Present: Frank Bejarano, Michael Carlson and Hank Thysell
   - Absent: Brad Beach
4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC
   - Louis Chaboya presented a certificate of recognition/thanks to the RRMFD on behalf of the Knights of Columbus for their participation in the Annual Car Show
5. CONSENT AGENDA
   a. Approval of minutes
      i. Regular Session of March 26, 2026
         - Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Session of March 26, 2026 made by Michael Carlson, second by Hank Thysell
         - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:
   a. Correspondence
      - Email from Chief Amezaga to Adriane Demotica congratulating him on being selected as the 2026 EMCT of the Year for the Southeastern EMS Region. He will be recognized at the awards ceremony May 21, 2026 at the ADHS building during the EMS Council meeting.
      - Letter received from Christus Rex Lutheran Church thanking RRMFD for their support at their 3rd annual Easter Egg Hunt
      - Chief Amezaga received a certificate of completion for the Leadership Development Program through Know Your Talents
   b. Fire Chief's Report
      - Report presented by Fire Chief Amezaga. Copy of report on file and posted on the website
      - Michael Carlson spoke regarding the Fire Corp and the different trainings they helped with (taking vitals/blood pressure) and assistance within the Admin office (filing, scanning, etc.)
      - Adriane Demotica spoke briefly about the recognition received; honor and a privilege to work with RRMFD in his home town and thanked everyone for their support.
      - REMS team acknowledged by the Chief on the Raton Fire-honor and privilege to work with team, very professional and also put on a training (Captain Hernandez)
   c. Fire Marshal Report

- Report presented by Fire Marshal Cluff. Copy of report on file.
- Burn permits are being issued

d. Fire Board Member Report
- Hank Thysell noted there was an emergency in his neighborhood – RRMFD arrived quickly and were very professional
- Frank Bejarano, Michael Carlson, Chief Amezaga and Ana Holman met with John Fanning of the SCCBOS to discuss concerns of the mine and the impact within the county (HazMat, equipment/training) and how RRMFD can become involved with the planning. John Fanning provided contact information for RRMFD to be more involved with the ten year plan.
- Chief Amezaga noted the meeting opened doors with the local representatives. John Fanning attended the night propane training session.

e. Financial Report
   i. Presentation of Financial Reports of March 2026
      - Report presented by Ana Holman. Copy of report on file.
      - Original health insurance renewal proposal reflected a 24.7% increase; however, after negotiations, our broker secured a revised proposal reducing the increase to 13.23%.
      - Worker's Compensation insurance renewal reflects a minimal increase of .02% from 6.77% to 6.79%
      - Tentative Budget Committee meeting Monday, May 18th at 12:30 p.m.

7. OLD BUSINESS

MOVED TO ITEM 7c.

a. Discussion, and possible action re: Executive Session - The Fire Board may vote to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) for legal advice regarding the Santa Cruz County Treasurer
   i. Note: Executive Sessions are confidential pursuant to A.R.S. section 38-431.03(C) anything discussed within Executive Session is to remain within Executive Session
   ii. Note: No Action is taken during an Executive Session. Any action taken by the Board will take place during an open meeting
   iii. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the Santa Cruz County Treasurer
      - Motion to enter Executive Session made by Michael Carlson, second by Hank Thysell
      - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
      - Entered Executive Session at 7:39 p.m.
      - Returned from Executive Session at 7:52 p.m.
      - Notes i. and ii. read
      - Frank Bejarano noted Jeff Matura will move forward after receiving costs and fees Information to draft letter to send to the attorney. If needed, a special meeting may be required.

b. Discussion and possible action re: Santa Cruz County Treasurer
   i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the Santa Cruz County Treasurer

c. Discussion, review and possible action re: CON Expansion
   i. This is a continuation of previous discussion related to the CON Expansion
      - Chief Amezaga noted after two years, the CON has been ratified to cover Patagonia Lake, border area around City of Nogales and to the west good until 2028

d. Discussion and possible action re: Approval to adopt the revised RRMFD 2024 IFC changes
   i. This is a continuation of previous discussion following 30 day comment period for the revision to
      - No comments from the public and changes have been approved by the state
      - Motion to approve the revised RRMFD 2024 IFC changes made by Michael Carlson, second

by Hank Thysell
- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

e. Discussion and possible action re: Approval and adoption of revised PSPRS Pension Funding Policy
   i. This is a continuation of previous discussion regarding adoption of the revised PSPRS Funding Policy
      - Ana Holman noted this item was tabled last month and that PSPRS wants RRMFD to acknowledge the liability grew from $483,886 to $1,155,779 which is why the policy needs to be amended each year
      - Michael Carlson commented that RRMFD wanted to talk with PSPRS to understand why the liability grew. Suggested item be tabled once more for contact with PSPRS.

8. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of financial reports for March 2026.
      - Motion to approve financial reports for March 2026 made by Michael Carlson, second by Hank Thysell
      - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
   b. Discussion and possible action re: AFDA/AFCA conference attendees July 14, 15 and 16
      - Chief Amezaga noted not mandatory to attend (no newly elected board members)
      - Hank Thysell volunteered to attend if representation is needed
      - Ana Holman noted the Board vacancy will need to be filled within 90 days and possibly the individual could attend the mandatory trainings during the conference.
   c. Discussion and possible action re: Approval and Adoption of the Santa Cruz County CWPP for RRMFD
      - Chief Amezaga commented it is not mandatory to have the Board adopt the CWPP; however, it does open avenues for grants, wildland mitigation and risk protection through the County.
      - Michael Carlson commented the "draft" numbers for RRMFD weren't correct; however, Fire Marshal Cluff noted the numbers were corrected after "draft" was received. Suggested volunteers be trained to educate homeowners regarding wildland.
      - Frank Bejarano noted CWPP would be adopted upon final edition.
   d. Discussion and possible action re: Wildland Reserves funding
      - Wildland reserve program started last year has been successful. Funding needed through June 30, 2026 would be $30,089.23 to continue program.
      - Michael Carlson noted the opportunity of having this group available beyond suppression staff is valuable, has revenue opportunities and are paid by assignment.
      - Motion to approve the Wildland Reserves funding made by Frank Bejarano, second by Michael Carlson
      - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote
   e. Discussion and possible action re: Approval of Firehouse Grants, LLC Grant Consulting Agreement for Pima Regional S.C.B.A. grant
      - Discussion amongst attendees at a wildland meeting regarding current needs of districts, Chief Amezaga commented RRMFD was in need of SCBA's and comment was made regarding a regional grant for SCBA's which needed additional participants. Cost up front $1,000 to get in plus $1,000 to $3,400 for the consultant and pay 10% of cost (need 40 SCBA's); grant capped at $2 million so may not be able to receive total number of items needed
      - Motion to give Chief Amezaga approval to move forward with the Firehouse Grants, LLC Grant Consulting Agreement for the Pima Regional S.C.B.A. grant including those funds needed to join made by Michael Carlson, second by Hank Thysel

- Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

f. Discussion and possible action re: Review of applicants to fill Fire Board member vacancy
   - Chief Amezaga reached out to past NSFD Board Member Dora Madrid; however, her schedule at this time does not permit her to become a Board Member at this time
   - Frank Bejarano noted he had reached out to Gabe Martinez who has been part of Mariposa for a very long time and has been active with Fire Districts and he is willing to be a candidate for the Board. He is a dedicated, smart individual and he highly recommends him for the position.
   - Gabe Martinez gave a brief history – currently working with Mariposa and has been with them for 31 years and was part of RRMFD more than 20 years ago, EMT Classes and Fire Academy, certifications are current and was with NSFD as a volunteer and would be glad to be part of the RRMFD Board. Has seen the department grow.
   - Motion to appoint Gabe Martinez as our fifth Board member made by Michael Carlson, second by Hank Thysell
   - Motion passed unanimously by verbal vote

g. Discussion, review and possible action re: Review of meeting with PARS regarding PSPRS unfunded liability
   - Ana Holman noted last month we spoke about the PSPRS unfunded liability and at a conference in Flagstaff she had met with PARS (investment tool for PSPRS) which mentioned there is a fund created under section 115 under IRS which any monies deposited, the return of investment is higher than LGIP accounts however, they manage the monies deposited and when RRMFD tells them, they send funds directly to PSPRS (funds and interest). Michael Carlson questioned putting in the full value of PSPRS contributions for the fiscal year and withdrawing biweekly to pay PSPRS payroll liabilities-yes this can be done. This is another tool, vehicle used to pay the liability; long term investment has better results. Chief Amezaga's concern is tying up the funds with PARS which can only be used to pay PSPRS. Michael Carlson suggested depositing funds which would be paid to PSPRS for a shorter term, 4 to 6 months, to see what the return is on the investment compared to LGIP account return-diversification has certain value provided the fund has a AA rating. Ana Holman suggested having PARS give the Board a presentation to allow Board members to express concerns and ask questions.

RETURNED TO ITEM 7a.

9. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS
   a. Next Board Meeting – May 28, 2026 5:30 p.m.
      - Next steps for participation with committees and local representatives
      - Frank Bejarano will not bc attending the June Board Meeting
      - Happy Birthday wished to Chief Amezaga and Hank Thysell

10. ADJOURNMENT
    - Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Dated this 28 day of May, 2026.
Rio Rico Medical & Fire District Elected Official

Brad Beach, ________________________ **Clerk of the Board**