

**Palominas Fire District
Regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board
Palominas, Arizona
Notice & Agenda
Thursday, August 20, 2026**

Notice is hereby given to the members of the Palominas Fire District Governing Board and to the general public that the Palominas Fire District Governing Board will hold a meeting open to the public on **August 20, 2026**, beginning at **5:30 P.M.** in the training room located at **9222 S. Kings Ranch Rd. Palominas, Arizona. The doors will open to the public at 5:15 p.m.** The Board may vote to go into executive session on any agenda item pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(2) for discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law as related to any agenda item. The Board may vote to go into executive session on any agenda item pursuant to A.R.S. 38- 431.03(A)(3) for legal advice with the District's Attorney as related to any agenda item. **Executive Sessions are confidential pursuant to Arizona Statute.** The Board may change the order of the agenda items. The Board may also decline to consider any agenda item. One or more Board Members may attend the meeting through technological devices. (A.R.S. 38-431)

ACRONYMS:

A.R.S... Arizona Revised Statutes

PFD... Palominas Fire District

SEACOM... Southeastern Arizona Communications

1. Call to Order:

- a) Roll Call/Confirmation of Quorum
- b) Moment of silence
- c) Pledge of allegiance

2. Call to the Public:

NOTE: A public body may make an open call to the public during a public meeting, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions, to allow individuals to address the public body on any issue within the jurisdiction of the public body. Any staff member may speak as a member of the public. Nothing said is to be taken as the official stance of the Palominas Fire District. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the public body, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, **members of the public body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly notified for discussion and legal action.**

3. Approval of Minutes:

Discussion and possible action on approving the minutes of PFD Governing Board for the following meeting(s):

July 30, 2026 Regular Meeting

4. Financial reports & consideration of district financial matters pursuant to A.R.S. §48-807:

Review, discussion, and possible approval of monthly financial reports for April 2026 to include reconciled balance sheet accounts; updated cash flow projections; month-end fund statements, month-end reports of financial institutions (in which the PFD maintains an account) and pay roll cash flow.

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5. Training Center Classroom Use

Sponsor: Tommy Stoner

Steve Boice representing Horse N Around Rescue and Foundation is asking the Board for authorization to utilize the classroom facility. Under our 'Use of the Palominas Fire District Training Site Classroom Facility by Outside Agencies' policy [adopted 8/21/2014] that any groups other than governmental agencies require specific approval by the Palominas Fire District Board; and that the Board may modify this policy or enter into any agreements contrary to this policy.

Action Requested: Discuss proposal, determine if authorization to use the classroom facility is warranted in this case. Determine if the policy should be amended or continue as the policy is currently written.

6. Automatic Aid Agreement with Fry Fire District

Sponsor: Robert Montgomery For Steve Abel]

Fry Fire District has forwarded an updated Automatic Aid Agreement for consideration and possible adoption. This would replace the current Automatic Aid Agreement that has been in place since 2015. The significant changes relate to Section 8 'Incident Command and Communications' and Section 9 'Response Procedures; Tracking; Annual Reconciliation.'

Under Incident Command- Fry and Sierra Vista utilize the 'Blue Card' Incident Management System. As Fry and Palominas typically respond to fires and other significant events together, it makes sense that we utilize the same language and principles in managing these incidents. The impact to Palominas is increased training for our staff, along with our officers participation in quarterly incident management training with Fry and Sierra Vista. This will create some additional overtime expense.

Under Reconciliation, the primary impact relates to wildland deployments.

The Interim Fire Chief recommends approval of the proposed agreement.

Action Requested: Review the Automatic Aid Agreement and either approve or reject- if approved, sign the agreement and direct staff to forward the agreement to our attorney for review, and if approved, sign the agreement.

7. Light Duty Assignment

Sponsor: Robert Montgomery [For Steve Abel]

Palominas Fire District does not currently have a 'Light Duty' assignment/position available for a full-time employee that is unable due to a temporary physical limitation that would affect

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their ability to fulfill their duties as a firefighter or emergency medical provider [primarily due to lifting]. Fire Departments often accommodate those individuals IF there is an appropriate/needed function to be filled on a temporary basis and the injured individual is qualified to fill that need. This is often up to the Fire Chiefs discretion in a case-by-case basis.

