

Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES February 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

1) **Pledge of Allegiance**

2) **Roll Call** – Present were Board Clerk - Robert Papke, Member – Bruce Dow, Board Chairman - Chuck Ackerman, Member - Dave Burkhart, and Member - Mel Palmer.

3) **Presentations** – Retired chief, Gary Morris gave several updates.

Legislative Update; A bill relating to the property tax cap for Fire districts is out of committee and looks favorable. It decreases the commercial tax rate cap and increases residential. Year one to \$3.37 (to which we can add our voter approved \$ 0.50 over ride for one more year), Year two to \$3.50 (our override expires, but this matches our current rate).

Healthy Forest; \$24 million per year to treat 20,000 acres per year.

Fossil Creek; Meeting with new County Supervisor, set follow up with meeting with Forest Service. Letter from Yavapai Apache tribe, due to COVID no Council Meetings, Chairman does intend to take our concerns to Council when they resume.

4) **Correspondence** –There was a reply to the letter (last month) from Chief Wisner to the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management plan.

A letter from the Office of the State Forester was received stating that the Fire Code we proposed is accepted.

5) **Call to the Public** –None – (also, no response from Zoom attendees)

6) **Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes**

January, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes –Mel Palmer moved to accept the minutes as written and authorize the Board Clerk to sign them. Dave Burkhart seconded and the motion and it passed unanimously.

7) **Financial Report** – Approval of Previous Month's Finances

January, 2021 Financial Reports –Ben Archer-Clowes and Gabriel Buldra of the James Vincent Group were in attendance and Ben presented the financial report to the board. Dave Burkhart moved to accept the financial statements and authorize the Board Clerk to sign them. Chuck Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- 8) **Fire Chief's Report** (Available on our Website) – Including but not limited to:
- a) Significant Emergency Incidents
 - b) Other non-emergency Fire District Activity
 - c) Progress report on Fire Board directed business activities or projects.
 - d) Report on emergency call volume from previous month – responded to 57 calls for service.
 - e) Report on vehicle maintenance from previous month. \$8,175.63
 - f) Report on training activities from previous month – a total of 442 hours of training completed.
 - g) Fire Marshal Report - Plan Reviews generating a total of \$3,652.56 were completed.

9) **Other Fire District Related Reports**

- a) District Board Chairman's Report – None given.
- b) Chaplain's Report – The position is still vacant.
- c) Employee Assistance Fund Committee – Signer names have been updated at the bank.
- d) PSPRS Board Report – Three new members have been sworn in and there will be an upcoming meeting for Stacy Figueroa's retirement approval and also the approval of full time hiree Garrett Turley.
- e) Firefighter's Association Report – None given.
- f) Labor Organization Report –None given.

10) **Old Business**

(Items to be considered, reviewed, discussed and possible action on)

- a.) Public Hearing and Comments on updating the District's Fire Code.
Board Chairman Charles Ackerman opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at 7:05pm.
Chief Wisner reported that most Districts are using the 2018 Fire Code, and that staff is adapting the language for the Pine Strawberry Fire District. The final draft is expected to be ready for the March, 2021 Regular Board Meeting. Hearing no public comment, Board Chairman Charles Ackerman closed the public hearing at 7:20 pm.

Bob Papke made a motion to direct staff to develop written guidance for the board for the appeals process for the Chief's decision on Code application. Dave Burkhart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dave Burkhart made a motion to direct staff to develop and implement additional information to the community regarding the final public hearing before adoption of the new fire code, which involves open burning restrictions and penalties. His motion includes posting this hearing on social media as well as the Payson Roundup. Bob Papke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- b.) Discussion and possible action related to authorizing residential lock boxes for the elderly.
Chief Wisner pointed out that we approved this last month and no further action is needed. He stated that it would be prudent to implement this program in the new budget year as funding for this project was not included in this year's budget. No action taken.
- c.) Discussion and possible action on revising the wildland pay and billing policy.
Chief Wisner reported that he is still currently working on this. No action taken.

11) **New Business** –

(Items to be considered, reviewed, discussed and possible action on)

No New Items

12) **Future Meeting Date** will be Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Items for consideration- Updated Fire Code, Wildland/Extended duty pay policy update.

13) **Adjournment** –Bob Papke made a motion to adjourn. Charles Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously at 7:39 pm.