

Pine-Strawberry Fire District

PINE-STRAWBERRY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 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 Mr. Roggenstein.
4. Approval of Minutes for March 16, 2011.
Mr. Burkhart made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Roggenstein seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Reports and Correspondence
 - a) Chiefs report was given by Chief Staub.
 - i. Chief Staub reported he contacted DHS to modify the CON to drop the 4 minute response time currently required since it was unrealistic.
 - b) District financial report given by the Chief.
 - c) Chaplain's report.
Father Burke reported responses to 3 scenes and 3 personnel contacts for each of the two months prior.
 - d) Firefighter's Association report – None.
 - e) District Board Chair report – None
 - f) Reports from other board committees
 - i) Policy committee – Mr. Burkhart reported they did not have a quorum for the last two meetings due to scheduling conflicts. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2011 at 6 pm.
6. Call to the Public – None
7. New Business
 - a) Discussion and possible action related to forming an Exploring for Life Explorer post within the fire department that was tabled at the previous board meeting.
The Chief said he asked for feedback on the program from the career employees as requested by the board. He got no negative comments but minimal support to run it. Mr. Prechtel made a motion to approve authorizing the Chief to start an Explorer post and sign all agreements with Exploring for Life to make that happen. Mr. McGuire

(4-20-11 minutes con't.)

seconded. A discussion followed. Mr. McCoy felt it was too small a percentage of staff support and was concerned about having young people around the department so he couldn't support the program. Mr. Prechtel suggested the youths only be assigned to shifts with personnel who are willing to support the program. Mr. Prechtel was also concerned about liability and asked the Chief if he was assured we are within reason as far as exposure. The Chief said yes and there are limitations on what the youths can do. Mr. Prechtel asked the ages of the participants and the Chief said 14 to 21. Mr. Roggenstein felt they should be at least 18 years of age. He felt there are some things a fourteen year old should not be exposed to and is not in favor of the program. Mr. McCoy asked if the program includes both the EMS and firefighter experience. Chief said yes. Mr. McGuire asked if there were other programs already in place. Chief said yes. Mr. Burkhart said he felt it would be a benefit to the department. Mr. McCoy asked if there would be any overtime (paid) for this. Chief said no.

Mr. Burkhart called for a vote on the motion. The vote was 3 to 2 in favor. Mr. McCoy and Mr. Roggenstein voted nay.

b) Discussion and possible action on policy #2.1 .

Mr. Burkhart made a motion to table it until the next meeting since there were still items that the policy committee wanted to review. Mr. Roggenstein seconded and it passed unanimously.

c) Discussion and possible action on awarding ambulance billing to a third party vendor. Staff recommended Action Ambulance Billing after getting references. Mr. Roggenstein made a motion to accept the bid from Action Ambulance Billing and to authorize the Fire Chief to sign any agreements necessary to begin this service. Mr. Prechtel seconded and it passed unanimously.

10) (Item moved up for expediency) Purchases over \$2,500.00

a) Approval of payment to Professional Health Services Inc. for health physicals for employees in the amount of \$14,725.00.

Mr. Burkhart made a motion to approve the expense of \$14,725 to Professional Health Services Inc. . Mr. McGuire seconded and it passed unanimously.

8) Discussion of 2011/2012 proposed budget items.

The Chief said the increase in health benefits was due to demographics and a 20% increase in costs. Mr. Roggenstein asked if we went out to bid and the Chief said we are. Mr. Blaes from the audience asked if it was possible to do collective bargaining with other fire departments. The Chief said so far that has not been successful because it did not decrease the costs.

The Chief said in the budget he allowed for 3 board members to go to Laughlin and 2 to go to Tucson to attend AFDA meetings which allows all five members to attend one training in a year. Mr. Burkhart suggested if a board member wanted to attend an additional meeting they could cover the costs themselves.

The Chief said we are considering expanding the fuels program if we receive the WHFH grant that was applied for. Mr. Burkhart asked if we shouldn't have a contingency plan in case we lose all or part of the grant. The Chief said we are exploring ways to bring in revenue but we may have to modify the program if the grant is decreased.

(4-20-11 min. con't.)

Mr. Burkhart asked if there is any capital equipment that's going to have to be replaced before 2015. The Chief said one of his goals for this year is to provide the board with a draft capital improvement plan for the Board to adopt.

Mr. Prechtel said health insurance this year was budgeted for \$194,000 and asked the Chief what it should have been. Chief Staub said it should have been about \$240,000 which includes dental and vision. Mr. McCoy suggested reducing health insurance costs by increasing the employee's share of costs. Mr. Prechtel suggested capping health care costs in the budget at \$270,00 instead of \$306,000 by increasing deductibles. Mr. Roggenstein said to wait until the September/October renewal numbers (costs) come in. Mr. Burkhart said it can be decided later and asked the Chief to get copies of the agents proposals. Chief Staub requested that the Board let the staff decide how to take the cut.

- 9) Discussion and possible preliminary approval of the 2011/2012 budget.

Mr. Prechtel made a motion to adopt the budget as presented. Mr. Roggenstein seconded and it passed unanimously. The Chief said he would present it to the Roundup for publication for 30 days.

- 11) Future Agenda Items.

a. Policy 2.1

b. Next board meeting scheduled for May 18, 2011

- 12) Mr. Roggenstein made a motion to adjourn. Mr. McGuire seconded and it passed unanimously at 8:07 pm.