



Blue Ridge Fire District

PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM LOCAL BOARD

5023 Enchanted Ln
Happy Jack, Az 86024
928-477-2751
www.brfdaz.gov

MINUTES of Board Meeting held March 20, 2025

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Mike Bourne called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Chuck Buddle	Present	Ryan MacNeal	Present via phone
Mike Bourne	Present	Brandon Sewell	Present
Judy Varns	Present		

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a Motion to adopt the Agenda. Chief Buddle so moved; Captain Sewell seconded the Motion. All voted yes.

The Motion passed.

5. OLD BUSINESS – NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2025. Captain Sewell so moved; Chief Buddle seconded the Motion. All voted yes.

The Motion passed.

- b. Captain Sewell advised that the District has the opportunity to hire Battalion Chief Chester to a Full-Time position. He has been in the PSPRS system for 13 years as a Tier 2 member. He has had previous physicals and no pre-existing conditions. He also has a new physical scheduled within two weeks.



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Chief Buddle then read his memorandum for the record:

"Agenda Item: 6 e. 'add new member'

Discussion:

For the information of This PSPRS Board, as well as the District Board, I suggest it would have been helpful if the financial impact of this membership addition to the plan, as well as the prior membership presented and approved January 29, 2025, should have been addressed in advance for This Boards members to consider.

"This PSPRS Board is responsible for doing its best to maintain the financial stability of the plan for the members already in the PSPRS plan. The ability of the district to not only pay the wages and benefits associated with the new positions going forward, but the ability to fund the long-term unfunded liabilities are consideration of This Board.

My concern is that decisions to fund any future expansion of the 6-position membership, or any replacement memberships should be made with the concurrence of this PSPRS Local Board after members are appraised of the financial considerations of said appointments. (IE tier liability, unfunded liabilities, etc.) and not merely passed on to this Local Board from the District Board representative or a Budget Committee as "what was decided by the District Board."

Please understand, I have no objection to the inclusion of either Chief Paine or BC Chester into the plan. I believe it is a strong step toward stability in the Department and wish them well to their eventual retirement in PSPRS. My objection is to the manner in which the process is conducted, and I suggest it be refined as to a policy for the future.

Respectfully submitted 3/20/2025

C. E. Buddle, PSPRS Board Member"

Discussion followed pertaining to the District's financial ability to add and support new members through payroll, benefits and retirement. This financial ability should be presented to the PSPRS Local Board so due diligence is followed and the PSPRS Local Board can make sound decisions.

Chairman Bourne addressed these concerns by conveying to the PSPRS Local Board that the potential addition of Chief Paine and Battalion Chief Chester have been planned for and reflected in the District Budget for the last two years.

Captain Sewell made a Motion to accept Battalion Chief Billy Chester as a new member of Blue Ridge Fire District PSPRS plan contingent on obtaining records of any pre-existing conditions (or none) and a current and clear physical within 14 days. Ms. Varns seconded the Motion. All voted yes.

The Motion passed.

7. Chairperson Mike Bourne asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Chief Buddle so moved; Ms. Varns seconded the Motion. All voted yes.

The Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 a.m.

Respectively submitted:

Beth Wise, Secretary