

**\*\*ACTION MINUTES\*\***

**NOTICE OF MEETING  
COOLIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIREFIGHTER'S PENSION BOARD  
THURSDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 @ 11:00 A.M.  
COOLIDGE CITY HALL – 130 W. CENTRAL AVENUE  
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA, PINAL COUNTY**

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**CALL TO ORDER – *The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m.***

1. Pledge of Allegiance – *President Thompson dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance.*
2. Roll Call – *Present: President Jon Thompson, Secretary Mark Dillon, Board Members Norma Ortiz and Victor Mendoza. Board Members Ralph Felix, Dennis Gillespie and Larry Wainscott were absent.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3. Consider approval of the minutes for the meeting held on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. **Discussion and action.**

*\*\*The Board considered approval of the minutes for the June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting. There was no discussion. MOTION was made by Board Member Mendoza to approve the minutes for the meeting held on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. SECOND was made by President Thompson and passed unanimously.*

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

4. Consider approval of the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Annual Audit Reports for the Coolidge Volunteer Fire Department Pension Plan. **Discussion and action.**

*\*\*Board Member Ortiz advised the Board of the need to approve the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Annual Audit Reports for the Coolidge Volunteer Fire Department Pension Plan prepared by the 3<sup>rd</sup> party administrator Edberg Perry. There was discussion. MOTION was made by Board Member Mendoza to approve the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Annual Audit Reports for the Coolidge Volunteer Fire Department Pension Plan. SECOND was made by Secretary Dillon and passed unanimously.*

5. Review the March 2026 BMO Bank Statement for the Coolidge Firemen's Pension Checking Account. **Discussion only.**

*\*\*Board Member Ortiz reviewed the March 2026 Bank Statement for the Coolidge Firemen's Pension Checking Account, noting this account is utilized to pay for expenses incurred to administer the plan, employee payouts and IRS tax filings. There was discussion. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.*

6. Review the March 2026 Broadridge Matrix Trust Company Statement for the Coolidge Firemen's Pension Checking Account. **Discussion only.**

***\*\*Board Member Ortiz reviewed the March 2026 Broadridge Matrix Trust Company Statement for the Coolidge Volunteer Fire Department Qualified Pension Plan, noting this account is utilized to invest funds contributed to the pension plan by former and current employees. There was discussion. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.***

7. Consider approval of the request from Dennis Gillespie to withdraw his total contributions from the Coolidge Volunteer Fire Department Qualified Pension Plan for an amount not to exceed his total investment after 25 years. **Discussion and action.**

***\*\*Board Member Ortiz advised the Board of the request submitted by Dennis Gillespie to withdraw his contributions from the Coolidge Volunteer Fire Department Qualified Pension Plan for an amount not to exceed his total investment after 25 years of service. There was discussion. MOTION was made by Board Member Mendoza to approve the request from Dennis Gillespie to withdraw his contributions from the Coolidge Volunteer Fire Department Qualified Pension Plan for an amount not to exceed \$16,000. SECOND was made by Board Member Ortiz and passed unanimously.***

8. Discuss dissolving or discontinuing the Coolidge Volunteer Fire Department Qualified Pension Plan; authorizing Fire Chief Dillon and Legal Counsel to take the necessary steps to dissolve the plan. **Discussion only.**

***\*\*Secretary Dillon advised the Board of the need to discuss and consider steps and/or options to dissolve or discontinue the pension plan due to minimal contributions made since the City of Coolidge went to a full-time fire department, and, on-going administrative cost and fees. There was discussion.***

***\*\*Firefighters Chris Wichter and Tyler McHugh were both present to express their interest in their vested amounts, to inquire on the funds available in the trust, and, to request more conversations with volunteers before moving forward. There was much discussion. DIRECTION was given to look into other 3<sup>rd</sup> party administrators to reduce fees and have more conversations with volunteers so they can be involved in decision-makings and to discuss other options before dissolving the plan. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.***

9. Consider approval and ratification of the list of payables made from the Coolidge Fire Fighter's Checking Account between August 2023 and February 2026 in the amount of \$11,393.87.

***\*\*The Board considered approval of the list of payables made from the Coolidge Fire Fighter's Checking Account between August 2023 and February 2026 in the amount of \$11,393.87. There was discussion. MOTION was made by Board Member Mendoza to approve the list of payables made from the Coolidge Fire Fighter's Checking Account between August 2023 and February 2026 in the amount of \$11,393.87. SECOND was made by Secretary Dillon and passed unanimously.***

## **CALL TO THE BOARD**

***\*\*There were no comments made by the Board.***

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

***\*\*Volunteer Firefighter Chris Wichter thanked the Board for being allowed to speak on matters within the agenda, expressing his appreciation to be able to attend, and, stated he looks forward to working with the Board on future decisions about the pension plan.***

## **ADJOURNMENT**

***\*\*MOTION was made by Secretary Dillon to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m. SECOND was made by Board Member Mendoza and passed unanimously.***

***THESE ACTION MINUTES WERE PREPARED AND POSTED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE BY BOARD MEMBER NORMA ORTIZ ON MAY 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.***