

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Verde Valley Fire District Meeting Held
February 18, 2025**

A Special Meeting of the Verde Valley Fire District Board of Directors was held on February 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in person at Station 31, 2700 E. Godard Road, Cottonwood, Arizona and electronically (via Zoom).

Board of Directors:

Donald Peck, Chairman
Robert Brummett, Board Clerk
Ken Bishop
Coleen Gilboy (via Zoom)

Staff Present:

Danny Johnson, Fire Chief
Lisa Elliott, Administrative Manager
Ashley Hammond, Administrative Specialist

Others Present:

Gary Svider
Nicholas Brunori
Dean Kaliakmanis Jr.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board Chairman Peck.

ROLL CALL - All Board Members were present; a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - Those present stood and said the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC - None.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS - Interview of candidates applying to fill a vacated seat on the Verde Valley Fire District Board of Directors.

Board Chairman Peck stated that the Board would like to conduct individual interviews with each candidate.

Board Members interviewed Nicholas Brunori, Dean Kaliakmanis Jr., and Gary Svider for the vacant seat on the Verde Valley Fire District Board of Directors.

Nicholas Brunori stated that he is a resident of the District and would like to serve on the Verde Valley Fire District Board of Directors to give back to the community. Chief Johnson asked Mr. Brunori how he would handle a situation if there were a disagreement between himself and Chief Johnson. Mr. Brunori said he would like to discuss the disagreement and work toward a conclusion.

Dean Kaliakmanis said he would like to be a Board member and invest in the community. He stated he wants to be involved in every aspect of the community and better understand how fire districts operate. Chief Johnson asked Mr. Kaliakmanis how he would handle a situation if he disagreed with Chief Johnson. Mr. Kaliakmanis stated that ongoing and open communication is important, emphasizing the need to talk through problems and the value of transparency.

Gary Svider stated that he has a lot of knowledge of the fire service and wants to be a Board member to give back to the community. He also mentioned that he is well-known in the community. Chief Johnson asked Mr. Svider how he would handle a situation if he and Chief Johnson disagreed. Mr. Svider said he would not get involved if the disagreement involved fire operations. He explained that he would talk with Chief Johnson about any other issues, and if the problem could not be resolved, he would take it to the Fire Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Possible vote to go into Executive Session for discussion or consideration of appointment of an applicant to the Verde Valley Fire District Board of Directors pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03. (A)(1).

Board Clerk Brummett made a motion to go into Executive Session for 5.B. for discussion or consideration of appointment of an applicant to the Verde Valley Fire District Board of Directors pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03. A.1. Board Member Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Clerk Brummett requested that Chief Johnson attend the Executive Session, and Administrative Manager Lisa Elliott attend to take minutes.

The Board entered Executive session at 5:54 p.m.

The Board resumed the Regular session at 6:15 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2025-05 BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT - Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2025-05 making an appointment to the Verde Valley Fire District Board of Directors for a vacated term ending November 30, 2028.

Board Clerk Brummett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-05 appointing Nicholas Brunori to fill the Verde Valley Fire District Board of Directors vacancy effective February 25, 2025, with a term ending November 30, 2028. Board Member Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Submitted By:

Approved:

Ashley Hammond, Administrative Specialist

Donald Peck, Board Chairman

Attest:

Robert Brummett, Board Clerk