



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING MARTINEZ LAKE FIRE DISTRICT

### Meeting Minutes March 11th, 2026

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given that Martinez Lake Fire District will hold a meeting open to the public on:

**Wednesday, March 11th @ 10:00 am, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the main fire station, located at 10845 E. Martinez Lake Rd, Martinez Lake AZ 85365.**

The Board of Directors may go into executive session for any of the purposes set forth in A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) through (7), as applicable to the agenda items listed, including for the purposes of receiving legal advice or the consideration of employment-related issues.

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**  
**10:00 a.m.**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **3. Roll Call**

A roll call of Fire Board members was conducted.

Secretary Sherry Darling was noted in the transcript.

Other names/present members were not clearly captured in the transcript.

#### **4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 21, 2026 special meeting. It was noted that the meeting minutes were posted within the required 48-hour period.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the previous meeting minutes.

**Action:** Previous meeting minutes approved.

**Note:** Names of the member making the motion and second were unclear in the transcript.

#### **5. Correspondence**

The Board received correspondence from the Department of the Army requesting assistance in educating the public about unexploded munitions that may be found in the Martinez Lake area.

Key points discussed:

- Fire District personnel attended a training session on base regarding types of ordnance that may be encountered.
- Three personnel attended the prior day's training, three were scheduled to attend the following day, and two others would make up the training later due to EMT class and bereavement leave.
- Educational brochures are available for the public.
- The District plans to coordinate with Officer Harper and Larry Gable to provide community education through an HOA meeting.
- The Board also discussed inviting presenters to the next Board meeting in May for a public education presentation.
- The public was reminded:
  - Do not touch unexploded ordnance.
  - Do not move it.
  - Do not bring it to the fire station.
  - Leave it in place and notify the proper authorities.

It was reported that live ordnance had previously been brought to the station in December, requiring outside response and temporary disruption of service. The Sheriff's Office will also help educate the public that possession or removal of such items may result in criminal charges, including theft and endangerment.

The Board discussed adding a public demonstration/training component to the next public meeting, including identification of inert training rounds and proper reporting procedures.

Additional correspondence:

- VFIS renewed the District's insurance for the next year.
- Insurance costs increased by **\$6,516**, covering automobiles, building, and general liability.
- Workers' compensation was not included in that amount.

The Board also discussed publicizing the future community education meeting through:

- The District website
- The District Facebook page
- Fisher's Landing communications
- Martinez Lake community pages
- Lower River Junkies
- Other local community contacts

It was discussed that the meeting would likely be held at the station.

## **6. Chief's Report**

The following operational updates were provided:

Personnel:

- One member is currently out on bereavement leave.
- Richie is nearing completion of EMT class and is expected to test for National Registry certification, with the goal of becoming active as an EMT by August.
- John is scheduled to go on assignment with Wilderness Medics at the end of April on a rotating Alaska assignment. The duration is unknown and will depend in part on fire season activity.

#### Board Elections:

- All three Board member positions are up for election at the end of the year.
- It was discussed that interested candidates will likely need to announce their intent to run, complete nomination paperwork, and submit it to the elections committee for the November ballot.
- The Board discussed that current members may be eligible to run again, as no term-limit restriction was identified in the statutes reviewed.

#### Staffing / Leadership Transition:

- Dan, Assistant Fire Chief at YPG with extensive experience, was introduced as being interested in assisting the District.
- The current Chief discussed a potential transition in which Dan would take over operational leadership, while the current Chief would remain in an administrative role handling bookkeeping, payroll, county matters, and meeting minutes.
- It was noted that the District has grown to the point that operational and administrative duties are becoming too much for one person alone.

#### Hydrants / Water Supply / Fire Protection:

- Hydrants at Martinez are activated, repaired, and functioning, with two awaiting replacement after being damaged.
- The District now has keys to the pump house so personnel can help maintain hydrant operation during an emergency.
- A training was conducted on the correct procedure for opening hydrants to avoid pressure-related shutdown issues.
- Martinez has water storage tanks, and the river remains a backup water source if needed.
- The District plans to test/backflush fire department connections (FDCs), including the Martinez lagoon connection and the Fisher's Landing connection, to determine whether debris can be cleared without damaging the system.
- It was noted that the failing hydrant pump system is separate from the water tank supply system.

#### Facility / Community Support:

- Phillips offered to replace station signage. One sign is currently in San Diego being re-decaled and will be reinstalled, after which another sign will be taken down and similarly refurbished.
- It was noted that Phillips has begun participating more in support of District needs, including assistance with a broken spigot at the station.

### 7. Old Business

#### Multi-Quad Skid System:

- The Board revisited the matter of a **500-gallon multi-quad skid system**.
- Additional historical information is needed from prior meeting notes to determine what action was previously taken.
- Peggy reported that older records may be on cassette tape and would need to be reviewed when available. This item will remain under old business.

#### ISO Audit:

- The District is awaiting results from the ISO audit.
- Preliminary indications suggest the District may receive a rating of approximately **5 or 6**, better than the anticipated rating of 8.
- Once final results are received, letters will be sent to homeowners for submission to insurance companies in hopes of improving insurance rates.
- Results were expected within 45 to 60 days, likely by early April.

#### SCBA Air Packs / Tanks / Masks:

- The District's air tanks are over 15 years old and can no longer be hydrostatically tested.
- New tanks must be purchased, and because the current packs are outdated, replacement packs and masks will also be needed.
- Estimated replacement cost is **\$81,000**.
- The District plans to approach the City of Yuma regarding a lease program to reduce the immediate capital burden.
- A future grant application may be pursued once federal grant programs reopen, but current federal funding is on hold.
- This issue was identified as requiring immediate attention, as tanks cannot be refilled once current air is used.

### 8. Financial Report

The financial report was presented.

#### Key points discussed:

- February reporting had not yet been received at the time of the meeting.
- Tax revenue had declined from approximately **\$68,000 in December** to approximately **\$17,000 in January**, reflecting the normal tail end of the tax collection cycle.
- The District reported a positive balance of approximately **\$22,000** the prior month and had not drawn on warrants.
- If February numbers came in as expected, the District anticipated remaining positive by approximately **\$6,000**, not including additional tax collections.
- The District is expected to remain close to the break-even line through the remainder of the year.
- Once the next tax cycle begins, the District expects to be in a stronger position and reduce or eliminate the need to carry warrant-related balances as in prior years.
- It was also discussed that at the beginning of the fiscal cycle, the District had owed approximately **\$14,000**, but after tax collections the balance improved significantly.

### 9. New Business

No formal new business beyond items already discussed was clearly identified in the transcript.

### 10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for:

**Wednesday, May 13, 2026**

**10:00 a.m.**

It was noted that the May meeting will be opened to the public and is expected to include public ordinance safety training.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned following completion of discussion.

**Note:** Exact adjournment time was not captured in the transcript.

Schedule as follow:

March 11<sup>th</sup> 2026 @ 10:00 am (COMPLETE)

May 13<sup>th</sup> 2026 @ 10:00 am (SCHEDULED)