

Palominas Fire District
Regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board
Palominas, Arizona
Board Minutes
Thursday, October 30, 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**
- b) Moment of silence**
- c) Pledge of allegiance**

Male Speaker 2: I guess I don't get it. Maybe this is it.

Male Speaker 1: There's five packets.

Female Speaker 1: So, their packet was overcharged.

Male Speaker 2: Oh, I see.

Female Speaker 1: Unclaimed.

Male Speaker 2: So, I guess this one is the one for me and that one's him. We're settled. Okay, done.

Male Speaker 1: Good to go?

Male Speaker 2: Yes, sir.

Male Speaker 1: So, being that we're almost exactly on time, I'm going to call this meeting to order of the [inaudible] [00:00:48] District, regular governing board, for October 30, 2025. And we'll start with a roll call for quorum, board members.

Female Speaker 1: Cathy Chouinard, present.

Female Speaker 2: Valerie Rice, present.

Male Speaker 2: Tommy Stoner, present.

Male Speaker 3: Kim Mauzy, present.

Male Speaker 1: Robert is present, so we're all here. Okay. Kim, I'm going to ask you to help us with some divine intervention today.

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- Male Speaker 3: Sure.
- Male Speaker 1: And a moment of silence.
- Male Speaker 3: Father in heaven, we're grateful for this day and we're grateful for this country we live in. We're grateful for those that serve in our military, our law enforcement, and our first responders. Please bless them and their family as they're away. Thank you for the opportunity we have to be part of the board here in this community, to help our community. Thank you for our constitution and our government. And we ask for these things in the name of thy son, Jesus Christ. Amen.
- Male Speaker 1: Amen. Thank you, Kim. And we will pledge to our flag.
- Group: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- Male Speaker 1: Thank you very much. So, our normal meeting starts out with the first item called Call to the Public. We have a public today that is interested to speak. You have three minutes. Just give your name.
- Male Speaker 4: Tim Savage, I live back over here, voter and taxpayer. I'm really concerned that we don't have a strategic plan, Mr. Chairman. And in the military, one of the things that we learned was, failure to plan is planning to fail. We don't have any standards. We don't have any milestones. And I would sure like to see that. Now, I see stuff over here. I know where that came from because I was here at that meeting. But I'd sure like to see a plan with milestones on it so we can say, yep, we're making progress or no, we're not. Second thing, I have no problem with my taxes. I pay you 25%, like I said last time. That's fine.
- You do something for me I can't do it. Thank you.
- Male Speaker 1: Very good. We could respond afterwards if you want, but normally, we can't right now unless there's a certain type of exchange. Okay, sir. Yes, sir.
- Male Speaker 2: Point of order.
- Male Speaker 1: Point of order.
- Male Speaker 2: This is for the public, not staff. Staff can only speak if a board member calls on them to speak.

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- Male Speaker 1: This is our clerk who has years of experience, and I will rely on him for that, okay? But, again, we can always talk. Any other public today? All right, then. Comments are duly noted and will follow. 2.) The action of accepting minutes of last month's meeting. Anybody who would like to discuss that?
- Male Speaker 2: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Yes. I believe she has a comment that she'd like to make for correction, please.
- Female Speaker 3: On Item 3, the monthly financial reports, it just needs to say the balance sheet M&O bank balance as of August 2025 has a negative balance. It just needs to add those couple words. That's it.
- Male Speaker 2: We'll have to have somebody modify it and then, bring them back the next month.
- Male Speaker 1: So, then that would be before we could approve these minutes, we'd need to —
- Male Speaker 2: Yes. The other thing is we want to make sure that there are no other corrections or whatever before we move on.
- Female Speaker 1: What was the error on that?
- Female Speaker 3: Instead of the minutes say the balance sheet as of August 2025 has a negative balance, it should say the balance sheet M&O bank balance has a negative balance, the M&O account.
- Male Speaker 1: Well, we can postpone the acceptance of these minutes until they are fixed, I presume, at our next meeting. Okay.
- Male Speaker 2: But is there any other corrections that the board members note out here?
- Male Speaker 1: Since that was one of the very rare meetings, which I was absent, but I did not vote on this anyway, board members have any discussion about minutes from last month?
- Female Speaker 2: I went over it briefly, but I didn't see any issues, but I will take time to look at it more closely. And if there are any other issues that we need to get, if something needs to be changed, I will let Brittany know.
- Male Speaker 2: I have no corrections.
- Male Speaker 1: So, no other corrections?

