

Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 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 Gary Morris - Legislative Issues: Expect a finalized State Budget within the week property tax increase is still in place at this time.

UTV: purchased and delivered, currently being outfitted by the Sheriff's Office using purchase savings realized by purchasing through the Government Division of Polaris.

Fossil Creek Access: Progress is being made, Yavapai Apache Nation supports improved rescue access and access for tribal members. Tribal Chair sent a letter to USFS District Ranger agreeing to improvement to the Bob Bear Trail for motorized rescue access if Tribal Elders and Traditional Practitioners are also given access. FS is willing to have boulders removed and a gate installed. The bridge will not be rebuilt, but there may be access via installation of Culverts and back fill in the ravine.

4) Correspondence – Copy of the letter regarding motorized (rescue) and Tribal Elder access to Fossil Creek from Tribal Chair Jen Huey to USFS District Ranger Matthew Paciorek dated May 28, 2021.

Email from Town of Payson Fire Chief David Staub to Chief Wisner thanking PSFD for assistance with two structure fires and a serious traffic accident involving a propane truck rollover in Payson dated June 10, 2021.

5) Call to the Public –None

6) Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting – Dave Burkhart moved to accept the minutes as written and authorize the Board Clerk to sign them. Mel Palmer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

May, 2021 Financial Reports – Ben Archer-Clowes of the James Vincent Group was in attendance and he presented the financial report to the board. Ambulance Revenue continues to be under budget. AzDHS has made some movement on applications for rate increases by districts ahead of Pine Strawberry Fire District in the queue.

A Public Safety Personnel Retirement pension funding policy must be adopted by the District. Discussion and possible action were deferred to a Special Board Meeting to be scheduled. 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** – Chief Wisner reported on UTV accidents on Fossil Creek Rd and the Control Rd.

The Type 3 Engine was deployed on Wildland Fire assignment – first to the Mescal Fire, then reassigned to the Telegraph Fire in Southern Gila and Northern Pinal Counties.

PSFD assisted Payson and Hellsgate with large structure(House) fires.

Backbone Fire was reported on the Coconino National Forest on June 16th. As of the morning of June 17th, it had grown to 300 acres and was actively moving toward the abandoned APS Power station in Childs – approximately 12 miles West of Strawberry. Chief Wisner has met with Tonto National Forest and will remain in the information loop.

- b) **Other non-emergency Fire District Activity** – Chief Wisner reported that most of the new 4" supply hose has arrived and will replace the 3" hose on the engines. The new hose will increase the water flow to the engine pumps.

Tonto National Forest and Gila County have gone to Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. (No open fires. Propane BBQ's only)

US Senator Kelly's office contacted Chief Wisner requesting further information on a Station 41 replacement project grant previously submitted. This is a \$2.15 million project for which the District's portion would be approx. \$150,000.

- c) **Progress report on Fire Board directed business activities or projects** –

The in-house committee is making progress on specifications for a replacement Type 1 Engine for E-411.

Chief Wisner continues to work with Human Resource Strategies on the Policy Manual update.

- d) **Report on emergency call volume from previous month** – responded to 80 calls for service.
e) **Report on vehicle maintenance from previous month** – \$265.06
f) **Report on training activities from previous month** – a total of 266 hours of training completed.
g) **Specific program updates or demonstrations** –Fire Marshal reports that the District has reviewed submitted plans in the month of May totaling 7,395 sq. feet and generating revenue totaling \$1,443.96.

9) **Other Fire District Related Reports**

- a) **District Board Chairman's Report** – None given
b) **Chaplain's Report** –There is a possible candidate through Mountain Bible Church who brings with him both church and fire service experience.
c) **Employee Assistance Fund Committee** – None
d) **PSPRS Local Board Report** – New laws will require additional Local Retirement Board training after December 31, 2021.
e) **Firefighter's Association Report** – None given.
f) **Labor Organization Report** –None Given

10) Old Business

- a.) Discussion and possible action related to the development of a Fee Schedule for the District. Chief Wisner reported that he is still working on this. Dave Burkhart made a motion to table this item for future discussion. Mel Palmer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

11) New Business –

- a.) UTV Rescue Skid – Consideration of purchasing a rescue skid unit to use with UTV. Dave Burkhart presented information on a slide-in litter carrier for the new UTV. The skid is detachable and easily re-installed, and does not require modification of the UTV. Cost is \$1,395.00 plus shipping. Bruce Dow made a motion that the District purchase the Qtac EMS F-litter carrier skid at a total cost of no more than \$2,000. Mel Palmer seconded the vote and it passed unanimously.
- b.) Station 42 Garage Door – Consideration of authorizing the installation of a garage door on Station 42 where the new UTV will be housed.
Discussion: The door to the garage at Station 42 was deleted at the time of construction to save cost. With the UTV and other equipment in need of secure storage, Chief Wisner requested that the District purchase a locking garage door for Station 42. Cost estimated is less than \$3,000. Mel Palmer made a motion that the Board authorize the Chief/staff to seek bids and purchase a garage door for Station 42 – not to exceed \$3,000. Dave Burkhart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

12) Public Budget Hearing

- a.) Open Public Hearing for Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget – Board Chairman Chuck Ackerman opened the Public Hearing at 7:24 pm
- b.) Public Comments regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget – None
Hearing no comments, Board Chairman Chuck Ackerman closed the Public Hearing at 7:25 pm.
- c.) Discussion and Possible action: Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget – Board members had previously review the proposed Budget and it was tentatively adopted during the May Regular Board Meeting.
- d.) Dave Burkhart made a motion that the Board formally adopt the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget as presented and authorize the Board Chairman and Clerk to sign. Chuck Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

13) Future Meeting Date And Agenda Items – Special Board Meeting for discussion and possible action regarding the PSPRS Pension Funding Policy – Scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 10:00am.

Next Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 6:00pm. Items to be considered: District Fee Schedule, Residential Lock Boxes, Social Media and Website responsibilities.

14) Adjournment – Robert Papke made a motion to adjourn. Bruce Dow seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.