

P.O. Box 441
6198 W. Hardscrabble
Pine, AZ 85544
Phone: 928-476-4272
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Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 16, 2026

1. Call to Order: 1600 Hours (4 pm), 04/16/2026 by Chairman Robert Papke

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Robert Papke

3. Invocation: Given by Marylin Bennett

4. Roll Call of Board Members:

- a. The following PSFD Board Members were present: Chairman Robert (Bob) Papke, Clerk David Burkhart, Bob Bennett, Melvin Palmer, and Tina Trout.
- b. Also Present: Interim Chief James Stoltenberg, Marylin Bennett, Helen Palmer, Ben Archer-Clowes (PSFD Finance Advisor), and PSFD Staff members from the Pine and Strawberry Stations.

5. Presentations: Bond issue update was given by Interim Chief Stoltenberg and Bob Papke. Update on Bond Political Action Committee (PAC) given by Paul Volkes.

6. Correspondence: Letter from Glen and Marlyn Tenney

7. Call the Public: None

8. Approval of Previous Minutes:

- a. 03/19/2026 Regular Board Meeting
 - (i) Tina Trout made the motion to approve the 03/19/2026 meeting minutes and have the Board Clerk sign them. Bob Bennett 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the 03/19/2026 meeting minutes.
- b. 03/26/2026 Special Board Meeting
 - (i) Tina Trout made the motion to approve the 03/26/2026 meeting minutes and have the Board Clerk sign them. Bob Bennett 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the 03/26/2026 meeting minutes.

9. Financial Report: Ben Archer-Clowes gave the financial report to the Board. David Burkhart made the motion to approve the financial report as presented and authorized the Board Clerk to sign the report. Bob Bennett 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial report as presented and authorized the Board Clerk to sign it.

10. Fire Chief's Report: Interim Chief James Stoltenberg presented the Fire Chief's report.

Bob Papke requested a short break at 1644 hours; Board meeting resumed at 1647 hours.

11. Other Fire District Related Reports:

- a. District's Board Chairman Report and Discussion -- Robert Papke: None
- b. Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board Report -- David Burkhart: Briefed the Board on the Summer AZFC/AZFD Conference
- c. Firefighter's Association Report: None
- d. Labor Organization Report: None

12. Old Business:

- a. Discussion and possible action on General Obligation Bond -- No action taken. Readdress at next General Board Meeting.
- b. Discussion and possible action on negotiating a possible land purchase for the new fire station -- No action taken. Still waiting County on parcel number. Readdress at next General Board Meeting.
- c. Discussion and possible action on putting new engine 41 in service and disposition of current engine -- No Action taken. Still doing training on new engine. Readdress at next General Board Meeting. Bob Papke would like to organize a public event for the "push in".
- d. Discussion and possible action on disposition of C41-Jeep and a replacement -- No action taken. Tabled until next General Board Meeting.
- e. Discussion and possible action on the selection process for a permanent fire chief -- Interim Chief Stoltenberg briefed the Board on the Public Safety Answers cost and services for recruitment of a fire chief. Cost \$1,125.00 for 25 applicants, and the Board doing the reviews.

David Burkhart made a motion to have the Interim Fire Chief work up a contract with Public Safety Answers for recruitment of a Fire Chief for the amount of \$1,125.00 for 25 applicants. Melvin Palmer 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

13. New Business:

- a. Discussion and possible action on for the purchase and outfitting of a cab and chassis truck (as included in the Capitol Purchase Plan for Fiscal 2025/2026) for the purpose of replacing the REMS unit and moving the old REMS unit into a staff truck -- No Action taken. Readdress at next General Board Meeting.

14. Future Board Meeting Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date:

- a. Special Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 04/28/2026, at 1400 hours at the Pine-Strawberry Fire District Fire Station 41 Conference room, 6198 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd, Pine AZ. For a budget working session.
- b. General Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 05/21/2026, at 1500 Hours at the Pine-Strawberry Fire District Fire Station 41 Conference room, 6198 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd, Pine AZ. Agenda Items Include but are not limited to:
 - (i) Discussion and possible action on General Obligation Bond.
 - (ii) Discussion and possible action on negotiating a possible land purchase for the new fire station.
 - (iii) Discussion and possible action on putting new engine 41 in service and disposition of current engine.
 - (iv) Discussion and possible action on disposition of C41-Jeep and a replacement.

