

## Pine-Strawberry Fire District

### PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call  
Present were Chair Forrest McCoy, Jerry McGuire, Dave Burkhart, Dave Prechtel and Mike Roggenstein.
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a) February 16, 2011 special meeting minutes, executive session, Chiefs review.  
Mr. Prechtel made a motion to accept as written. Mr. Burkhart seconded and it passed unanimously.
  - b) February 16, 2011 regular meeting.  
Mr. Prechtel made a motion to accept. Mr. Roggenstein seconded and it passed unanimously.
  - c) February 16, 2011 special meeting to discuss budget.  
Mr. Burkhart made a motion to accept as is. Mr. Prechtel seconded and it passed unanimously.
5. Reports and Correspondence
  - a) Chiefs report was given by Chief Staub.  
Incident report change to month of February. Mr. McCoy asked how much of the vehicle repairs were done by shift personnel. Chief Staub said the majority was done by staff and Taylors Pine Service gave us a break on bobcat repairs.  
Due to an employee's concern after a recent flooding in the crew quarters a mold inspection was done. Minor damage and mold was found and repaired and/or removed.  
Fuels reduction committee will be meeting in the senior center dining hall on Mar. 28, 2011 at 6 pm and will be discussing the "Fire on the Mountain" mountain bike ride and the Firefighter's muster.
  - b) Financial report given by Chief Staub.  
Mr. McCoy asked what was paid for out of the contingency fund and wanted an accounting at the next board meeting. Mr. McCoy wanted to know why there was such a delay in receiving grant payments. The Chief said the state had problems with staff shortages. Mr. Prechtel said that delays were an ongoing problem with the state.  
Mr. McCoy questioned "other income" and the Chief said it includes potential income from wildfires. Mr. McCoy recommends it not be included in next year's budget.

(3-16-11 bd. mtg. con't)

Mr. McCoy requested ambulance billing revenue totals be reported for the current fiscal year, not year to date. The Chief requested that this be discussed at a future meeting and the board decide what they wish to receive.

- c) Chaplain's report - None. Chaplain is out of town and left no report.
- d) Firefighters Association report - None.
- e) District Board Chairman's report and discussion - None.
- f) Reports from other board committees.
  - 1. Policy committee report given by Mr. Burkhart. They had a meeting on Mar.2, 2011 with another scheduled for Apr. 6, 2011. They are working on the by-laws.
  - 2. Fire Code - None.

6. Call to the Public

Mr. Calderon asked if we are planning for a major fire season this year. Chief Staub said the deserts will definitely burn and the Tonto is expecting a normal fire season. It will be dry and we are planning the same as we normally do.

7. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action related to forming an Exploring for Life explorer post within the fire department to expose young people ages 14-20 to a career in firefighting. Chief Staub said he was approached by Boy Scouts of America and a couple of employees from the department to start an Explorer program here. He said there are 4 or 5 youths and 2-3 advisors interested right now. Ross Gooder expressed concern allowing girls in the program if allowed to stay all night. Chief Staub said he was not in favor of 24 hour shifts for the youth and the youths have to meet certain requirements before they are allowed to go on ride-a-longs. Mr. Prechtel commented that if an employee volunteers to do this on their own time they do not get paid for that time. Mr. Prechtel made a motion this be tabled until the Chief gets "enthusiastic" support from a majority of the department and revisit it at the next board meeting. Mr. Roggenstein seconded and it passed unanimously.
- b) Discussion and possible action on disposition of ladders that have been taken out of service due to a failing inspection.

Mr. Prechtel made a motion to authorize the Chief to sell them on a scrap bid price in order to protect the department from liability. He said since they failed inspection they can't be sold as usable ladders. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. McCoy said he called the new Chief for Huston Mesa Fire Department, Mark Essary, and asked him if he could use the ladders if we gave them to him and give us a letter releasing us from liability. He said Chief Essary said he could use them for training and he would write us the letter. Chief Staub expressed his concern stating a letter would not release us from liability and his recommendation is we do not go forward with it but he will do what the Board decides. Captain Brandt suggested using the old ladders for hose carts.

Mr. Roggenstein made a motion for the fire chief dispose of the ladders appropriately. Mr. McGuire seconded and it passed unanimously.
- c) Discussion and possible action on Policy #2.1. Policy 2.1 is a draft policy that is to be presented by the Policy Review committee for consideration of the Board and concerns the Scope and Purpose of Policies.

Mr. Prechtel said there were several grammatical errors but those can be corrected.

Mr. McCoy said it needs clarifications. He also asked if it had been reviewed by the

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captains. Chief said no. Mike Blaes asked Mr. McCoy why the captains needed to review it. Mr. McCoy stated they should have a say if they have to live by it. Mr. Prechtel said it was an administrative policy not operational. Mr. Roggenstein made a motion to table a decision on Policy #2.1 until after the board provides their recommendations to the committee. Mr. Prechtel seconded and it passed unanimously.

8. Discussion of 2011/2012 proposed budget items

a) Personnel costs

Chief Staub said the district wouldn't be hit as hard as expected with a shortfall of about 10% . He asked for an increase in payroll costs to cover an administrative assistant position to assure parity. Mr. Burkhart questioned if the positions were clerk positions. The Chief said no, they have been classified as Administrative Assistants since before he took over.

Mr. McCoy wanted to know how much the department pays for dependant health care benefits and would like a breakdown of costs. He also suggested looking at possibly reducing the percentage paid by the department for dependants. The Chief said our costs change with a change in demographics.

b) Capital items.

Chief Staub stressed the need for new radios because our current radio system is inadequate and will not work in several areas. He is currently working on getting grants to purchase new radios and SCBAs. Mr. Burkhart questioned if we were putting money aside for future vehicle replacement. The Chief said it was not something that has been done in past. Historically it has been done on a lease purchase.

9. Future Agenda Items

Next board meeting is scheduled for Apr. 20, 2011.

a) Discuss the rest of the budget

b) Ambulance billing report

c) Tabled items from this meeting : Policy committee and Explorer post.

d) Community Emergency Response Team

10. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Roggenstein to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. McGuire. Passed unanimously.