

# Role of SEFD Governing Board

October 2015

# Sonoita-Elgin Fire District

- The SEFD is an independent political subdivision of the State of Arizona
- The SEFD is “governed” by a non-partisan five member elected governing board (*the fire board*)

# Primary Role

## Governance

- A government is a formal body invested with the authority to make decisions in a given political system (*in this case the fire district*)

# Primary Responsibilities

- Fiduciary
- Policymaking
- All the “cans” and “can not’s” (guardrails) are established through law (*Arizona Revised Statute – Title 48 primarily*)

# Fiduciary

- A **fiduciary** (from Latin *fiduciarius*, meaning "[holding] in trust"; from *fides*, meaning "faith", and *fiducia*, meaning "trust") is a legal or ethical relationship of trust between two or more parties. Typically, a fiduciary prudently takes care of money for another person

# Elected Officials as Fiduciaries

- In a representative democracy, the public elects officials to act in their interests. Elected officials make important decisions on behalf of the public (*establish policy*), including how to spend taxpayer and other public monies on infrastructure and services.

# Accountabilities

- Because a fiduciary has the power and obligation to act for another, the law imposes on fiduciaries strict standards of diligence, responsibility and honesty.
- Diligence: The Duty to Do a Good Job
- Responsibility and Loyalty: Putting Others' Interests First
- Honesty: Being Open and Transparent

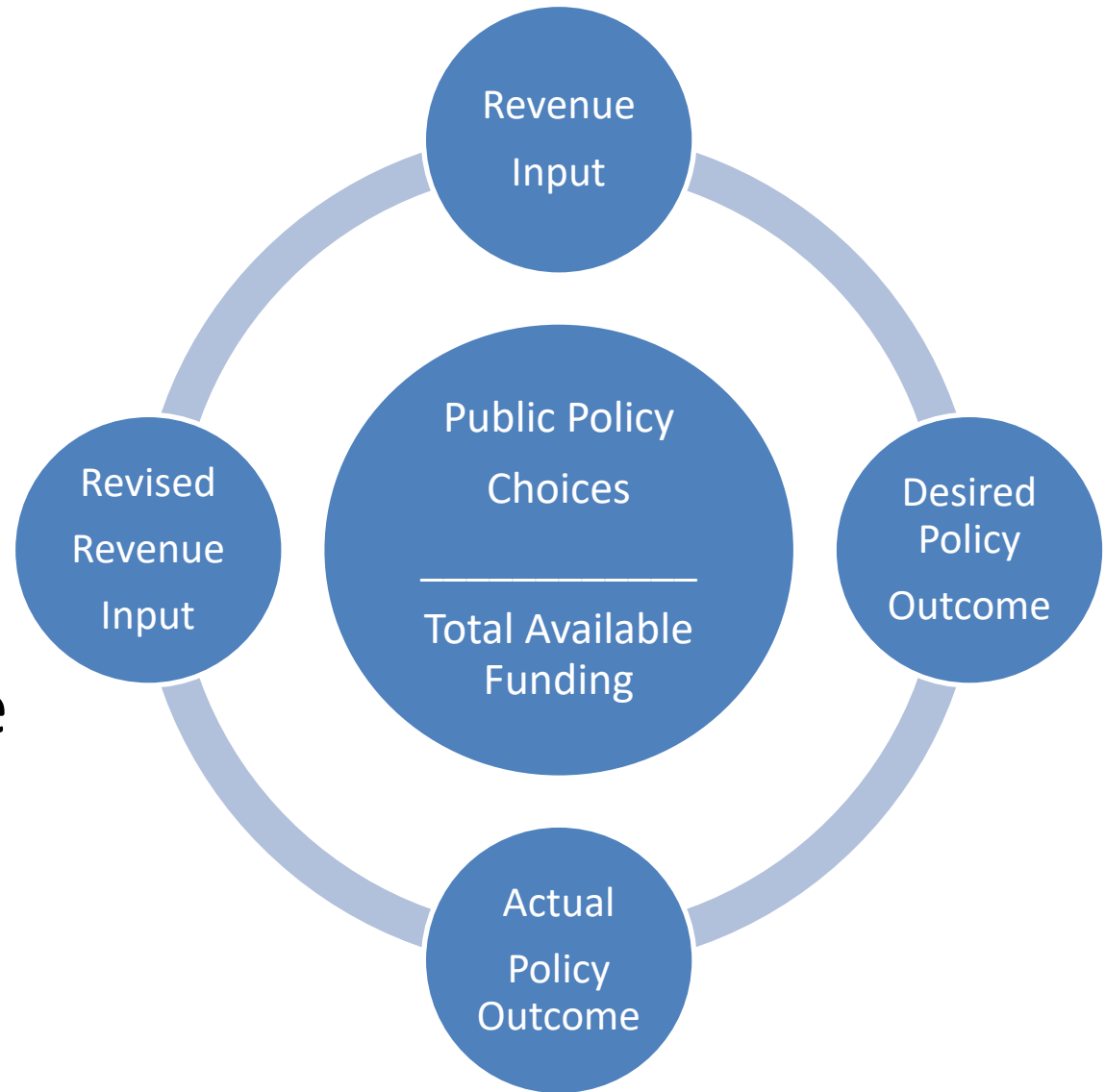
# It's about the money....