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Female Speaker 1: No, I didn't see anything else.

Male Speaker 1: Then, we will address these minutes at the next available meeting for their correct form. Okay. Vickie, are you all right with that?

Female Speaker 3: Yes.

Male Speaker 1: Basically tabled. The third item is the financial report.

Female Speaker 3: Okay. Good evening. So, I'm looking at the balance sheet first of all. And last month, as I just said, the M&O bank balance was negative, and it is positive now of \$15,535.80. And also, your line of credit was paid off because of tax collection, so that balance is now zero. Your capital reserve, the only change in there was a little bit of interest income for \$713,533.00. And then, your non-county bank accounts totaled \$533,327.00. So, your total assets, total cash in bank is \$1,262,396.00. So, as I said, your line of credit is zero because the taxes are beginning to come in.

And in October, November is when you get the majority of your taxes. So, on your profit and loss budget versus actual, you received in September for tax revenue \$72,147.00. Your FDA revenue was \$11,941.00, which is a pretty big increase from the previous month. And then, of course, you had your interest income. Your salaries are running in line. Your overtime is running above budget based on the number of months for the year, but that is because of staffing issues. So, the only other one on this thing is your building grounds and pest control.

That is already at 86% of the budget for the year, and you had some big expenses for the buildings, grounds, and pests. You had Strew's Plumbing for \$1,788.00, and that was for a meter at \$191.00.

Female Speaker 1: What kind of meter problem was that?

Male Speaker 2: In order for us to get the residential rate on water there, they asked us to install a meter. First time in my life that a Water Department has asked a private party to do it, but that's what they did. So, the recovery cost of that should be about 17 months based on the \$100.00 reduction in the water bill for a month.

Female Speaker 1: Okay, thank you.

Female Speaker 3: And then there was \$2,559.00 to Cochise Floor Covering, which was the other half of the total bill that was written in September. So, your total revenue in September in the M&O was \$85,000.00. Your total expenses was

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\$78,661.00. It was a pretty quiet month financially for you all. As I said, your taxes are definitely going to increase. Actually, you received money from the Bryce Fire, and that was \$4,700.00, and that was for salary overtime for one person. And then, you received \$5,398.00 for the American Rescue Plan, so that was almost \$10,000.00 extra that you received in grant income. But other than that, it was a pretty quiet month.

So, your payroll, you had two payrolls in September, and those two deposits I just talked about, those went into the payroll account because they didn't go into the M&O account. So, your payroll for September was almost \$59,000.00. Your year-to-date overtime is \$21,158.00. And your payroll bank account balance as of September was \$213,952.00.

Male Speaker 2: I just want to comment, Cochise Flooring was a reimbursable post-fire at Station 193, so that was a neutral cost.

Female Speaker 3: So, any questions, comments?

Male Speaker 1: No, quiet as you said.

Female Speaker 1: I have a question about the profit and loss budget.

Female Speaker 3: Okay. Yes.

Female Speaker 1: You told us the target percentage was supposed to be 25%. And the total M&O revenues, it says 6.08. Is that unusual?

Female Speaker 3: No, ma'am, it's not because your tax revenues don't start really coming in until October, November. So, you should see a big increase next month in that.

Female Speaker 1: Okay, thanks. Just looked a little –

Female Speaker 3: Yes, yes, I agree.

Male Speaker 1: Well, that was short and comprehensive at the same time. Appreciate it. Anybody have a comment regarding the financial report?

Male Speaker 2: I'll make a motion that we accept the financial report as presented for October 30, 2025.

Female Speaker 2: I will second that.

Male Speaker 1: Any discussion? Okay, call for the vote to approve the financial report.

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Female Speaker 1: Cathy Chouinard, aye.

Female Speaker 2: Valerie Rice, aye.

Male Speaker 2: Tommy Stoner, aye.

Male Speaker 3: Kim Mauzy Mauzy, aye.

Male Speaker 1: Robert is, aye. Very good, Vickie, thank you so much. And we're moving right along here. Fourth item today is the Fire Chief's Report.

Male Speaker 5: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The October 30, 2025, report is following the agenda, and I'll skip off of it just for a bit. Calls for service were on the 15th of September, 27 in 193's area, 23 in Station 191's area. We were made notice that we received a grant from AFG regarding EMS equipment. Unfortunately, it was for items we've already bought, and we cannot receive reimbursement for it. However, I'm going to make an attempt to negotiate with them. The grant was for a Lucas device and defibrillators, which we purchased outright because the others were failing.

