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Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES January 23, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

1) **Pledge of Allegiance**

2) **Roll Call** – Present were Board Clerk - Bob Papke, Member - Bob Bennett, Board Chairman - Chuck Ackerman, Member - Dave Burkhart, and Member - Melvin Palmer.

3) **Presentations** – None.

4) **Correspondence** – Two letters were received.
One letter of thanks from Tom Brummell & Carol Smith who recently used our services due to a vehicle accident just south of town.
One letter of support signed by 14 PSFD employees to the PSFD Board Chairman showing support for the current Board and Fire Chief.

5) **Call to the Public** – Several members of the community were in attendance and the following people addressed the Board:

Woody Phillips – Founder of the Pine-Strawberry Neighborhood Radio Watch wished to thank Chief Brandt for his support which allowed them to acquire a free repeater, which will allow all of Pine and most of Strawberry to be able to talk to each other during emergencies when the cell phone service is out. Just wanted to thank the Chief and the Board for their support. The Board, in turn, thanked Mr. Phillips for his work on the project.

Sean Erickson – Wanted to congratulate the recently re-elected Board members Bob Papke, Bob Bennet, and Mel Palmer on their re-election. Secondly, he wanted to ask everyone to give a standing ovation to our Board, our Fire Chief, and our firefighters—especially in view of all the events in California right now—“we just really appreciate the GREAT job they are all doing!”

He went on to say that he is a retired firefighter himself, and that he has never seen in any department of small size all the way to large department where the morale and communication between the Board, the Chief, and the firefighters is so awesome. In talking with the guys, he has never seen a small department such as this where the morale is this good and he believes much of that is thanks to this Chief and the Board. “Community, let me tell you. We have a bunch of great guys!”

RC Cristner – The Pine-Strawberry CERT Commander also wished to speak to the positive changes she has seen since Chief Brandt has been on Board. The CERT team has received training that they had not been getting before, which is a huge benefit to the community. On a personal note, she also has utilized the services of our firemen and wanted to commend them

for their service and bedside manner – which is way better than the local hospital. She wanted to thank them, again, for keeping her alive – and for their presence in the community – “most places you don’t get to see them like you do here – its so nice to see them out here and see faces and get to know them. Thank you to Chief Brandt for that.”

Elsa Steffanson – Member of the Pine-Strawberry Fuels Reduction – Just wanted to say, “Congratulations, Guys – you are a fabulous Board!” She also wished to say thank you to Chief Brandt for all that he does. The Fuels Reduction group, along with Pine-Strawberry Fire District, is moving forward with the grant and stated that “Fuels Reduction will be putting out a flyer soon about the progress of that.” She further stated, “when we hired Chief Brandt, we appreciate that he is really out there in the community, like RC said. They’ve done fire extinguisher programs, CPR programs, as well as showing up to the trails crews – it’s an amazing benefit to the community that so many people are educated under his leadership – Thank you SO MUCH.”

Marilyn Bennett – Board member Bob Bennett’s wife read a letter thanking the crews that responded to their home on January 3rd – the first time she’s ever had to call 9-1-1. She relayed the story of what happened when her husband fell and broke his arm and the great job our crew did in responding and treating her husband with such skill and compassion. Her and her husband also wish to laud Chief Brandt for his leadership stating that “an organization such as this with so many moving parts is only as successful as its leadership.”

Dominic Masse’ – Pine-Strawberry Fire District employee - wished to say that Joel is a great leader, and “we have a great Board, and it’s a lot of fun being here.” He’s looking forward to getting back to work and enjoying the progression of Joel’s leadership.

6) **Approval of Previous Minutes**

December 19, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes – Mel Palmer made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Dave Burkhart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 7) **Financial Report of November 2024** – Ben Archer-Clowes of the James Vincent Group was in attendance via Zoom and presented the financials for December. Dave Burkhart made a motion to approve the financial report as given and to authorize the Board Clerk to sign. Chuck Ackerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. (See attached Financial Report.)

- 8) **Fire Chief’s Report** – Including but not limited to: (See attached Fire Chief’s Report.)

Emergency Activity-

Total Dispatches for December = 48 Total Calls for Service - Previous Month 55
35 Rescue and EMS
2 Fires
10 Misc. Service Calls
0 Hazardous
1 Motor Vehicle Accidents

Training Report – Total training hours completed this month were 238 hours.

The Fire Marshal’s Report – The Fire Marshal’s office reviewed 4 sets of plans, adding 5,705 square feet of construction, and totaling \$1,220.16 of revenue.

Vehicle Report – All District vehicles are currently in service.

Chief Brandt – Gave an overview of the things the District has accomplished this year – see attached Chief's Report.

Board member Burkhart asked our Neighboring Fire Chief to stand and introduce himself. Chief James Stoltenburg of Tonto Basin Fire District addressed the Board and stated that his District has been a beneficiary of about half of the things that Chief Brandt just mentioned. They have partnered with Pine-Strawberry Fire District on many things, including Dan Green's Rope Rescue classes. (Chief Stoltenburg plans on teaching part of the course this year.) He stated that it's all a community effort, and we are trying to make ALL of Gila County better.

9) **Other Fire District Related Reports**

- a) **District Board Chairman's Report** – None.
- b) **Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Local Board Report** – The PSPRS Local Board had a meeting today to approve 2 new full-time hires for the PSPRS Pension system.
- c) **Firefighter's Association Report** – Bill Potter reported that the Fire Fighter's Association is doing well, and they are getting all their merchandise ready for the summer craft fairs.
- d) **Labor Organization Report** – Local 4135 Union President Chad Richey was in attendance and stated that he was grateful to be able to address the Board. We recently completed an appeals process and hopefully all the Board members have received a copy of that. Going through that is a very uncomfortable process for all involved but it was a leaning experience as well. They have realized that Pine-Strawberry Fire District does not have a member who is an elected official, and so they are currently working with the PFFA and their lawyer to get their own chapter so that they will have an elected official. He wanted us to know that they are in the process of re-writing their bylaws to allow us to have our own elected official to ensure that our folks have a fair playing field and due process. The Board thanked Mr. Richey for attending.

10) **Old Business –**

- a) **Discussion and update on Timeline for Bond Issuance** – Chief Brandt reported that Paul Ulan from Stifel came last month to report to the Board and that we are on track for going out for a Bond this year for the purpose of replacing this Station – which was built in 1969 and desperately needs to be replaced – as well as to purchase a new engine and hopefully to reinstate the Fuels Program that was terminated approximately 10 years ago. We are doing the groundwork for establishing committees for the process. One committee will be a Public Action Committee for the purpose of educating the public. One committee will be a Building Committee for the purpose of drawing up plans for the new building. No action taken.

11) **New Business –**

(Items to be considered, reviewed, discussed, and possible action on)

- a) **Report on the Arizona Fire District Association Winter Conference**
Board members Dave Burkhart and Mel Palmer gave an overview of the sessions they attended. No action taken.

12) **Future Board Meeting Date** - February 20, 2025, at 3:00pm.

Items for discussion – Bond Issue, AEPPP Briefing.

13) **Adjournment:** Chuck Ackerman made a motion to adjourn. Bob Bennett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously at 4:17 pm.

cw

Dear Fire Dept. Team.

The Best To all your
hardworking, well-Trained
colleagues.

Three years ago (Almost To
The day) Carol Smith &
I were involved in a ATV -
Truck accident just South
of town on Route 87.

Though we don't remember
The accident, we know
your Team removed us from
The scene safely and
Skillfully. With it help of
Fentanyl, backboards, C-Collar
and Bleeding control, we
were flown down to Phoenix,
fairly comfortably. (Understatement,

Two weeks and One week in
rehab, we were back in The
real world.

Because of your Training &
dedication, we are almost
pain free and living a
normal life.

I worked for The
Chicago Land Fire Dept
for almost 30 years
and understand, better
than most, The Training
required to safely
remove victims from
auto accidents.

A simple Thanks is
underappreciated, but the
best we can offer.

I hate it when people
say "Thank you for
your service" but

Thanks

Tom &
Carol

Dear PSFD Board chairman,

Please see attached letter of support for the PSFD Fire board and Fire Chief.

Best Regards.

PSFD members

Pine / Strawberry Firefighters

We, The operational and administrative staff of the Pine / Strawberry Fire District. Would like to show our support for the District Chief and the Governing Board of the Pine / Strawberry Fire District. We support the decisions that they make on behalf of the Fire District, the members, as well as the communities of Pine and Strawberry and the continued support and generosity they show towards the members of the fire district.

Signed:

| | |
|--|---|
| Hunter Scott <u>H. Scott</u> 1-14-25 | Mariella Taylor <u>Mariella Taylor</u> 1/14/25 |
| Mike Peters <u>Mike Peters</u> 1-14-25 | Carmen Wailes <u>Carmen Wailes</u> |
| Dominic Masse <u>Dominic Masse</u> 1-14-25 | Dan Green <u>Dan Green</u> 1/14/24 |
| Nathan Lynch <u>Nathan Lynch</u> 1-14-25 | Billy Chester <u>Too Vague to Sign, I Do Support the District + Community</u> |
| Bill Potter <u>Bill Potter</u> 1-14-25 | Trey Shill <u>Trey Shill</u> 1-13-25 |
| Chris Williamson <u>Chris Williamson</u> 1-13-25 | Paul Voakes <u>Paul Voakes</u> 1-13-25 |
| Garrett Turley <u>Garrett Turley</u> 1-13-25 | Shane Johnson <u>Shane Johnson</u> 1/13/25 |
| John LeWin <u>John LeWin</u> | <u>[Redacted]</u> |