- It's always about the money.....other peoples money (OPM)
- Elected officials establish public policy – which drives the need for funding.....provided with OPM (taxpayers).....which you as elected officials must account for...
- The Arizona Legislature has established specific fiduciary processes for fire district financial oversight



# Policy – Funding Continuum

Elected officials  
policy choices  
drive need for  
funding –  
funding  
limitations drive  
policy decisions



# Rules (laws etc...) of Governance

- Open Meetings (*ARS §38-431 et.al.*)
- **Transparency is Paramount** - the Arizona Legislature enacted the Open Meeting Law “to open the conduct of the business of the government to the scrutiny of the public and to ban decision making in secret.”

# OML Application

- Application- the Open Meeting Law applies to fire district boards, as well as their advisory committees, sub-committees and boards or committees sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity. The Open Meeting Law also applies to fire district pension boards.

# Meetings

- All meetings of any public body shall be public meetings and all persons so desiring shall be permitted to **attend and listen** to the deliberations and proceedings.

# What's a Meeting?

- A meeting of the governing board (or committee) means the gathering, IN PERSON OR THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES, of a **quorum of members** of a public body at **which they discuss, propose or take legal action, including any deliberations.**

# Governance Actions

- All legal action must take place in public session (*meeting*). Legal Action means a collective **decision, commitment or promise** made by a public body pursuant to the Constitution, the public body's charter, bylaws or specific scope of appointment and the laws of this state.

# Rules (laws etc...) of Governance

- Elections
- Safeguarding the public's trust

# SEFD General Election

- November 8, 2016 (*388 days*)
- SEFD Governing Board candidate filing deadline – August 8, 2016 (*296 days*)
- Five positions open – staggered four year terms *\*(exception first cycle)*



Action Item	Projected Date	Reference
Call for Election	July 11, 2016 (no later than 120 days prior to election date)	ARS §16-226
CANDIDATES File Nomination Papers	July 11 – August 8, 2016	ARS §16-311
Publication of Call	(during six calendar weeks preceding 90 days before election)	ARS §16-227
Notice of Election	(during six calendar weeks preceding 20 days before election)	ARS §16-228
Date of Election	Tuesday – November 8, 2016	ARS §16-204.B.1
Canvas of Election Results	November 14 – 28, 2016 (not less than six or more than 20 days after the election)	ARS §16-642
Declaration of Election	Mohave County Board of Supervisors declares highest 5 vote getters elected to office	ARS §16-647
New SEFD Governing Board Takes Office	December 1, 2016	

# Questions

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