

Palominas Fire District
Regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board
Palominas, Arizona
Notice & Agenda
Thursday, September 24, 2026
5:30 p.m.
AMENDED

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 **September 24, 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):

May 28, 2026 Regular Meeting

August 20, 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 July and August 2026 to include reconciled balance sheet accounts; updated cash flow projections; month-end fund statements,

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month-end reports of financial institutions (in which the PFD maintains an account) and pay roll cash flow.

5. Light Duty Assignment:

Sponsor: Robert Montgomery [For Steve Abel]

At the August Regular Fire Board meeting, I was asked to contact our HR consultant to develop a Light Duty/Limited Duty policy. The policy was developed and presented for the Fire Board to review.

Action Requested: Review and discuss the policy and provide direction to the Interim Fire Chief.

6. Operations Chief Position:

Sponsor: Robert Montgomery [For Steve Abel]

We have an absolute need for a staff position to focus on training for our officers, firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics. We're hiring 2 new firefighters who need to go through orientation and training on driving and pump operator training. With the new Automatic Aid agreement, we need to get all staff up to speed on Blue Card Incident Management. In addition we need to be able to transition to a new Fire Chief. Provided handout material breaks down the needs as well as how the position would be financed. I'm asking for Fire Board approval to fill this position, even on a temporary basis to work with staff and to assist in the transition to a new Fire Chief.

Action Requested: Listen to the proposal, discuss and provide direction to the Interim Fire Chief.

7. Capital Replacement Plan:

Sponsor: Tommy Stoner

The Fire Board had previously discussed having a Capital Replacement Plan created that includes apparatus as well as other capital items. A plan for vehicles and apparatus has been created and is part of the Board packet for this meeting. If the format of the presented plan meets the Board's expectations, a similar plan to include other Capital equipment can be created.

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

8. 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 prepared the August agenda, the vehicle was being repaired- upon speaking with the mechanic- he agrees that this vehicle should be replaced prior to anything else going wrong. The vehicle was returned and in drivable condition, however the air conditioning is inoperative. I'm not sure that it is worth repairing.

Action Requested: This item should only be considered if the Board authorizes the purchase a vehicle to replace the Expedition. No action is required at this time, information is provided to justify the purchase of a eventual replacement- Agenda item 9.

9. Replacement Vehicle:

Sponsor: Valerie Rice [For Steve Abel]

I am requesting that a replacement vehicle be considered to replace the Ford Expedition, which should be declared surplus once a new vehicle is in service. There are essentially 4 viable options:

- Purchase a vehicle that is on auction- one typically declared surplus from another agency
- Purchase a late model used vehicle
- Purchase a new vehicle
 - Purchase a new 'civilian' vehicle from either 'open market' or State bid
 - Purchase a new 'special purpose' vehicle on State bid

Each of these options are discussed in the documentation provided.

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

10. Water Tender Replacement:

Sponsor: Tommy Stoner [For Steve Abel]

From the June and August agendas, 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

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water tender with a $\approx$ 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. At the August meeting, discussion related to purchasing a 3,000 gallon tender with fire pump on a used/refurbished chassis, costs estimated to be up to \$275,000. If the Fire Board opts to proceed in that direction, the lead time could be up to 9-months

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

11. Fire Chief Testing and Selection:

Sponsor: Valerie Rice [for Steve Abel]

Fire Chief testing and interviews are schedule for October 20th thru 23rd- prior to the next regularly scheduled Fire Board Meeting. The testing and interview processes need to be established so the processes can be designed and finalized and assessors/interview panels be scheduled.

Regarding the testing process, 3 processes had be previously presented. In each case, the Fire Board would conduct your interview with each candidate in Executive Session.

- Assessment Center
- Interview Panels [outside interviewers]
- Fire Board interview only

Secondly, the Fire Board needs to determine Steve's role in the Fire Board interview process, including:

- Development of interview questions
- Role during the interview session.

Action Requested: Discuss options and provide direction to the Interim Fire Chief with regards to the initial testing method, and secondly, Steve's role in developing interview questions and role during the Fire Board interviews.

12. 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

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- 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
- i) Auto Aid Agreement with Fry Fire District

13. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 29, 2026

14. **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: September 18, 2026, before: 1630 p.m.

By Stephen Abel, Interim Fire Chief.

Signature