We're going to see if we can get one more defibrillator and then purchase training equipment for 12-lead EKG monitoring training. So, that amendment would be still forthcoming. Current community events. We're having Trunk or Treat at Palomino's Elementary School tomorrow night. We're hosting that. Captain Curry put that together with the County Sheriff's Office. Air Evac will have a helicopter there. We'll be there. And so, hopefully, we'll get some kids coming through, getting some candy, giving them some tours, and have a good night. We're also looking to get into schools for Fire Prevention Month.

That was not quite yet successful. They were trying to integrate us into what they called a Red Ribbon Event, which I'm not sure exactly what that is. But we have not tied those in yet, so hopefully, next month we'll still be able to get down and give a fire prevention message to our kids. Apparatus update. Chief's pickup is still in Tucson. It was supposed to have a new light bar put in the windshield. The other ones that were originally placed in there were with adhesive, and they were falling off the windshield when it was getting hot.

So, that was a purchase that was actually made last fiscal year. They scheduled us to be there. It should have been a four to six hour job. Pickup's been there almost a month. So, they're not overly fast, and we're just kind of waiting on them. The red HME is back after five weeks of being out of service. All the components appear to be working. RWC found some other

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DOT problems with the apparatus. They attempted to get into the software system on the truck, which should have had all of the plans in it. It did not, so they had to hunt for the parts and pieces to make the pinion arms and the drag links all fit onto that apparatus. But it's back.

It's not whistling out of the air intake. The crews are seemingly happy with it, and all the red lights are working. That engine is out of warranty. HME, because of the problems we had with Red Sky, gave us the \$2,100.00 module, but we had to pay for the labor to put it in, which was still a couple thousand dollars. That said, moving on, we asked Jeremy to service the Ford 191. I'm not sure when the last time that apparatus was actually serviced. Engine 192 is throwing some fault indicators on the dashboard, so I called Jeremy to come and take a look at that because it was actually our first out rig.

He told me a good service would probably fix a majority of those problems, and I will tell you the service on that truck last time occurred in 2018, and that engine had 42,000 miles on it without a service. So, that is where we are with that. I also asked him to service the Freightliner water tender. That has been complete. The two water tenders at Station 2 will probably be serviced in January. They were serviced early last year, so we'll get those taken care of. I have one [inaudible] [00:17:28] researching the records on. We'll get those taken care of as well.

Facilities, we made some purchases so our employees could take care of our facilities a little more readily. We've been relying on Tim Savage to mow the yards at Station 191 and 192, so we bought some lawn-maintaining equipment so that our crews can do that a little more readily. We continue to clean around the grounds of the station, thinning brush, making them try to look a little more professional, a little cleaner, and we are now going to be working on this facility down here.

The brush hog, we put some new blades on it, thanks to Firefighter Perez. However, I was mowing out here the other day and wouldn't have expected a rock to be out there, so we have to replace a shear pin on the mower deck now. Personnel, we remain at seven FTE. We have one part-timer who's going to be attending Cochise College for his Firefighter 1 and 2. I received another application today, and I also have two applications in the burner for water tender operators. Tonight, Captain Perry was going to be here, but he is at the Firefighter 1 and 2 training sessions and EMT classes trying to do some recruiting for us this evening.

Margarita Ranch, you'll see the document, the resolution here shortly. There was a question about public safety personnel retirement. We're working with

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Andy to coordinate that meeting. He said to do that once Brittany gets back. So, nothing further on the website. Auto aid with Frye seems to be pretty consistent. We had a reported house fire a couple of nights ago, 143, a medic and myself, and the engine responded to it. The Frye chiefs are dropping off the call when they hear me come on the air, so they're not coming all the way out to the incident. Continuing on, Director Stoner had questions about apparatus tire replacements.

I have gotten all of those. Everything was current with the exception of our trailers out here, and the front tires on the Freightliner were due this year, so we replaced those last Monday. Everything else is caught up. I have those documents in the back here if you'd like to look at them. Hybrid maintenance issues from hybrid maintenance. Director Stoner asked about that last board meeting. I made a couple of phone calls because of the private utilities here. One of them was to Liberty. They responded back in an email telling us that we had records for it if you need it.