Pine- Strawberry Fire District
6198 W Hardscrabble Mesa Rd
Pine, AZ 85544



Monthly Financial Report – December 2024

Attached are the following for your information and review:

1. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024.
2. Summary of Reconciled Cash Balances as of December 31, 2024.
3. Income Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for December 2024 including budget to actual and year- to-date balances.
4. Income and Expenses Graph FY25.
5. Monthly Disbursement Report.
6. 12-Month Cash Flow.

Key points:

- Revenue for December is \$401,248 which is \$131,852 over budget.
 - Tax Revenue is \$339,321 which is \$145,217 over budget.
 - Non-Tax Revenue for December is \$61,927 which is \$13,365 under budget.
- Expenses for December totaled \$282,504 which is over budget by \$7,908.
- Year to Date Revenue is \$2,393,774 which is over budget by \$27,367.
- Year to Date Expenses is \$1,958,277 which is over budget by \$30,078.

Please contact the Finance Department at (480) 422-9777 for any questions or concerns regarding this report.

This report and the attached detail reports have been reviewed and approved by the Fire Board.

Board Clerk

Date

1-23-2025



Pine-Strawberry Fire District

P.O. Box 441 Pine, Arizona 85544

Phone: (928) 476-4272 Fax: (928) 476-4634

Website: www.pinestrawberryfiredistrict.com

Fire Chief's Report - January 2025

Emergency Activity – Total Dispatches for December = 48 calls for service

2 Fire – 1 vehicle fire 1 chimney fire

35 EMS calls

0 Gas Leak/Hazmat/Electric

1 Motor Vehicle Accidents

10 Misc. calls for service

Last month there were 55 calls for service.

Vehicle Report – No district vehicles needed service this month. No funds were spent on vehicle maintenance this month, and all District vehicles are in service.

Training Report - Total training hours completed this month were 238 hours reported for all career members, and 0 hours reported for reserve members.

Plan Reviews – The PSFD Fire Marshall reviewed 4 sets of plans this month with a total addition of 5,705 SQ FT. The total fees collected this month were a total of \$1,220.16.

Significant Incidents and Events:

- We are completing the pre-award work for the DFFM 90/10 fuels reduction grant. This grant was submitted in June for \$668,000 and we will begin work as soon as possible.
- We have completed and submitted a grant application for a new tactical water tender. The total amount of this grant is \$400,660.
- We have applied for 24 new self-contained breathing apparatus through the AFG grant program. This is for \$335,000.
- We have purchased a new ram 5500 cab and chassis for the new brush truck and have ordered the new bed.

- We are in the process of specking out the new slip unit, and we will place the order when we have found the one the guys want.
- Highlights of 2024.
 - A. We obtained a grant for a new UTV for \$36,000 and have put it into service in Strawberry.
 - B. We have resurrected the fuels management program with and over \$600,000 HFI grant.
 - C. We have replaced the full extrication set on E41 through a \$55,000 grant from the Governor's office of Highway Safety
 - D. All the Pine-strawberry firefighters will be getting free head-to-toe cancer screening from an AFG grant.
 - E. All the Pine-Strawberry firefighters will be getting mental health screening and resilience training through an AFG grant.
 - F. We spearheaded the movement to get mass casualty equipment for all fire engines in Gila County and were successful on obtaining this through a grant.
 - G. We have started the process of replacing our aging fleet by replacing an ambulance, a staff truck and a brush truck while still waiting for a new type one engine..
 - H. We have started ropes rescue technician training program for ourselves, surrounding departments, and the Gila County Search and rescue that we are able to state certify personnel as ropes rescue technicians.
 - I. We have started a REMS team (rapid extrication module support) that will be deployable this next wildfire season to generate revenue for the fire district.
 - J. We have started a seasonal wildfire reserve program that we have been able to send wildland truck off district to generate revenue for the fire district without augmenting staffing.
 - K. We have deployed to 16 separate wildfire incidents across the country and have been reimbursed over \$315,755 with nearly a third of that being profit to the district.
 - L. We are in the process of starting a Critical Care Paramedicine program that will bolster training, equipment and the medical abilities of the fire district.

- M. We have nearly completed a rewrite of the fire district's policies and procedures to bring them up to date.
- N. The firefighter's association was successful with a benefit to raise funds to purchase mass casualty first aid kits for every classroom in the Pine-Strawberry School.
- O. We have completed stop the bleed for the Pine-Strawberry school to assist with the acquisition of the new first aid kits.