

Board Meeting May 19, 2022

Pine-Strawberry Fire District

CLERKS NOTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 19, 2022 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Pine-Strawberry Fire District Fire Station
41 conference room, .

District Office Manager C. Wailes was absent. Notes taken by Board Clerk R. Papke

CALL TO ORDER. C. Ackerman 6:05 PM

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. X

2) ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.

C. Ackerman, Chairman: X

R. Papke, Clerk: X

D. Burkhart, member: X

B. Dow, member: Absent

M. Palmer, member: X

3) PRESENTATIONS. None

4) CORRESPONDENCE.

The District received Election material from Gila County Board of Supervisors. Two current Board Members; C. Ackerman, and D. Burkhart, terms expire at the end of this calendar year and must stand for re-election if they desire.

The District received a thank you note, and \$100 donation from Susan A. Holmquist.

5) CALL TO THE PUBLIC -

No members of the public were present, no response on the zoom meeting.

6) APPROVAL OF April, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

Motion to approve minutes of April 2022 Regular Meeting: Burkhart

Second: Palmer

Vote: 4-0

Member Dow was absent

Motion carried.

7) APPROVAL OF April, 2022 SPECIAL WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES
(Items to be considered, reviewed, discussed, and possible action on.)

Motion to Approve Minutes of April 22 Work Study Meeting: Ackerman

Second: Burkhart

Vote: 3-0

Member B. Dow was absent, Member Palmer abstained, as he was not present at that meeting.

Motion carried.

8) FINANCIAL REPORT OF April, 2022 FINANCES.

a) Approve the April 2022 Financial Report

There was no representative of the JVG available in person or on-line for this meeting. The Financial Report was read by Chief Wisner. There was no detailed spread sheet presentation.

The April Financial Report Summary, as published contained two errors, both indicated the data was for the month of March. Comparisons with the detailed financial records confirmed that the corresponding dollar amounts were accurate for the month of April. Upon motion to approve with corrections the month was corrected in both places on the original.

April Tax Revenue \$518,718 which was **Under** Budget by \$21,735

Non Tax Revenue \$30,854 which was **Under** Budget by \$36,007

Total Revenue \$549,573 which was **Under** Budget by \$57,792

Total Expenses \$286,154 which was **Under** Budget by \$38,236

Fiscal Year to Date Total Revenue \$3,215,059 which is **Over** Budget by \$277,950

Fiscal Year to Date Expenses \$2,521,657 which is **Under** Budget by \$43,783

Motion to amend the Financial Report Summary to reflect the correct month, approve the report, as amended, and authorize the Clerk to sign: Palmer.

Second: Burkhart.

Vote: 4-0.

Member Dow absent

Motion carried.

9) FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – The governing body may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on this matter unless the specific matter is properly identified on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as a result of the Chief's report will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date

a) Significant emergency incidents.

On 5-13 there were two serious traffic accidents on Hwy 87. In the morning at MP 273 there was a motorcycle accident with the rider being flown to Flagstaff. In the afternoon at MP 264 there was a fatal vehicle roll over.

b) Other non-emergency Fire District activity.

Due to a Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory indicating worsening wildland Fire potential the Chief has authorized temporarily upstaffing the Strawberry Station (Station 42) by one to provide 6 suppression staff per shift.

c) Progress report on Fire Board directed Fire District business activities or projects.

Building Plans reviewed 10 Sq Ft 21,783

YTD Sq Ft 62,534

d) Report on emergency call volume for previous month.

Emergency Calls 48 Previous Month 54. Previous Year 59.

EMS 39.

e) Report on vehicle maintenance from previous month.

\$ Not available

Vehicles out of Service Reserve Ambulance 422

f) Report on training activities for previous month.

Training Hours 255

g) Specific program updates or demonstrations.

Grant activity:

Holmatro battery powered extrication tools (GOHS grant) have been installed on primary ambulances staff training completed and one has been used at a motor vehicle roll over accident.

Grants Pending: \$37,148 for automated CPR devices, \$34,267 for portable radios.

