

Palominas Fire District
Regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board
Palominas, Arizona
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 27, 2025
5:30 p.m.

ACRONYMS EOP/AOP...Emergency Operation Procedures/Administration Operating Procedures
A.R.S.....Arizona Revised Statutes ALS/BLS...Advance Life Support/Basic Life Support
ISO Insurance Services Office COLA..... Cost of Living Adjustment
ALS/BLS...Advance Life Support/Basic Life Support SCBA..... Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
IGA...Intergovernmental Agreement DOL..... Department of Labor
FLSA...Fair Labor Standards Act

1. Call to Order:

- a) Roll Call/Confirmation of Quorum: Valerie Rice, Cathy Chouinard, Robert Montgomery (via phone), Tommy Stoner, Jon Buonaccorsi, Vickie Simmons, & Brittany Archer – **Kim Mauzy was absent.**
- b) Moment of silence
- c) Pledge of allegiance

Call to the Public: No public present.

2) Action accepting Minutes (Monthly): Discussion Review and approval of the governing board meeting minutes of January 30, 2025: Valerie Rice made a motion to approve the minutes from January 30th, 2025. Tommy Stoner seconded the motion. Valerie Rice: Aye, Tommy Stoner: Aye, Robert Montgomery: Aye, **Cathy Chouinard: Abstain.**

3) Monthly financial reports and consideration of district financial matters pursuant to A.R.S.§48-807: The Balance Sheet shows the M&O account at \$439,277, and the Reserve account at \$216,239. The total cash on hand is \$1,456,554, The P&L reflects 7 months into the fiscal year and the target is 58.33%. Revenues are at 64% for the fiscal year. Salaries are showing 63.05% of the budget, which is 4.72% over the target percentage. Total M&O Expenses are at 50.67%. PSPRS shows a very odd amount, but it was a timing issue with payroll. Dispatch is showing the annual fees for ImageTrend, so it is over for the moment. Some expenses may be higher than normal months because of timing. Month to Date salaries is \$80,498 and Vacation/Holiday is \$12,480. Cathy Chouinard made a motion to approve the January 2025 financials. Valerie Rice seconded the motion.

4) Fire Chief Report: All items are for discussion and dialogue between Chief, Staff, and Board.

The Fire Chief will give a status report regarding various areas of the district's operations, including but not limited to the following areas: We had 47 calls for service in January. Station 193 had 23 and Station 191 had 24. We are waiting for the reimbursement from the Fire Command Software grant. The GOHS grant is \$44,943. We received the tools, which were \$28,000.21. \$16,942.79 is left over, but we still need to order more supplies. The Ak-Chin grant for the Lucas Compression device was given to us for a total of \$22,987. We will have to put \$8,221.23 into the grant. There has been no word on the Assistance to Firefighters Grant yet. We should hear something from DFFM grant for a tactical water tender by the end of March. We recently did a CPR class for the Palominas School bus drivers. The HME still needs to go to Tucson for repairs on the exhaust and turbo actuator hose. Engine 192 has a coolant leak. Engine 191 had the throttle linkage replaced but now has transmission issues. Brush 191 has a fuel system failure. It needs a high-pressure fuel pump, injectors, fuel lines,

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and injection pump. None of this is under warranty and will cost us \$16, 524.88. Brush 193 Auxiliary pump started to make noise. It was inspected and we found the bearing was wearing out. The part is on order. We took the pump from Brush 191 and moved it to Brush 193 so we would have one working unit. The burn tower has more electrical needs. The wires on the third floor are damaged from the flashover fire. We need new outside lights installed for nighttime drills. We will be starting the second and third floor repairs. The third floor needs to be replaced due to fire damage. I will be making a new window frame for the second floor. The outside lights on the second-floor landing and stairs were never wired to be used, so they will be removed. The auxiliary pump for the water tank needs to be replaced, which would cost around \$1,000. We currently have 9 firefighters. 3 on each shift and 1 redshirt EMT going through Whetstone's Fire Academy. The water tank is on hold. We need to schedule a PSPRS meeting for March or April. The website is fine, still working on it. No problems with mutual or auto aid. We have one redshirt employee in the Fire 1&2 Academy, and we are paying \$1,800 for it.

5) Discussion and possible action authorizing a Board Member to write to congress for Red Dye fuel: Gail Griffin has sponsored the bill for Red Dye Fuel. It passed on two different committees. It will now go to Senate.

6) Discussion and possible action to put a metal building in, well completion, septic & electrical at Station 191: This item was tabled for now.

