

## Pine-Strawberry Fire District

### PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES March 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. Fire Marshal Rick Barnes was present via Zoom.

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

Legislative Update; SB 1108 passed out of the Senate to the House awaiting state budget development. This bill would affect commercial and residential property tax rates and raise the cap for fire districts.

Newly appointed County Supervisor Christiansen will support PSFD efforts to secure emergency access to Fossil Creek. There is a meeting planned for mid-April to try to get a time table from the Forest Service for commitments previously made.

Healthy Forest; \$24 million per year to treat/thin high risk areas.

FS Rd. 708 is now passable with 2 wheel drive pickup but not PSFD ambulance due to its width.

UTV (Gila County Purchased with grant) from Polaris for \$24,000. The Remainder of the \$30,000 grant funds will be used for auxiliary emergency equipment. Delivery is expected in 3-4 months.

4) **Correspondence** –Two donations to PSFD were made on remembrance of Bill Gurney.

There were also two responses from the County Board of Supervisors regarding the Grant applications Chief Wisner made. One grant awarded in the amount of \$15,000 from the Tonto Apache Tribe, and the other grant application in the amount of \$51,300 was from the Gila River Indian Community.

5) **Call to the Public** –None

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

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

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

February, 2021 Financial Reports –Ben Archer-Clowes of the James Vincent Group presented the financial report to the board. Dave Burkhart moved to accept the financial statements and authorize the Board Clerk to sign them. Mel Palmer 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 – Pine Strawberry FD was part of the Initial Response to a Wildland Fire in Tonto Basin.

There was also a brush fire on private property in Pine due to improper dumping of hot ashes. PSFD responded to the same address two additional times for reports of smoke on the property.

- b) Other non-emergency Fire District Activity – Reserve Firefighter Garrett Turley was hired to a full-time position beginning March 18, 2021. Engineer Stacy Figueroa will be retiring April 24, 2021 after 27 years with the Pine Strawberry Fire District.
- c) Progress report on Fire Board directed business activities or projects.
- d) Report on emergency call volume from previous month – responded to 41 calls for service.
- e) Report on vehicle maintenance from previous month. \$4,542.10
- f) Report on training activities from previous month – a total of 353 hours of training completed.
- g) Fire Marshal Report - Plan Reviews generating a total of \$5,482.32 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 – There has been no activity.
- d) PSPRS Board Report –The PSPRS Local Board met for the purpose of approving Stacy Figueroa’s retirement and also the approval of full time hire Garrett Turley.
- e) Firefighter’s Association Report – Stacy Figueroa reported that she is gathering all her information for passing along to whoever will be heading up the Firefighter’s Association after her retirement.
- f) Labor Organization Report –Tommy Cordova thanked Chief Wisner for pursuing the recent equipment grants that we were awarded. He noted that the Rescue Struts that were recently purchased will make their rescue jobs much safer. He also reported that they are working with the staff to develop a Captains promotional test in-house. He welcomed our newest full-time member Garrett Turley. Tommy also reported that the Arizona Union Representative is now the 10<sup>th</sup> District president representing the Southwest to the National Union.

**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 6:42 pm.  
Chief Wisner reported that the proposed code has been posted on our website. It will also be posted at five locations in Pine-Strawberry 20 days prior to its adoption at the April 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.  
Chief Wisner also stated that we will try to reach out to the vacation rental home owners with information on the fire code. He further stated that we will reach out to the community through the Payson Roundup newspaper prior to the April hearing to adopt the new code.  
Hearing no public comment, Board Chairman Charles Ackerman closed the public hearing at 6:56 pm.
- b.) Discussion and possible action on revising the District’s wildland pay and billing policies.  
Chief Wisner included in the Board packets a copy of the revised Wildland policies. (see attached) Mel Palmer made a motion to adopt the changes made to the Wildland pay policies as recommended by Chief Wisner

Specifically:

Policy 5.1.IV E - remove entirely

Policy 5.1.IV F - remove entirely

Policy 5.2.IV B - remove “pay including extended duty pay for assignments.”

Policy 5.5 - remove entirely

Policy 5.6 - remove entirely

Bob Papke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

11) **New Business –**

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

No New Items

- 12) **Future Meeting Date** will be Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Items for consideration- Updated Fire Code, Methods to undertake a complete policy update. Member pinning ceremony, Review of turnover of Stacy Figueroa’s administrative (social media, Firefighter’s Assoc.) duties, Budget workshop.
- 13) **Adjournment** –Dave Burkhart made a motion to adjourn. Charles Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously at 7:15 pm.