(v) Discussion and possible action on for the purchase and outfitting of a cab and chassis truck (as included in the Capitol Purchase Plan for Fiscal 2025/2026) for the purpose of replacing the REMS unit and moving the old REMS unit into a staff truck.

15. Adjournment:

a. Bob Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Melvin Palmer 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Pine Strawberry Fire District

General Obligation Bond Update

April 16, 2026

In November 2025, the voters of the Pine Strawberry Fire District approved, by a 70% affirmative vote, a \$6,000,000 General Obligation Bond. The purpose of the Bond is to address three critical District priorities related to facilities, apparatus, and wildfire risk reduction.

1. Replacement of the Pine Fire Station

The Bond authorizes replacement of the existing Pine Fire Station (Station 41), originally constructed in 1971. The project scope includes acquisition of suitable real property; site access, road, and land preparation; and the design and construction of a modern fire station. The new facility will provide adequate space for current and future apparatus, administrative offices, community and training areas, and crew quarters.

2. Modernization of Primary Response Engines

Bond proceeds will be used to modernize the District's primary response engines in both Pine and Strawberry. This includes ordering a replacement primary engine for Strawberry and, if funding permits, retiring the remaining long-term debt on the recently delivered Pine primary engine, this was the purpose of Resolution 25-003 back in December 2025. These measures are intended to reduce long-term interest costs to taxpayers and support a sustainable District operating budget.

3. Fuels Reduction and Firewise Programs

The Bond also supports expanded fuels reduction efforts within developed areas of the District. Planned actions include continued partnership with Pine Strawberry Fuel Reduction, grant-supported residential Firewise activities, and reinstatement of annual District-wide yard waste and fuels collection routes. Bond funds will be dedicated to equipment and vehicle acquisition or modification only; staffing costs will remain funded through the District's operating budget.

Bond Structuring and Sale Process

The District retained Stifel Public Finance to provide bond consulting, underwriting, and election support services. Public outreach was led by the political action committee Yes for a Safe Pine Strawberry, chaired by Paul Voakes. Following voter approval of Proposition 420, the Fire Board authorized issuance of an initial bond series in the amount of \$5,353,664 and approved preparation of a Preliminary Official Statement.

A formal due diligence conference call was conducted on March 24, 2026, involving District staff, the Board Chair, and Stifel representatives. A credit rating review call with Standard & Poor's occurred on March 25, 2026.

Based on the District's financial position and governance, Standard & Poor's assigned an A+ credit rating. The bonds also qualified for bond insurance through Assured Guaranty Municipal Group, enabling sale at AA interest rates. On March 26, 2026, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution 26-001 authorizing the bond structure and underwriting at a Special Meeting.

Bond Sale Results

The bonds were offered for sale on April 8, 2026, and were fully subscribed within approximately 90 minutes. Strong market demand allowed the selection of bids with yields ranging from 2.70% for short-term maturities to 3.82% at final maturity in 2045, resulting in estimated taxpayer savings exceeding \$150,000 over the life of the bonds compared to the initial 5% interest assumption.

The Final Official Statement was prepared by Stifel and, following review, scheduled for execution on April 17, 2026. Bond closing is scheduled for later in April, with net proceeds of approximately \$5.36 million expected to be received by the County on the District behalf on April 30, 2026.

Project Implementation Status

District staff and the Fire Board have identified a two-acre parcel near the existing Station 41 for potential acquisition and have secured a letter of intent from the property owner, pending issuance of a new parcel number by Gila County following completion of a land survey.

Initial discussions have occurred with experienced fire station designers and builders, including firms with familiarity with the Pine Strawberry community. The District has also secured a place in the manufacturing queue for a new primary fire engine for Strawberry. The new engine will be comparable to Engine 41 in Pine, which has been delivered and is scheduled to enter service in May 2026.

The District Fuels Manager has begun evaluating and pricing equipment necessary to reinstate residential fuels collection routes. The timing of program implementation will depend on station construction progress and available resources, and a public timeline will be provided once established.

Ongoing Obligations and Community Engagement

Issuance of bonds imposes ongoing legal, disclosure, and continuing reporting obligations on the District. The Board and staff remain committed to transparency and welcome

community input as the District proceeds with station construction and enhanced wildfire risk reduction initiatives.