7) Discussion and possible action for the Board to go into Executive Session concerning the Fire Chief's performance: Tommy Stoner made a motion to go into Executive Session. Valerie Rice seconded the motion. Tommy Stoner: Aye, Valerie Rice: Aye, Cathy Chouinard: Aye, Robert Montgomery: Aye.

8) Discussion and possible action re: the Fire Chief's performance informed by the findings of the District's consultant. The Board might vote to go into executive [closed] session, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1), for the purpose of this discussion, including consideration of continued employment, assignment, appointment, demotion, dismissal, salary, disciplining or resignation of the Fire Chief. (Note: In the alternative, the Board or the Fire Chief may choose to conduct this discussion in public [open] session.): Entered Executive Session at 6:09 p.m.

9) Following the executive session, the Board might take action regarding the terms of the Fire Chief's employment and employment agreement. Any formal action will take place in open session: Entered open session at 8:15 p.m. Tommy Stoner made a motion that the Board direct Chief Buonaccorsi to take action immediately to address the crews. As soon as possible, create SOGs/SOPs for operations. He must respond to calls and take command on those calls as often as reasonably possible. He is to pause all projects at the Training Center for 30 days. He must contact Brenda Tranchina to get more information on the findings for this report and the possibility of obtaining more leadership courses. He must provide a price for the Board at the next meeting. He must report each month concerning all the issues mentioned and have suggestions for the Board on what can be done to improve morale. Valerie Rice seconded the motion. Tommy Stoner: Aye, Valerie Rice: Aye, Robert Montgomery: Aye, Cathy Chouinard: Aye. Tommy Stoner made another motion to

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approve Brenda Tranchina to re-evaluate morale in 90 days and create a report like the one that was presented to show changes and improvements. Cathy Chouinard seconded the motion. Tommy Stoner: Aye, Cathy Chouinard: Aye, Valerie Rice: Aye, Robert Montgomery: Aye. **Robert Montgomery and Brenda Tranchina left the meeting at 8:26 p.m.**

10) Discussion and possible action to change the Holiday Pay policy: This item was tabled for now.

11) Discussion and possible action on the Ak-Chin Grant: The total grant was for \$22,987. We would have to pay \$8,221.23 toward the Lucas Device to complete the grant. Tommy Stoner made a motion to take the funds from the Wells Fargo account to pay for the device. Valerie Rice seconded the motion. Tommy Stoner: Aye, Valerie Rice: Aye, Cathy Chouinard: Aye.

12) Discussion and possible action on the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant: This grant is for extrication equipment. The grant total is \$44,943. We don't know if we will be able to get all the funding back before the fiscal year ends. Chief Buonaccorsi is asking if we can take the money to pay for the equipment out of Wells Fargo and replace it once we get reimbursed. Tommy Stoner asked that Chief Buonaccorsi report back when the funds have been replaced. Cathy Chouinard made a motion to approve Chief Buonaccorsi to take the funds out of the Wells Fargo account. Tommy Stoner seconded the motion. Cathy Chouinard: Aye, Tommy Stoner: Aye, Valerie Rice: Aye.

13) Discussion and possible action on Brush Truck 17-02 repairs: The Brush Truck has a major fuel issue, and the system needs to be rebuilt. The vehicle has 45,000 miles on it. The total cost of the repair is \$16,524.88. There is still money left in the budget to pay for it, but it would leave a third of the budgeted amount to make it for 6 months. Chief Buonaccorsi would like to take the money from the Wells Fargo account. Tommy Stoner would like to split the cost between the Wells Fargo account and the M&O account. Tommy Stoner made a motion to authorize Chief Buonaccorsi to take \$9,000 from the Wells Fargo account for repairs for Brush 17-02. Valerie Rice seconded the motion. Tommy Stoner: Aye, Valerie Rice: Aye, Cathy Chouinard: Aye.

14) Discussion and possible action on approval for the third-floor electrical repairs and exterior lighting for the Burn Tower: This item was tabled for 30 days.

15) Discussion and possible action to renew the SEACOM agreement for dispatching services: There is nothing new with this item. It was extended for another year at \$10,000. The funding model is being changed, and the price could go down for us. Valerie Rice made a motion to renew the SEACOM agreement. Cathy Chouinard seconded the motion. Valerie Rice: Aye, Cathy Chouinard: Aye, Tommy Stoner: Aye.

15) Adjournment: Cathy Chouinard made a motion to adjourn. Valerie Rice seconded the motion. Cathy Chouinard: Aye, Valerie Rice: Aye, Tommy Stoner: Aye. Adjournment at 8:56 p.m.

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Minutes approved by the Palominas Fire Board:

Signature

Date