However, they did not want us to maintain any of their hybrids. However, if we felt that there was a problem or deficiency in them, that we need to notify them and they'll take care of those deficiencies in a quick order. They also asked us to report water usage when we go out and drill within any of their water delivery service areas, and we've been doing that. Radio re-banding, that's a big deal for us. Frequency unification. I met with a bunch of the chiefs a couple of weeks ago regarding the standardization of our radios. I did buy a used Motorola radio. I took it to Pablo at the county. I told him what I paid for it.

He looked at it and said it was a good deal, so this will, hopefully, get us up current in a couple of our apparatus. I'm going to continue to look for additional radios because right now, we're working on a Band-Aid patch with what we're using. That patch will eventually go away, and we've got to have those communication systems in our apparatus in order to keep up and communicate with our neighbors.

Female Speaker 2: Is there a time limit on that? You said it's getting ready to go away.

Male Speaker 5: The radios we have are on what they call a bridge system, and so it's an old frequency tying it to a new frequency. This one's outdated. This one's current, so they've got to figure out how to patch those together. The bulk of our radios are over 25 years old, and we go to fires with Frye. They come out here, and we lose them because we don't have Fire 2 on our radio, and we don't have that bridge in effect for the secondary channel, which is what we're calling an ops channel. The used radios cost us about \$1,800.00 new.

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They're about \$7,000.00, so we're buying them surplus from a company that cleans them, sweeps them, tunes them, makes them fresh. All they do is need cloning or the programming put into them. So, that's where we're at now. It's at a lesser cost, but hopefully, it should be just as reliable as what a new radio would be. Red dye fuel agreement, I don't have anything on that. I told you last meeting that that will be November 10 at the Palomino's board meeting. They will be discussing it.

I mentioned the AFG grant. I do have a question on the Tahoe. It's been surplus for three years. Jeremy talked about it the other day. I said, "What do you think of it?" He called it a rolling coffin because he said the ABS controller is out in it. The front suspension is wasted in it. I can try it.

Male Speaker 1: Front steering linkage is one.

Male Speaker 5: Okay, and they said once you get used to it, it's kind of okay. My question to the board is, I was going to try to sell that. If I can't, are you opposed to us, for the lack of better words, using it for a drill vehicle? Tearing it apart, cutting it apart, doing what we need to do with it. I don't honestly believe we'll get \$500.00 out of it, but I don't know. It is that beat inside. Your call.

Male Speaker 1: You said a drill vehicle. You mean to destroy or burn or something, cut it up?

Male Speaker 5: And then have the tow company give them the title and take it away. But it's been lingering here for three years.

Male Speaker 1: We're not really in the salvage business.

Male Speaker 2: Place it on the agenda.

Male Speaker 1: Okay, let's talk about it. Can you give some –

Male Speaker 5: We've already surplused it. I'll try to surplus it the best I can, if that's cool.

Male Speaker 2: Well, if you want to do something other than sell it, then we should have it on the agenda.

Male Speaker 5: I will try the selling in the intermediate or the next meeting. If I can't, I'll let you know whether we were successful with that or not. The ox pump is up and working. Jeremy fixed that. It was a bunch of bad gas, rebuild carburetor, and a few other things in order to get that up and running. Cochise College has approached us regarding an agreement to use our drill tower for training recruits out of their college. They're going to come out here on the fourth, I believe, to just take a look at the facility. If there's something they're

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interested in, we'll report back further to you on that. We can talk.

I think there's a roof on the agenda.

Female Speaker 1: Yes, for the training center.

Male Speaker 5: Yeah, we'll wait there and then talk about trunk or treat. We did go. I was invited by Frye to go recognize a nurse and an EMT who helped us on a motor vehicle crash down here at the Dollar General. It turned out to be a fatality. But we did go to the hospital, presented them an award from Palomino's Fire District, thanking them for their hands-on in a time when people are more interested in pulling their video recorders out to video things than getting help. And we did that in front of their peers in the Emergency Room.

And then lastly, our reader sign board has kind of failed. I've reached out to the company. They're going to walk us through some troubleshooting to see if we can get the thing fired back up. And if not, we'll have to have a discussion about what we want to do with that at a later point in time. I know that's a lot, but that's still important.

Male Speaker 1: No, no, well done. Do you know the resolution we just prepared with signatures, which one was that, Tom? Was that for the water tank?

Male Speaker 2: I believe, yes.

Male Speaker 1: So, that couldn't be done until this is signed properly?

Male Speaker 2: It's correct.

Male Speaker 5: He's got the copy.

Male Speaker 1: Okay. Because that citizen, Mr. Boyce, is very happy to go and get that at no expense to us. Okay. Have you had a chance to talk with him?

Male Speaker 5: I have not yet. I don't have his contact.

Male Speaker 1: I think Brittany has his number. Okay. And he's called me a few times, but he's delighted to go get it.. So, that's off our back, okay? I should let him know, or somebody should.

Male Speaker 5: Yep. We'll give him a call.

Male Speaker 1: Okay. Thank you. Any questions, board members? Okay. Thank you, Chief. We'll try the fifth item, which is Tommy Stoner. Would you present that,

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please?

Male Speaker 2: Yes. Areas of Responsibility. Our previous chief was given a mandate to delegate areas of responsibility to our firefighters. And whether he did it or not, we have no idea because every chief report is on here, but it never gets addressed. We've never gotten any feedback at all, whether he assigned these areas responsibility or whether he didn't. This is the pivotal thing that gives the board the information they need to make decisions. We need to have reports on every one of these areas of responsibility. We need to know our apparatus, how old is it, problems we're having with it, if any.

All of our stations, the PPE, the tires, the SCBAs, radios, the stations, etc. And these need to be reported on a regular, monthly basis to the board so that we can know what's happening in our district. Instead of, all of a sudden, they come to us and say, "It's all a crisis. We have to do something now. Spend money. Get money wherever you can." No. We need to have these areas of responsibility assigned to the personnel, and then they need to report to the chief, and the chief needs to roll it up in an executive report, and every month give it to the board so that we can know what's happening in our district.

And we tried to get the previous chief to do this, but it never happened. So, again, these are what's going to tell the board what's happening. So, I'm going to make a suggestion, and I will discuss it right now, that we have two reports from the chief. The first one will be a list of the areas of responsibility to whom he assigned it to, and that's basically, every month, if it changes, then that list, that report will change. It will be in writing, and then we can see that he's actually doing it, and we've had this in the past. It's not anything on our current chief. We've had it in the past.

They come to us and say, "Oh, we've got to change all the tires in the whole district," because nobody's been following it. Oh, our hydrants are all bad. You know, the SCBAs, we've got to buy new ones. They're outdated. The hoses are all not tested, etc. All the radios are bad. We've had this. We've dealt with it in crisis mode. We've got to replace all these radios now, you know. So, I'm saying, let's go with these two reports. The first one, who was it assigned to? And it doesn't have to have their full name, but it's got to be their –

Male Speaker 5: Mr. Chair, that is an operational issue.

Male Speaker 1: Yes, it's fine.

Male Speaker 5: I will report as necessary, and I would like to hear if you are disappointed

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with this chief's report tonight.

Male Speaker 2: I want to put that on the agenda, too. So, I want to have two reports. The first one is a list of who he's assigned it to. And they say it's operations, but we need to get the feedback, and we're not getting the feedback. So, the board has to do something to make sure that we do get the feedback. So, we want to know that it's actually being done. So, we need a list of each one of these areas of responsibility and who they are assigned to. That's the first report.

The second report is an executive summary, a roll-up, of each of these areas of responsibility that are given to the chief as a report every month from every one of these areas of responsibility so that we know what's happening in our district. If there's tires need to be on the thing, then tires need to be assigned to a particular staff member, and that staff member reports back to the chief in writing every month the status of the tires. And yes, but each one of these areas of responsibility can be different. Tires is not a real good one because they don't change.

They only get one month older, but something may happen. It may have blown a tire or something. That needs to be put in their report. It's a simple report. It's an easy thing to do, but then that gets back up to the board, written every month, so that we can see what's happening. The stations, that'll get reported back to the board. If there's certain things wrong with the stations, that'll be assigned to a particular person, and the information will get back to the board. We need information from our district of what's happening, not just a blanket thing that says, oh, it's all falling apart or everything's great. No, we need details.

The board needs details to know what's happening with the SCBAs, what's happening with the PPE.

Male Speaker 5: At your request, sir.

Male Speaker 2: What's happening with the apparatus, what's happening with the radios, so that on a regular basis, the board has feedback of what's happening. Now, this would be a thing that we start out with it. If it's working, fine. We're going to have to tweak it. If there's information coming to us that the board doesn't need, we say, "Take this off the list." If there's information that we think needs to be added to the list, so that we can understand what's happening in our district and know when and before it becomes a crisis, then we can add to the list over time. But we don't get the feedback that we need on these areas of responsibility until it's crisis.

And this needs to be changed. The board needs to have an executive

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summary of each one of these areas of responsibility. And it needs to come from the person who has assigned it. And they need to have their name on it. And then, it gets rolled up and brought to the board as part of the fire chief report. That's what I've suggested. And then open it for discussion.

Female Speaker 2: I know we've been on the board long enough to have gone through enough chiefs that do exactly what you said. And it is so frustrating that they show up and say, "We have to do this now." I do have to say that the chief's report this year, or this month, is one of the best I've ever heard. Really, we've got more information than we've gotten in a long time. I would like to see it in writing because if you get the report, you go through it pretty fast. You don't always catch everything. And to have it in writing would be nice. Look at this.

Male Speaker 3: But as board members, should we come up with the things that we're going to ask them to be assigned to? Should we tell them, okay, we need the vehicle maintenance. We need tires. We need radios. Are we going to set something for them to give us?

Male Speaker 2: Here's what I'm suggesting. We start out, we assign this to the chief to do, to set this all up. Next month, we leave it on the agenda. He brings it to us. He says, "This is what I've come up with. This works for me." And we'll look it over, and we'll keep it on the agenda, areas of responsibility. We'll look down through the list. We'll say, well, okay, or no, or yes. If he says, "Well, this is who I've assigned to clean the bathroom," that's not important to the board. But we say, we don't need that. Cross that off. But there's another item on here that you don't have. How about you put that on there?

So, we keep this on the agenda for several months. And this will be a testing kind of thing. Is this working? Is it not working? Are we getting the information we need to make decisions when it's time and in a timely fashion and not a crisis mode? And those are the kind of questions that we will answer. And we'll just take it month by month by month. And I'm suspecting that when he assigns some of these things to a staff member, that staff member may have to be trained. They may have to take some training on how to go about doing this thing and interacting with things.

That's fine. It'll take time. But we need to start it. And we need to have the feedback to the board so that we can make decisions in a timely manner.

Male Speaker 3: Chief, you going to be able to handle that?

Male Speaker 5: I'm not going to do it.

Male Speaker 1: I can see where the assignee of any project could report back to the chief.

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And the chief could report that to us. You want that documented. That's fine. But I don't see that that person needs to report directly to us.

Male Speaker 2: No, they don't.

Male Speaker 1: They can go through the chief.

Male Speaker 2: It would be an executive summary rolled up in a report. And we really need this information to make decisions. And we're not getting the information. A written chief report would be great. But still, we need to know each one of these areas of responsibility, what's happening with it because when they come to us wanting money for tires –

Male Speaker 5: That's a budgeted item.

Male Speaker 2: It is a budgeted item. But we need to know that it's happening because in the past, it didn't happen. And we need to know. And it's a very simple thing because tires, especially, is a very simple thing. The tires don't get but one month older. So, the report, it's like five minutes to roll that up and say, well, no new things on the tires. Okay. We're good.

Male Speaker 1: So, Tom is correct, and he has been right, and has, for many meetings in the past, requested such information. It was rarely forthcoming, or it was said to be on the way. And then, it never had. And we have been blindsided through the years many times for a sudden emergency. Tires is an example. It's just one of them. Radios is another. But no action was apparently being taken to address those concerns. A previous board member, a good guy who works for Frye, would always recommend a scheduled maintenance and report on every nut and bolt in the district, especially on vehicles.

It's a timely thing, and it is the law in the aviation industry. With any aircraft, that has to be done regularly. Inspections and reports and who's inspecting and what they're reporting, all of that is documented. And other districts do that, bigger districts, not rural ones that I'm aware of. But that is the reason for Mr. Stoner's concern, and I've watched it, and he's not wrong. We get blindsided with emergencies that should not be emergencies. It should have been a regularly scheduled thing and was promised to be, but never was or hardly ever was.

So, I get why you want to try that. And what I will say, if it doesn't happen and we are still blindsided, now that that request has been publicly made, somebody will answer for it. I don't know the details on the maintenance of every vehicle. That's not our job is to know that. It's operations to know that and to report it.