Acknowledgments

The Board acknowledges the contributions of the Yes for a Safe Pine Strawberry PAC, former Fire Chief Joel Brandt, Interim Fire Chiefs Paul Voakes and James Stoltenberg, District firefighters and staff, Stifel Public Finance, The James Vincent Group, and the residents and taxpayers of the Pine Strawberry Fire District who made this all possible with their Yes vote last November.

Yes for a Fire Safe Pine- Strawberry

Update on PAC.

Closed out bank account @ Chase bank in Payson on 3/17/26

Remaining fund balance was: \$510.11

Funds divided up and dispersed to the Pine Strawberry Fire Fighter Association & Pine Strawberry Fuels Reduction Inc.

PSFFA received 255.10

PSFR received 255.11

Future meeting date to officially dissolve the PAC is TBD.

Paperwork to be turned into Gila County.

**Glen Tenney
Marilyn Tenney
5121 N. James Circle
Strawberry, AZ 85544**

April 1, 2026

Pine Strawberry Fire Department
Fossil Creek Road
Strawberry, AZ 85544

In January several of your men came to our home on an emergency call because my wife was having trouble breathing for a short period of time. As it turns out, her condition was quite temporary, and after a brief check all was back to normal.

We did not receive any kind of bill for your services, but wanted to thank you all, and we want to make a small donation to your organization.

Thanks again for being there in our time of need.

Sincerely,


Marilyn Tenney

Glen Tenney
Marilyn Tenney

Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2026

1. **Call to Order:** at 3:00 PM, 03/19/2026 by Chairman Robert Papke.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead by Robert Papke.
3. **Invocation:** Given by Marylin Bennett.
4. **Roll Call of Board Members:**
 - a. The following PSFD Board Members were present: Chairman Robert (Bob) Papke, Clerk David Burkhart, Board Member Bob Bennett, Board Member Melvin Palmer, and Board Member Tina Trout.
 - b. Also Present: Interim PSFD Chief Paul Voakes, Interim Chief James Stoltenberg, Marylin Bennett, Helen Palmer, Ben Archer (PSFD Finance Advisor), and PSFD Staff members from the Pine and Strawberry Stations.
5. **Presentations:** None.
6. **Correspondence:** One letter from Mike Tweet about a donation of \$435.00 Pickel Ball Gear for Members' use.
7. **Call to The Public:** Helen Palmer requested the Firefighter's consider doing a calendar.
8. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
 - a. 02/19/2026 Regular Board Meeting -- David Burkhart made a motion to approve the 02/19/2026 meeting minutes and have the Board Clerk sign them. Bob Bennett 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the 02/19/2026 meeting minutes.
 - b. 02/28/2026 Special Board Meeting -- David Burkhart made the motion to approve the 02/28/2026 meeting minutes and have the Board Clerk sign them. Bob Bennett 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the 02/28/2026 meeting minutes.
9. **Financial Report:** Ben Archer gave the financial report to the Board -- David Burkhart made the motion to approve the financial report as presented and authorized the Board Clerk to sign the report. Melvin Palmer 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial report as presented and authorized the Board Clerk to sign it.
10. **Fire Chief's Report:** Interim Chief James Stoltenberg presented the Fire Chief's report.
11. **Other Fire District Related Reports:**
 - a. District's Board Chairman Report and Discussion: Robert Papke -- None.
 - b. Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board Report: David Burkhart -- None: Briefed the Board and District on the closure of the 708 Road and Bob Bear Trail widening for emergency side-by-side.

- c. Firefighter's Association Report: Chris Williams -- Briefed the Board on upcoming events the FFA was organizing.
- d. Labor Organization Report: None.
- e. Fuels Treatment Report: Chris Williams briefed the Board of the fuel reduction grant. As of 02/26/2026 4.11 acres were cleared and reimbursed \$7,196.00. Grant runs through 2027.

12. Old Business:

- a. Discussion and possible action on General Obligation Bond -- No action taken, have special meeting scheduled for Thursday 03/26/2026 at 4 pm. Will have on the next general meeting agenda.
- b. Discussion and possible action on negotiating a possible land purchase for the new fire station -- Still waiting on the County. No action taken. Will be added to the next regular or special meeting agenda.
- c. Discussion and possible action on putting new engine 41 in service and disposition of current engine -- Still doing training on the new engine. No action taken. Will be added to the next regular or special meeting agenda.
- d. Discussion and possible action on newly reorganized Policy Review Committee -- Melvin Palmer briefed the Board on where the committee currently stands in setting up.

