TRWC Board of Directors Meeting
February 26, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.
Teams Virtual Meeting

Minutes

1) Call to Order and Opening Comments

Board representative attendees:
Mr. Matt Busby, Chief Dan Butler, Chief Rob Duggan, Chief Vance Gray, Chief Eddie Smith, Chief Richard Mooney, Chief Dave Ott

2) Public Comment

Members of the public may address the Board on items not on the printed agenda.
No public comment requests were received.

3) Discussion and Action on Board Meeting Minutes

There were no questions or comments on the Board Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2024. Director Chief Butler motioned for approval of the minutes, and Director Chief Dave Ott seconded the motion. All Board members in favor signaled by saying "aye"; there was no opposition, and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Shaw reported that the Executive Committee conducted an in-depth, line-by-line review of the TRWC budget this year. The extended review provided a clearer understanding of expenditures and a solid plan for the upcoming fiscal year and future forecasts. The resulting budget reflects reductions from the original proposal.

Chief Duggan noted that the process was transparent and especially important given recent TRWC staff changes. He stated that the revised budget will be easier for agencies to present to their internal budget offices and highlighted that a budget coming in lower than projected is unusual and positive.

Paul Poledna presented the detailed budget and noted recent staffing changes, including the departure of Chuck Craig and the retirement of David Brunk.

Paul reported the following budget changes:

- Operations & Maintenance (O&M) expenses will decrease by $227,573, driven by reductions in commodities, labor alignment, insurance, utilities, Motorola contract adjustments, travel, legal services, and non-capital equipment.
- Capital expenditures will decrease by $2.658 million, following a review and realignment of projects to reduce year-to-year carryover and ensure agencies can budget accurately.
- The P25 voice radio network upgrade has been moved out several years based on updated information from Motorola.
- A 3% annual escalation was applied across budget categories.

Two spreadsheets—the O&M Budget and the Capital Budget—were presented. Agencies were encouraged to review the spreadsheets with their internal teams. The Mesa team offered to meet with any agency needing clarification.

Executive Director Shaw reiterated that the revised budget is clearer and more thoroughly developed than in prior years and recommended moving forward.

4) Board Discussion:

Director Chief Eddie Smith asked whether approving the budget commits his agency to future VHF expansion costs. Executive Director Shaw clarified that only the study cost is included at this time; actual expansion costs will be determined after the study and incorporated into future budgets.

Paul Poledna confirmed that agencies are not committing to expansion costs by approving the current budget.

Action:
The Board expressed comfort with the FY 26/27 budget.

- Motion: Director Chief Butler
- Second: Director Chief Eddie Smith
- Vote: Unanimous approval; no opposition

4) Network Administrator Updates – Paul Poledna, Dragan Jakovljevic, Randy Thompson

Finance spreadsheets were shared. Paul Poledna noted that Angie Huckaby will be transitioning out of TRWC and that Joshua Wallis will be filling her role.

Paul also noted that the Finance Spreadsheet currently reflects 63%, which will shift before the next meeting. The Motorola SUA maintenance contract—approximately $1.1 million—is in process and will affect the numbers and bring the budget back into a normal tracking position. Once processed, an update will be provided as part of the next presentation. According to the last presentation Angie provided, the budget is tracking appropriately.

Dragan Jakovljevic and Randy Thompson provided updates on current and future projects. Dragan reported that the Wolverine tower equipment is installed, with testing, software, and console upgrades scheduled for completion by March 31. Fire VHF is ready for integration pending the Motorola router upgrade.

Randy noted that current projects must be completed before starting new ones. Two sites in the Queen Creek/San Tan Valley area are being considered. Fire Station 262 may potentially be relocated to the Rodeo Grounds in Apache Junction.

5) Comments from the Board

Executive Director Shaw noted that the next Board of Directors meeting will be held in person in the second quarter.

6) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm