



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE TOWN OF CAREFREE
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 2021
WHERE: VIA ZOOM *
TIME: 1:30 P.M.

Members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee participated by technological or methods pursuant to §A.R.S. 38-431(4).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairperson - Leslie Hine
Vice Chairperson - Philip Henn
Sheila Amoroso
Peter Burns
Kim Taha
Jerry Wetta

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Scott Peterson

Chairperson Hine opened the meeting at 1:31 pm.

Approval of the Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting minutes dated August 2, 2021 minutes.

Committee Member Wetta made a **MOTION TO APPROVE** the minutes with corrections. **SECONDED** by Committee Member Wilke. **CARRIED** unanimously.

Town Administrator Gary Neiss updated the Committee with regards to the Carefree Town Council meeting held on September 7, 2021. Council Members approved a motion to temporarily relocate the Cave Creek fire company (825) to the Carefree Fire Station (821). This temporary, month to month solution will take effect October 2021; resulting in the relocation of emergency aid assets including: a brush truck, a pumper truck, four fire personnel and paramedics. In the interim, Rural Metro will look for a permanent solution for a second engine company. The second location will service the Subscribers within the County Island Territory (area between Carefree Highway and Dynamite Road) as well as the West side of the Town of Carefree.

Committee Member Henn provided an overview of his meeting with Daisy Mountain Fire Department. Noting, if Carefree partners with Daisy Mountain to join Automatic, Carefree will have access to multiple partners. If Daisy Mountain plans to acquire a large percentage of the Cave Creek Rural Metro fire personnel, one benefit to the Rural Metro Staff will be that the acquired staff will participate in a fast-tracked training process, which will meet the Automatic Aid requirements as well as a cost savings. As a member of Automatic Aid, an automatic aid partner such as Daisy Mountain will be able to apply for grants. Additionally, Mr. Henn explained that the initial cost for automatic aid will be substantial during the first year, but mathematically the long-term cost will be slightly higher than Mutual Aid. Committee Member Henn would like to invite Daisy Mountain to present a more formal presentation to the Committee to help clarify information and offer a Question-and-Answer session.

Chairperson Hine asked Mr. Henn to document his new findings for the Draft Discussion Guide.

Chairperson Hine invited Committee Member Burns to provide a summary of his meetings with Rural Metro.

Mr. Burns explained that he primarily focused on analyzing data presented by Rural Metro. Rural Metro agreed to provide the Public Safety Committee complete and concise data.

Mr. Burns asked Rural Metro, with the loss of the Cave Creek (825) fire station would there be adequate emergency response on the West side of the Town? They responded

by explaining, the response time to the West side of Carefree will be approximately 5 and half minutes.

Mr. Burns reviewed the contract between the Town of Carefree and Rural Metro. In Appendix B the contract explains that there will be a multiple unit response for CODE 3 calls. A Code 3 unit can be a fire engine, an ambulance, or a command car. Additionally, Mr. Burns learned that the Rural Metro 821 Ambulance does not respond to interfacility transports (such as ambulance rides from one hospital to another).

As a side note, Mr. Burns would like to incorporate language which defines the number of fire personnel on a Fire Engine during an emergency call (should there be 3 or 4 fire personnel?).

Chairperson Hine believes that there is a need for additional and reliable data from Rural Metro; the West side coverage; the Mutual Aid agreements will need to be comprehensive and current; and lastly, should Carefree consider adding a fourth person to the fire engine?

Multiple Committee Members expressed confusion as to how the Safety Committee factors into approval process of Carefree joining Automatic Aid. For instance: will Carefree be required to meet certain criteria as an independent entity? Will the acceptance of Carefree gaining approval fall under the responsibility of the Automatic Aid partner? Town Administrator Neiss explained that Cave Creek nor Carefree alone cannot be part of the Automatic Aid system. There are requirements that either community will need to meet to participate in the Automatic Aid process.

The citizens within the Town of Cave Creek currently are provided fire coverage enrollment of a subscription with Rural Metro. If Cave Creek residents adopt a property tax, the cost of the Property tax could be less than the current Rural Metro subscription fee. Since approximately 40% of the citizens in Cave Creek currently pay a subscription fee only perhaps 10% to 15% of the Cave Creek residents will need to be persuaded to consider adoption of a Cave Creek property tax to fund a Cave Creek fire and emergency service program. Therefore, the Town of Cave Creek is considering this option as a funding mechanism to pay for the future costs of joining automatic aid.

Chairperson Hine asked Town Administrator Neiss, if he knew the time frame that Rural Metro would vacate the Cave Creek firehouse. Mr. Neiss stated that Cave Creek has informed him that they could have a contract in place with Daisy Mountain by January and therefore, Rural Metro would be forced out prior to this date.

Fire Chief Tobin (from Daisy Mountain) sent a message in via chat which stated that, any partner in the Automatic Aid System needs to present any service level changes to the Life Safety Council for evaluation to determine if the changes, will have an adverse impact on other partners. Mr. Neiss added that the Life Safety Council is the regional entity that coordinates the placement of the fire stations. If Carefree entered an Automatic Aid partnership, Carefree would coordinate with Life Safety Council through an existing Auto Aid partner such as Daisy Mountain or the City of Scottsdale to assist in this determination.

Committee Chair Hine introduced the idea of presenting the Law Enforcement topic to the committee. The committee members asked Mr. Neiss to provide an outline highlighting the important issues, metrics, costs, and a list potential enhancement of MCSO. Mr. Neiss explained that some of the MSCO topics will include the possibility of additional traffic enforcement, neighborhood patrols, the possibility of introducing photo radar, and funding options.

Committee Chair Hine wrapped up the meeting by explaining that she will modify the working draft with a more complete product for the Recommendation to the Council.

ITEM #4 The meeting was adjournment 3:38 p.m.