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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 Burkhart 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.