

Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES June 23, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

1) Pledge of Allegiance

- 2) Roll Call** – Present was Board Member - Mel Palmer. Board Chairman- Chuck Ackerman and Member – Bruce Dow were in attendance via zoom/teleconference. Also in attendance were Chief John Wisner and Ben Arche-Clowes (via zoom).

3) Call to the Public –None

4) New Business –

- a.) **Consideration of Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Funding Policy.** We are required to adopt and post our funding Policy for the PSPRS. Ben Archer-Clowes explained that we went over this in the Board Meeting on the 17th but since we didn't have it listed on the agenda as an action item, we to formally vote to adopt the policy.
Mel Palmer moved to accept the PSPRS funding policy. Bruce Dow seconded the motion and it passed with three "ayes".
- b.) **Consideration of Declaration of Emergency due to surrounding wildfire impacts.** Chief Wisner explained the tremendous financial impact the Backbone Fire has had on our 2021 budget. He further explained that by declaring a "State of Emergency", this is a mechanism for recovering some funding for reimbursement for this emergency.
Bruce Dow made a motion to accept Pine-Strawberry Fire District Resolution No. 2021-004 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE DISTRICT, EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND RESPONSE TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF GILA COUNTY EMERGENCY DECLARATION ISSUED JUNE 19, 2021 FOR THE BACKBONE WILDFIRE IN GILA COUNTY. Chuck Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed with three "ayes".
- c.) **Consideration of emergency authorization to exceed personnel costs for 2021 budget.** Chief Wisner explained that we are incurring way more overtime expense than we had planned for in the budget. He estimates approximately \$25,000 in additional overtime cost for the Backbone Fire depending on how long this fire incident continues. Mel Palmer made a motion to authorize the extra overtime costs in the 2021 budget for "personnel." Bruce Dow seconded the motion and it passed with three "ayes".

- d.) **Consideration of district financial accounts end of year disposition.** Chief Wisner explained that he has spoken with Ben Arche-Clowes regarding moving most of our “unencumbered” funds from our ‘General Operating’ account to our ‘Payroll’ account by the end of the fiscal year. There have been cases in the past where the County Treasurer has ‘swept’ the accounts of Special Districts at the end of the fiscal year and we feel it would be prudent to move our unencumbered funds into the Payroll account to avoid this possibility. Mel Palmer made a motion to move our unencumbered funds from the ‘General Operating’ account into the ‘Payroll’ account before the end of the fiscal year. Chuck Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed with three “ayes”.

- 5) **Adjournment** – Bruce Dow made a motion to adjourn. Mel Palmer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously at 10:25 am.