

Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD SPECIAL WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES April 21, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

- 1) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2) **Roll Call** – Present were Board Clerk Bob Papke, Board Member Bruce Dow, Board Chairman Chuck Ackerman, and Board Member Dave Burkhart. Board Member Mel Palmer was absent.
- 3) **Call to the Public** –None
- 4) **Preliminary Draft Budget 2022/2023 Work Study**

\$0.25 (\$3.50 total) Property Tax Override expires. \$0.25 historically gone to capital improvement, purchases, Station 42, Ambulance, not operating expenses. With the new \$3.375 rate established by the legislature and increase in assessed values the District is projected to see an overall increase of \$30-35K in tax revenue next year. Workman's Compensation rates and capitalization has increased, however a change in health insurance carriers realized some savings. Ben presented a positive balance budget which included a 5.9% COLA and \$200K going to capitol reserve. Wage/Benefit study by staff reported that current wages are approximately 5.6% behind meeting a 66.6%ile goal with other local Fire Districts and Departments. Employee group is requesting the full 5.6% to catch up to the 66.6% ile goal AND 5.9 COLA, AN 11.2% across the board increase. Chief Wisner presented a request to continue to fund capitol reserve at \$200K to fund future equipment purchases. Ben presented real time scenarios adjusting wages 11.2% and a capitol reserve at \$200K resulting in a negative balance budget. Other compromise budgets were tried including a compromise 8.9% wage increase and reduced capitol reserve with positive budget balances. Employees present, Board Chairman and Chief agreed to favpce to face discussions of compromise. PSFD and employee groups do not currently have an MOU requiring Meet and Confer.

No board action taken at this time. Tentative budget is due at the next Board Meeting (May) for approval at the June meeting.

- 5) **Adjournment** – Bob Papke made a motion to adjourn. Dave Burkhart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously at 6:01 pm.