13. New Business:

- a. Discussion and possible action on Performance Evaluation of Interim Chief Paul Voakes -- The Board conducted the Performance Evaluation of Paul Voakes, each Board member went over their individual evaluation, and then the evaluations were compiled and averaged for his overall evaluation.
- b. Discussion and possible action on the selection process for a permanent Fire Chief -- The Board discussed either doing the recruitment of a fire chief on their own or use of an agency (West Trainer, Public Safety Answers). Both pros and cons were discussed.

Robert Papke made the motion that the Board adopt a selection process for permanent Fire Chief using Public Safety Answers as our initial screening using qualifications established by the Board and directed Interim Chief Stoltenberg to contact them and bring a proposal to the next regular board meeting. Bob Bennett 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion as presented.

- c. Discussion and possible action on the availability and procedure for legal counsel/advise for members when required to testify in court on a work-related case -- David Burkhardt briefed the board on a policy concerning this and suggested we allow the PSFD lawyer to draft a policy for the policy committee.

The Board discussed this and agreed, but decided that no vote was required and directed Interim Chief James Stoltenberg to contact the PSFD lawyer to start drafting a policy to send to the policy committee.

14. Future Board Meeting Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date:

- a. Special Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 4 pm For discussion and possible action on the General Obligation Bond and possibly on land purchase for the new fire station.
- b. General meeting) on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 4 pm at the Pine-Strawberry Fire District Fire Station 41 Conference room, 6198 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd, Pine AZ. For discussion and possible action on disposition of the C41 jeep and replacement, land purchase for the new fire station, the

selection process for a permanent Fire Chief, and on putting new engine 41 in service and disposition of current engine.

15. Adjournment: Bob Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Tina Trout 2nd the motion. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5 pm.

REVIEWED APPROVED
04/16/2026
JB

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Pine, AZ 85544
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Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2026

1. **Call to Order:** at 4:00 pm, by Chairman Robert Papke
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead By Robert Papke
3. **Invocation:** Marylin Bennett
4. **Roll Call of Board Members:**
 - a. The following PSFD Board Members were present: Chairman Robert (Bob) Papke, Clerk David Burkhart, Board Member Bob Bennett, Board Member Melvin Palmer and Board Member Tina Trout.
 - b. Also Present: Interim Chief James Stoltenberg, Marylin Bennett, Mike Lavallee (Stifle) and PSFD Staff members from the Pine and Strawberry Stations.
5. **Call to the Public:** None - No one on Zoom
6. **Old Business:**
 - a. Discussion and possible action on General Obligation Bond.
 - (i) Board members asked Mike Lavallee (Stifle) questions related to the resolution and related documents for the bond. Questions were answered to the Board members' satisfaction.
 - (ii) Tina Trout made the motion to accept the bond resolution as presented. Melvin Palmer 2nd the motion. The Board Chair Robert Papke made a request that we do a roll call vote. Tina Trout-Yes, Bob Bennett-Yes, Robert Papke-Yes, Melvin Palmer-Yes, David Burkhart-Yes. The motion passes with a unanimous vote of the Board. (See attached Resolution 26-001)
7. **Future Board Meeting Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date:**
 - a. General Board meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 4 pm.
8. **Adjournment:**
 - a. **Tina Trout made a motion** to adjourn. Bob Bennett 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:54 pm.

REVIEWED & APPROVED
04/16/2026
JB

PS10F1



Pine- Strawberry Fire District

6198 W Hardscrabble Mesa Rd
Pine, AZ 85544



Monthly Financial Report – March 2026

Attached are the following for your information and review:

1. Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2026.
2. Summary of Reconciled Cash Balances as of March 31, 2026.
3. Income Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for March 2026 including budget to actual and year-to-date balances.
4. Income and Expenses Graph FY26.
5. Monthly Disbursement Report.
6. 12-Month Cash Flow.

Key points:

- Revenue for March is \$257,835 which is \$73,315 over budget.
 - Tax Revenue is \$144,939 which is \$4,289 under budget.
 - Non-Tax Revenue is \$112,896 which is \$77,604 over budget.
- Expenses for March totaled \$264,650 which is under budget by \$62,651.
- Year to Date Revenue is \$3,473,804 which is over budget by \$490,568.
- Year to Date Expense is \$3,241,426 which is over budget by \$292,876.