Other: Per RBC issuance of COPs to refinance Unfunded PSPRS retirement liabilities

has been placed on day to day evaluation due to poor market conditions, which will not provide the savings target established by the PSFD Board.

The Chief and two engineers traveled to Ocala Florida for a pre-build meeting with E-1 regarding the replacement for E421 as previously approved by the Board. The trip was funded by E-1. Chief Wisner reported that after seeing the manufacturing process and speaking with E-1 employees he is confident in the quality of the build selected.

10) OTHER FIRE DISTRICT RELATED REPORTS.

(Items to be presented, considered, reviewed, discussed only).

a) District's Board Chairman Report & Discussion. None

d) Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board Report. None

e) Firefighter's Association Report. None

f) Labor Organization Report

Reported by Capt.Chester; At the most recent local union meeting applications for membership were approved bringing participation by eligible District employees to 100%

g) Fossil Creek Access Report: Forest remains closed due to damage from 2021 Backbone Fire

11) OLD BUSINESS.

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

a) None

12) NEW BUSINESS.

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

a) **Resolution 2022-003** - to disclose the use of certificates of participation funds as well as previously budgeted pension funds.

Bond Counsel Bill DeHaan reported on-line that some data is still needed for this resolution authorizing expenditure of funds previously budgeted to go to PSPRS directly to COP trustee to meet the Lease Purchase of collateral used to refinance the Unfunded PSPRS Retirement Obligation. No Board action is required at this time.

b) **2022/2023 Budget – Approval of tentative 2022/2023 budget** – The Board will consider approval of fiscal year 2022/2023 tentative budget.

Presented by Chief Wisner: Proposed 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget as developed by JVG, Staff, and during two Budget Work Study Board meetings.

Total projected revenue \$2,806,976

Total projected expenses \$2,801,101

Including 9% wages scale adjustment for suppression members, 9% for Fire Chief, and 13% for the Office Manager and one step increase for eligible employees resulting in a \$189,418 increase in personnel expenses over the previous year.

Motion to Approve, and publish Tentative 2022-2023 Budget,: Burkhart

Second: Palmer

Vote: 4-0

Member Dow absent.

Motion carried.

- c) **Technical Specialist Position Proposal** – The Board will hear a proposal from Mr. Fred J. Schoeffler on the merits of staffing an Experienced Local Knowledge (ELK) Technical Specialist position.

Presentation by Mr. Schoeffler. Proposed establishment of an unpaid position within the District as a Technical Specialist addressing local wildland Fire threats, potential and conditions with the “status” to speak officially for the District. Mr. Schoeffler presented his qualifications including academics, Forest Service and Fire District positions. He expressed concerns with the information made available by the Forest Service in wildland Fire situations including evacuations of populated areas such as Pine and Strawberry in 2021, and the quality of federal investigations into tragic incidents such as the feather of the Granite Mountain Hot Shots, near Yarnell, AZ. In 2013.

Discussion followed with member Burkhart citing information gathering and dissemination procedures already in place using regularly employed and/or established volunteer District, Forest Service, Sheriff’s Office, Tonto Rim Search and Rescue personnel. Member Palmer cited the services of the Gila County Sheriff’s posse. Clerk Papke thanked Mr Schoeffler for his extensive last service, but voiced concern with authorizing unpaid staff functioning outside the existing structure of the PSFD speaking officially on behalf of the District.

Motion: Burkhart

Member Burkhart moved that the District decline Mr Schoeffler’s proposal.

Second: Palmer

Vote: 4-0

Member Dow absent.

Motion carried.

The Board thanked Mr Schoeffler for his interest, and concern as citizen experienced in the wildland fire arena.

13) FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS and NEXT MEETING DATE.

Agenda Items :

12.a COP funding resolution

12.b Budget Approval

At the request of Chairman Ackerman Setting a date for the consideration of a long term capitol acquisitions and funding plan

Date: 6-16 Time: 6:00 PM

14) ADJOURNMENT.

Motion to Adjourn: Burkhart

Second: Palmer

Vote: 4-0

Member Dow absent

Motion carried

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 PM

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