

# Montezuma Rimrock Fire District

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## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT BOARD MEETING OF THE CAMP VERDE & MONTEZUMA RIMROCK FIRE DISTRICTS October 19, 2017

Pursuant to notice, a Special Joint Board Meeting of the Camp Verde & Montezuma Rimrock Fire Districts was called to order at 9:30 am on Thursday, October 19, 2017.

**MRFD Board Present:** Carol Keeton - Chairperson; Jerry Taylor – Board Member; Keith Arment – Board Member; **Not Present** Robert Satran – Clerk

**CVFD Board Present:** George Kleindienst - Chairperson; David Curtis– Clerk; Justin Largent – Board Member; Linda Welsch – Board Member; **Not Present** -; Ken Krebbs – Board Member

**Staff:** Terry Keller – Fire Chief; Robyn Cook – Administrative Manager; Eric Strauss – Battalion Chief; Kerrie Tarver – Administrative Support Specialist

**Salute to the flag of the United States of America and Moment of Silence to Honor all American Men and Women in service to our Country, Firefighters, and Police Officers** led by George Kleindienst.

**Call to the Public:** Ron – asked how the weed growth on private lots is dealt with. Chief Keller responded and stated that they are addressed on a case-by-case complaint. Letters are mailed to property owners and if not compliant, the complaint is forwarded to Yavapai County.

- 5) **Fire Chief's Report:** Chief Keller presented the chief's report to the board.
- 6) **Operations Report.** Chief Strauss presented the operations report to the board.
- 7) **Discussion and possible staff direction on the continuance of the JPA or the merger of CVFD and MRFD.** CVFD Board Chairperson Kleindienst requested the joint meeting to get a sense of what the stance of each board member is regarding the JPA and/or Merger. The board came to a unanimous stance to continue forward with the JPA at this time and there is no intention of dissolving the JPA.

Chief Keller and Ms. Cook briefly explained the process of a merger and that both boards need to agree unanimously, otherwise it will need to go to election.

The boards listened to input from the public and CCFMA employees. Employees pointed out the redundant costs of three monthly board meetings, three audits, training the double the amount of board members and election costs. Staff pointed out the obstacles of being unable to process background checks and obtaining a .gov address for DMV and property requirements. From an operations standpoint there is no difference between a JPA and a merger a merger impacts administrative processes.

Ron (LMPA) stated that he felt like the Lake Montezuma Property's Association feels that the JPA is a good thing and thinks it has been working. The community is becoming comfortable but he is not sure if two to three years is a long enough wait for a merger. CVFD's former Fire Chief Clayton Young agreed that he does not want to act quickly and that the JPA has helped MRFD. To address the perception that CVFD is carrying MRFD financially that it is in the best interest to continue the JPA for a few more years and determine where the cash flow is once the MRFD override is complete and that it will take time to educate the community.

The board recognized duplicate/triplicate financial costs to maintaining the JPA as opposed to merging. Board members agreed that a merger may be on the horizon but the timing is not right. They have decided to continue the JPA; merger discussions may be on future agendas but a merger would not be any earlier than the Fiscal Year beginning July 2019.

- 7) **Adjournment:** Board Member Taylor made a motion to adjourn the Special Joint Meeting at 10:57 am. Board Member Keeton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk