

**DRAFT Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of
the Sonoita Elgin Fire District
9:30 AM, 04 January 2021**

Call to Order

Roll Call – Archibald, Dorney, Johnson and Webber present. Also present was the District’s Attorney Donna Aversa (telephonically/electronically), Acting Chief Jon Buonaccorsi and Acting Operations Chief Marc Meredith.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion made by Archibald to go into Executive Session for legal advice regarding Chief DeWolf’s contract and salary. Note: Pursuant to ARS Sec. 38- 431.01(A)(3) the Board may vote to go into executive session for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the Attorney for the District regarding Chief DeWolf’s contract and salary, including the report from Walker & Armstrong regarding Chief DeWolf’s salary and PSPRS contributions, investigation report regarding Chief DeWolf’s salary, and authorization for Chief DeWolf’s salary change implemented Nov. 2019. Seconded by Dorney. The Board approved the motion unanimously. Recording stopped at 9:34 am.

Back in Regular Session at 10:55 am. Chairman Johnson reminded everyone that Pursuant to ARS Sec. 38-431(C) Executive Sessions are confidential.

Lawyer Aversa reminded all that the Board has received and reviewed a report from the Districts auditors, Walker & Armstrong, regarding compensation paid to Chief DeWolf and the compensation authorized by the Fire Board and the investigation report from the Districts outside investigator, Kate Baker, who was directed by the Board to follow up on the Walker and Armstrong report regarding overpayment related to the Palominas IGA.

Based on the review of the documentation from Walker & Armstrong and Kate Baker, motion made by Webber to terminate Chief DeWolf’s contract for cause and authorize the Chair to issue the notice of termination, substantially the same form as presented, effective January 5, 2021 at 5 pm. Seconded by Archibald. The Board approved the motion unanimously. Chairman Johnson agreed to arrange to meet with Chief De Wolf to ensure that Chief DeWolf has timely notification of the termination. Archibald reminded all the investigation report is the first report we have received regarding financials, and we are still waiting for the larger report regarding on the claims of harassment. However there was enough evidence in this report to terminate for cause.

Motion made by Webber to have the District’s Attorney, Donna Aversa, engage the District’s auditors, Walker & Armstrong, to perform an accounting of the amount of the overpayment to Chief DeWolf effective as of the start of the initial Palominas IGA. Seconded by Archibald. The Board approved the motion unanimously. Attorney Aversa advised that per the motion she would contact Walker & Armstrong to get the engagement letter in place for the Chairman’s signature, and the Chair or Attorney Aversa will let the Board know if there is an estimated timeline for the performance of that work.

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Archibald reminded the Chair that the insurance company will need to be contacted to determine if the investigation by Walker & Armstrong will be covered under our insurance. The Board agreed to have Attorney Aversa work with the Chair to determine the extent of any relative insurance coverage.

Motion to adjourn by Archibald, and seconded by Dorney. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Minutes written by Reba Webber, Board Clerk.

Governing Board Meeting minutes approved on _____ January 2021.
By _____ Board Clerk, Reba Webber