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Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 10, 2026

1. Call to Order: 1400 Hours (2:00 pm), 07/10/2026 by Chairman Robert Papke

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Robert Papke

3. Invocation: By Carmen Wailes

4. Roll Call of Board Members:

a. The following PSFD Board Members were present: Chairman Robert (Bob) Papke, Clerk David Burkhart, Bob Bennett, Melvin Palmer and Tina Trout.

b. Also Present: Interim Chief James Stoltenberg, Office Manager Carmen Wailes, PSFD Capt. Paul Voakes, Marilyn Bennett, Woody Phillips, David Bolla, Aaron Ernsbarger, David Williamson, Camille Williamson, Jessica Williamson, Fred Shoeffler, Dominick, Masse, Anita Masse, PSFD A Shift members from the Pine and Strawberry stations.

c. On Zoom: Jake (no last Name) and Hunter Scott.

5. Call To The Public:

a. The following Public guest addressed the Board.

(i) Woody Phillips: His support for Capt. Hunter Scott for the PSFD Fire Chief.

(ii) David Williamson: His support and desire for the Brush Pick Up Program as addressed in the Bond postings, also a Fire Chief experienced in Wild land Fire fighting, knowledge of the Pine-Strawberry fire risk.

(iii) PSFD Capt. Paul Voakes, Read a letter from his Dad Don Voakes (Ret PSFD Fire Fighter), his support for James Stoltenberg as the new PSFD Fire Chief and the IGA with Tonto Basen Fire District.

(iv) Fred Shoeffler: His support and desire for the Brush Pick Up Program as addressed in the Bond postings, also a Fire Chief experienced in Wild land Fire fighting, knowledge of the Pine-Strawberry fire risk.

6. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on the selection of a permanent Fire Chief.

(i) Robert Papke noted that as a personnel matter the Board could go into executive session to further discuss candidate performance and ratings during the selection process

(ii) David Burkhart made the motion to go into executive session, Melvin Palmer 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 14:15 hours (2:15 pm).

(iii) Members of the public and District members still present were invited back into the meeting room. The Board came out of Executive Session at 15:33 hours (3:33 pm).). The public was excused from the meeting room

(iv) David Burkhart made the motion for Tina Trout conduct an investigation into a letter from a PSDFD member, Melvin Palmer 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously have Tina Trout conduct the investigation.

(v) David Burkhart made the motion for a Special Board meeting on Tue. 07/21/2026 at 14:00 hours (2:00 pm) for Tina Trout brief the Board on the investigation results and recommendations, Tina Trout 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to have a Special Board meeting on Tue. 07/21/2026 at 14:00 hours (2:00 pm) Tina Trout brief the Board on the investigation results and recommendations.

(vi) David Burkhart made the motion that the Board vote and make their decision on the permanent Fire Chief, Tina Trout 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously vote and make their decision on the permanent Fire Chief.

(vii) David Burkhart made the motion that Capt. Hunter Scott be offered the position of permanent PSFD Fire Chief and that the Board Chair (Robert Papke) make the tentative offer and work on a contract with Capt. Hunter Scott, Tina Trout 2nd the motion. David Burkhart requested a roll call vote, Tina Trout yes, Bob Bennett yes, Melvin Palmer yes, David Burkhart yes, Robert Papke yes, the Board vote was unanimously for Hunter Scott to be offered the position of permanent PSFD Fire Chief and that the Board Chair (Robert Papke) make the tentative offer and work on a contract with Capt. Hunter Scott.

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

a. Special Board meeting scheduled for Tue. 07/21/2026 at 14:00 hours (2:00 pm), at the Pine-Strawberry Fire District Fire Station 41 Conference room, 6198 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd, Pine AZ.

Agenda will include but not limited to:

(i) Board member Tina Trout to brief the Board on the investigation (approved by the Board) results and recommendations,

b. General Board meeting scheduled for Thurs. 07/22/2026 at 1500 Hours (3 pm), at the Pine-Strawberry Fire District Fire Station 41 Conference room, 6198 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd, Pine AZ.

Agenda Items will include but not limited to;

(i) Agenda item include but not limited to: agenda and minutes of the 06/18/2026 meeting: 12 c, 13 b, 13 d(i),

(ii) Bond Fuel Bruch Removal Route Program.

(iii) Discussion and possible action on selections of a permanent Fire Chief.

(iv) Chief Contract

(v) Contract with TBFD

8. Adjournment:

a. Bob Bennett made the motion made a motion to adjourn, Tina Trout 2nd the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourned at 15:39 Hours (3:39 pm).