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Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 28, 2026

- 1. Call to Order:** at 10:00 AM, 02/28/2026 by Chairman Robert Papke
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead by Robert Papke
- 3. Invocation:** Give by Marylin Bennett
- 4. Roll Call of Board Members:** Pine-Strawberry Fire District (PSFD) Board Members Present: Chairman Robert (Bob) Papke, Clerk David Burkhart, Board Member Bob Bennett, and Board Member Melvin Palmer. One Board Position is Vacant.

Also Present: Interim PSFD Chief Paul Voakes, Carman Wailes PSFD Office Manager, Interim Chief James Stoltenberg, James Family, Marylin Bennett, Helen Palmer, Tina Trout, Dennis Newman (Under Gila County Sheriff's Office - GCSO), Former PSFD Chief - Joel Brandt, and PSFD Staff members from Pine and Strawberry stations.

- 5. Presentations:** Robert Papke presented an original cartoon style watercolor to Interim Chief Voakes as a thank you for his service as Interim Fire Chief from August 2025 to March 2026.
- 6. Call to the public:** None

7. Old Business:

a. Discussion and possible action on the appointment of an Interim Fire Chief pursuant to an IGA with the Tonto Basin Fire District including the possible appointment and swearing in of an Interim Fire Chief. Chairman Robert Papke asked the following questions of the potential Interim Fire Chief.

What is the Interim Fire Chief Name? **Answer: James A. Stoltenberg.**

Have you read and understand the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Pine-Strawberry Fire District and the Tonto Basin Fire District? **Answer: Yes, I have.**

Do you agree to faithfully discharge the duties of the Interim Fire Chief of the PSFD during the term and according to the provisions of that agreement? **Answer: Yes, I do.**

Do you have any known conflicts of interest, or other impediment that would adversely affect the performance of your duties as interim Fire Chief of the PSFD? **Answer: No, I do not.**

Robert Papke made the following motion: The Board having previously considered and approved the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the shared service of a Fire Chief, on an interim basis with Tonto Basin Fire District, in open meeting of the Board and being satisfied with the qualifications of James A Stoltenberg, Fire Chief of the Tonto Basin Fire District, to serve as the Interim Fire Chief of the Pine-Strawberry Fire District, I move that he be appointed as Interim Fire Chief of the PSFD under the terms of the intergovernmental agreement with the TBFD and ask that he be sworn in as Interim Fire Chief. The motion was 2nd by David Burkhart, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

James A. Stoltenberg was sworn in by Dennis Newman (Under GCSO).

b. Discussion and possible action on the appointment and seating of a possible replacement Board Member for a current vacancy, including the possible swearing in of the successful candidate. Chairman Robert Papke asked the following questions of the potential candidate.

What is the potential Board candidate's name? **Answer: Tina Trout.**

Are you now and have been a resident of the Pine-Strawberry Fire District for at least one year?

Answer: Yes, I have.

Are you a registered voter in the Pine-Strawberry Fire District? **Answer: Yes, I am.**

Have you completed the required Secretary of State course on the Open Meeting Law? **Answer: Yes, I have.**

Do you have any known conflicts of interest with the purpose and function of the PSFD Board or the PSFD? **Answer: No, I do not.**

Robert Papke made the following motion: The Board having reviewed your resume and met with you previously in a public meeting and selected you from among the candidates to fill the vacancy created by a resignation, and since it is your intention to faithfully execute the duties of a Board Member of the PSFD for the remainder of the term ending in November 2026, I move that the PSFD Board appoint Tina Trout to fill the current vacancy and ask that she be sworn in as a member of the PSFD Board. The motion was 2nd by Melvin Palmer, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Tina Trout was sworn in by Dennis Newman (Under GCSO)

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

Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 3:00 pm at the Pine-Strawberry Fire District Fire Station 41 Conference room, 6198 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd, Pine, AZ. No new agenda items.

Special Meeting scheduled on Thursday, March 26, 2026, (Meeting time to be determined) Pine-Strawberry Fire District Fire Station 41 Conference room, 6198 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd, Pine, AZ. Agenda: A discussion on the General Obligation Bond with Stifel representative.

9. Adjournment: Tina Trout made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Bennett 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:13 am.