We may have an individual who may not be able to fulfill his complete duties due to an injury. Our current policy states that after using sick leave/PTO, that he would be on unpaid leave until he could return to full duty. IF, a medical release to limited duty is provided by a doctor, I would like to utilize this individual for training and coordinating other tasks. As noted in the proposed Automatic Aid agreement, we have a need for additional Incident Command training and exercises, along with additional driver/pump operator training, EMS drills, etc. We also have a need for developing training and testing for 2 open Engineer promotions and a Captain promotion. He is fully qualified for each of these tasks and may be able to fill Incident Command functions while I am out of town [fit for duty release dependent].

Upon further investigation, this appears to be a Workers Comp incident.

I am requesting that the Fire Board authorize the Interim Fire Chief to fill a 'Limited/Light Duty' assignment on a temporary basis so long as there is a District need that can be fulfilled and that the individual being considered is qualified to fulfill the limited/light duty functions.

Action Requested: Discuss the proposal and provide direction to the Interim Fire Chief.

8. Strategic Plan

Sponsor: Valerie Rice [For Steve Abel]

The District has started the strategic planning process but evidentially has not been completed. A Strategic Plan anticipates the future needs of the organization [both internal and external] and provides options for meeting future needs. This often includes a forecast of capital needs, including forecasting financial needs. If the Board opts to move forward, the Interim Fire Chief will provide a plan to move forward.

Action Requested: Provide direction to the Interim Fire Chief

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9. Vehicle Surplus

Sponsor: Robert Montgomery [For Steve Abel]

The 2009 Ford Expedition is in the shop again for repairs. It appears that Palominas purchased this vehicle in February 2015 for \$9,500. It's now 17 years old has been in-service with Palominas for 11 years. The vehicle has close to 200,000 miles. Typically, staff vehicles used for emergency response are considered for replacement within 12 years. In 2024 this vehicle had significant transmission issues, and the repair invoices state that some 'correct parts' are obsolete with no aftermarket interchanges [wiring harnesses]. Kelly's transmission stated that due to improper wiring harnesses [repaired/installed] resulted in irreparable damage to the wiring system. According to records, this vehicle was out of service for close to 2-months in 2024. The vehicle still has electrical issues. As I prepare this agenda, the vehicle is being repaired- upon speaking with the mechanic- he agrees that this vehicle should be replaced prior to anything else going wrong.

Action Requested: Discuss and provide direction to the Interim Fire Chief.

10. Water Tender

Sponsor: Tommy Stoner [For Steve Abel]

From the June agenda, discussion regarding the purchase of a new or used water tender to replace the 4,000 gallon Sterling water tender. Recommendation is to replace that water tender with a ≈3,000 gallon tender, automatic transmission and a fire pump as opposed to a general water transfer pump. A new water tender can be expected to cost over \$500,000 with up to a 9-month build time, a 10-year old or newer should be around \$250k to \$275k. A fire-rated pump may cost \$20k over a low pressure water transfer pump and would have drafting capabilities. Assume a 30-year total service life, so a 10-year used tender could be expected to serve the area for up to 20-years.

Action requested: Discuss options, provide direction to the Interim Fire Chief.

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11. Fire Chief report:

All items are for discussion and dialogue between the Chief, Staff and the Board.

The report will include but is not limited to the following areas:

- a) Response and service,
- b) Status of grants,
- c) Current community events,
- d) Apparatus update,
- e) Facilities,
- f) Personnel,
- g) Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Pension Committee,
- h) Website and
- i) Auto Aid Agreement with Fry Fire District.

12. Next Meeting: Thursday, September 24, 2026

13. Adjournment:

Discussion and possible action on Adjourning the meeting.

If any disabled person needs any type of accommodations, please notify the Palominas Fire District in a reasonable time prior to the scheduled meeting time. Phone 520-803-9919

Posting location: Palominas Fire Station 193 - 10202 S. Highway 92, Hereford AZ 85615.

I hereby certify that this notice of the public meeting was posted on: August 14, 2026, before: 1630 p.m.

By Stephen Abel, Interim Fire Chief.

Signature