Please contact the Finance Department at (480) 422-9777 for any questions or concerns regarding this report.

This report and the attached detail reports have been reviewed and approved by the Fire Board.

Board Clerk

Date



Pine-Strawberry Fire District

P.O. Box 441 □ Pine, Arizona 85544

Phone: (928) 476-4272 □ Fax: (928) 476-4634

Website: www.psfadz.com

Fire Chief's Report -April 2026

Emergency Activity

- Total Dispatches for February - **50** calls for service
- 2 Fire Calls
- 37 EMS Calls
- 0 Gas Leak/Hazmat/Electric/TRT
- 1 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 10 Misc. Calls for Service
 - 2 Invalid Assist
 - 1 Public Service
 - 1 Assist Police
 - 1 Public Service Assistance
 - 1 Dispatched and Cancelled
 - 1 Nothing Found
 - 1 Smoke Oder
 - 1 Smoke Detector Activation
 - 1 Special Type Incident

March 2026 there were **50** calls for service, Year-To-Date:**163**

Vehicle Report

- UTV Check engine light came on and code for miss fire, cleared code added fuel additive and 5 gallons of VP 94 octane to cure bad fuel issue. \$114.62 (in house)
- E42 repaired rock chip in captain side windshield (in house)
- T41 Repaired Auto Air eject for broken airline fitting and replaced plug in adapter. (in house)
- A41 Forward white code lights inoperable and blue and red not visible front. Relocated 4 code lights from grill to bumper cross bar. Also found bad relay connection for white code lights. (in house)
- B4 Went to Chapman Auto center for Right front axle boot being torn open. Replaced right front axle shaft. Covered under warranty no cost.

- T41 Slade and I installed a new BK M150 Remote head radio. Used this installation as a teaching point for in-house radio installs. (in house)
- E42 was informed of exhaust leaks found 2 broken studs for exhaust manifold. A to Z mechanical Came and replaced all 12 manifold studs \$386.28
- A43 Slade and I installed a new BK M150 non remote head mobile radio (teaching point) (In House)
- A41 Received an email from Engineer Green, concerning the angle of mobile radio head unit catching glare from sunlight, R&R console and angled head unit towards the rear. Checked with reporting crew and fix was acceptable. (in house)
- New E41 Purchased wheel chocks and brackets \$1,154.48
- Staff Jeep no longer in service do to oil pump issue.

Budget acct 6110 total \$1,655.38

Training Report

- Fire Rescue1: Dealing with Heat Stress
- Wildland Training and Saw refresher
- Pack Test and PPA
- Apparatus Rodeo.
- PT at station daily.
- Training hours for March, Members **1079.5**, Reserves **N/A**

Plan Reviews: The PSFD Fire Marshall reviewed 10 plans this month with a total addition of 1149 sq ft. to the district and remodel of 0 sq ft. The total fees collected this month were \$2,187.96 and year-to-date total: \$6,224.34.

Significant events: Mutual Aid Fire with Payson E41 responded

Incident Type Report (Summary)

Basic Incident Type Code And Description (FD1.21)	Total Incidents	Total Incidents Percent of Incidents	Total Property Loss	Total Content Loss	Total Loss	Total Loss Percent of Total
Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 1 - Fire						
111 - Building fire	1	2.00%				
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1	2.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total: 2		Total: 4.00%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%
Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident						
300 - Rescue, EMS incident, other	1	2.00%				
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1	2.00%				
320 - Emergency medical service, other	1	2.00%				
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	34	68.00%				
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1	2.00%				
Total: 38		Total: 76.00%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%
Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 5 - Service Call						
550 - Public service assistance, other	1	2.00%				
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	1	2.00%				
553 - Public service	1	2.00%				
554 - Assist invalid	2	4.00%				
Total: 5		Total: 10.00%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%
Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 6 - Good Intent Call						
611 - Dispatched and cancelled en route	1	2.00%				
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	1	2.00%				
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1	2.00%				
Total: 3		Total: 6.00%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%
Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 7 - False Alarm & False Call						
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	1	2.00%				
Total: 1		Total: 2.00%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%
Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 9 - Special Incident Type						
900 - Special type of incident, other	1	2.00%				
Total: 1		Total: 2.00%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%
Total: 50		Total: 100.00%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%