

Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES July 15, 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** – None
- 4) **Correspondence** – One Letter of Thanks was read from a Strawberry resident who wished to thank the Fire Department – particularly C-shift for their professionalism and care for his granddaughter following an ATV accident.
Four other letters of thanks and gratitude for our service to the community all containing donations totaling \$2,100.00 were also received this month.
- 5) **Call to the Public** –None
- 6) **Approval of Previous Month’s Meeting Minutes**
June, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes –Melvin Palmer moved to accept the minutes as written and authorize the Board Clerk to sign them. Dave Burkhart seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- 7) **Approval of June , 2021 Special meeting Minutes**
June 23, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. Melvin Palmer made a motion to accept the minutes as written and authorize the Board clerk to sign them. Chuck Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed with three ayes. Bob Papke and Dave Burkhart abstained.
- 8) **Financial Report** – Approval of Previous Month’s Finances
June, 2021 Financial Reports –Steven Rodriguez of the James Vincent Group was in attendance and he presented the financial report to the board. Dave Burkhart moved to accept the financial statements and authorize the Board Clerk to sign them. Melvin Palmer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- 9) **Fire Chief’s Report** (Available on our Website) – Including but not limited to:
 - a) **Significant emergency incidents** – Chief Wisner reported on the Backbone Fire. The fire came within 1.5 miles of Strawberry, and spotted into the Hardscrabble Canyon threatening Pine. When management action points were reached, Pine & Strawberry were moved to “Set” evacuation status by the Gila County Sheriff’s Office on Friday, June 18th. Minutes later Strawberry and subsequently Pine were moved into “GO” status triggering evacuation of both communities. All available PSFD personnel were recalled on Saturday, June 19th. Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Command team and timely rain stopped progress of the fire before it reached any Pine/Strawberry homes or structures. Pine went back to “Set” status the morning of June 26th and Strawberry was moved back to “Set” status on June 27th, allowing residents to return to their homes. There were two injuries during the evacuation – a hand injury while

hooking up a trailer, and a car that crashed into a tree. There were no other calls for service during the evacuation period.

- b) **Other non-emergency Fire District Activity** – Engine 413 returned from the Telegraph Fire in time to be on hand for response to the Backbone Fire. E-413 and a new crew have since been deployed to fires in Sequoia National Forest in California.

PSFD received a 100 Club Safety Equipment Grant for load bearing backpacks to be used in Wildland fire pre-deployment testing to minimize back stress.

Chief Wisner will represent Pine Strawberry Fire District at the “Surviving the Backbone Fire” open house in Pine on Saturday, July 17, 2021.

Staff for U.S. Senator Kelly will visit PSFD on Monday, July 19 to check on status post fire and status of Station 41 and water tender replacements.

Fire Marshall reviewed 8 plans, adding 13,000 square feet to development.

- c) **Progress report on Fire Board directed business activities or projects** – E411 replacement committee continues to work on specifications for a replacement engine.

Class A uniform fittings have begun.

Work continues on the Personnel Policy revision.

- d) **Report on emergency call volume from previous month** – responded to 47 calls for service.
- e) **Report on vehicle maintenance from previous month** – \$759.88
- f) **Report on training activities from previous month** – a total of 349 hours of training completed.

10) **Other Fire District Related Reports**

- a) District Board Chairman’s Report – None given.
- b) Chaplain’s Report – There is a potential candidate coming in for an interview.
- c) Employee Assistance Fund Committee – There was one donation for \$100.00.
- d) PSPRS Board Report – None given.
- e) Firefighter’s Association Report – None given.
- f) Labor Organization Report – None given.
- g) Fossil Creek Access Report – CLOSED due to the Backbone Fire.

11) **Old Business**

- a.) Discussion and possible action related to developing a fee schedule. No action due to Backbone Fire.
- b.) The Board will hear an update on the previously approved residential lock box program. Fifty combination lock boxes have purchased. SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) and “Hold Harmless” agreement are being developed before implementation.

12) **New Business** –

- a.) Social Media and Website responsibilities. The Board will hear an update of the current social media and website responsibilities and may discuss or give direction to staff. Chief Wisner has made contact with an IT company to resolve website and search issues. The recent evacuation reinforced the importance of social media and up to date information for our communities – especially during emergencies. This should be included in any After Action Report of the recent fire and should be a topic for development. No action taken.
- b.) Consideration of District financial account allocations. The Board will hear recommendations by the Chief and Financial Advisors on District financial accounts and may direct staff to redistribute account balances to match District needs. Steven Rodriguez, of the James Vincent Group, gave input on the benefit of moving the District’s funds at the end of the fiscal year as follows:
 - Keep \$550,000 in National Bank (payroll account)
 - Move \$250,000 to Gila County (warrant account)
 - Move \$581, 822 to Gila County (capital/reserve account)Melvin Palmer made a motion to move the District funds as suggested by Mr. Rodriguez of the James Vincent Group. Chuck Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

13) **Future Meeting Date** will be Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Items for consideration- Fee schedule, Residential lockboxes, Social Media & Website responsibilities.

14) **Adjournment** – Dave Burkhart made a motion to adjourn. Chuck Ackerman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously at 7:30 pm.