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Male Speaker 3: I want to say one thing. Chief's been doing a pretty good job, I think, taking care of problems we had in the past. He's been informing us quite a bit on what has been happening. So, I think he will try to give us a good report on everything, but I agree. We need to know. But it's going to be hard to assign. Joe Blow, do you know how to depth the tires? Do you know the law on when they have to be replaced? So, we're going to have to really think about it for chief assigning somebody a responsibility because then they could come back and haunt us in.

Male Speaker 2: But that's the training part of it. And if we don't know, then again, we're in the crisis mode again. And this is the thing. The chiefs would take this on. They would take all this on themselves. They would say, "Well, I'm going to check the SCBAs, and I'm going to do the PPE, and I'm going to do the tires, and the radios, and the stations, and the apparatus." No. We expect the chief to assign these responsibilities to the staff members. And so, we want to see that this is being done. And the staff members, they need the training.

And they'll come up to speed. It won't take them long to figure out about tread depth. It don't take them long to read the dates on the tires and know that they're over 10 years old, etc. That's a minor thing, and they'll get the training, and then things will be moving forward. And different staff members are good with different things, and the chief can know that, and they can assign it to the correct staff member. But it needs to be assigned, and the main thing is the information needs to come back to the board so we know what's happening in our district.

And we want an executive summary. We don't want the details of all the tires in the whole district. We just need the executive summary. Well, we have 10 tires that are coming up for replacement in five months. That's it. That's all we need to know. We need to see that that's happening. And yes, tires are a budgeted item, but we need to see that this is happening. And we are supposed to be overseers of all the money and our chief, and we need to have it where we can see what's happening and not get blindsided when it goes to the staff.

Male Speaker 5: I think if I have blindsided you tonight or at any other time, I need to be fired, and I would suggest the board take that vote tonight.

Male Speaker 2: Okay, I'm not accusing you.

Male Speaker 5: I'm looking for a board that's at the 40,000-foot view, not the 5,000-foot view. You are absolutely right. I can train people. I have half my Fire Department on probation. I need to train them in fighting fires, putting IVs in people, taking care of life safety stuff. Delegation is given out when the

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span of control is gone, and I haven't lost that span of control in this organization. And it's extremely frustrating that you lump me in continuously with past fire chiefs. You do. And then, when I make the comment, Mr. Stoner, because the first meeting you went out here and back-mouthed me to the public. Yes, you did.

I'll tell you exactly what you said. Every time a chief comes in here, he's got grand ideas. You all invited me in. I have no dog in this fight. I want to help these people fight fire. I want them to be the best they can. You don't want Fry Fire District out here? I don't disagree with you. Neither do these folks. We have a recognition problem. I did this appraisal on the board. You want me to tell you what that board said, or do you want me to keep it quiet and keep it to myself? Because I'm not going to be your whipping post. Do I get a chance to talk, sir?

Male Speaker 2: I'm letting you talk. Go ahead. I thought you were done.

Male Speaker 5: Our people are frustrated with the level of support and the micromanagement of support of this fire board. The only reason you're not going to push me around is I don't need a job. But I committed my heart and my soul to come in here and help you.

Male Speaker 1: Nobody is pushing you around. On the other hand, I've never seen a new chief come to this district and immediately start butting heads with board members. And that is not going to continue.

Male Speaker 5: Take a vote, sir. It's not on the agenda, but I will tell you –

Male Speaker 1: It's not on the agenda.

Male Speaker 5: I will tell you that any fire chief that's going to come –

Male Speaker 1: We can have a meeting to discuss it if you like.

Male Speaker 5: And it'll be an open meeting. I don't want an executive session.

Male Speaker 1: That'll be fine. But this condition that we're all struggling with is not going to continue. It cannot continue.

Male Speaker 5: Would you like me to resign?

Male Speaker 1: And right away. So, we will move ahead with that. Are you saying to resign right away?

Male Speaker 3: No.

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Male Speaker 1: You can do what you want, but I'm not calling for that.

Male Speaker 2: May I have 15 seconds, please?

Male Speaker 5: First time a board would shut out their employees, but try it.

Female Speaker 3: Okay. Well, I'm not an employee, and I'd like to speak.

Male Speaker 1: It's not appropriate under the rules.

Male Speaker 4: Well, you can't fire me. Only he can. So, you guys are going to be too involved in operations that you don't need.

Male Speaker 1: We do not have this interruption.

Male Speaker 4: This is the best chief we've had. This is by far the best chief we've had in fucking years. I was here under Matthew's administration.

Male Speaker 1: I'm not going to argue with that one.

Male Speaker 4: You force him out, I guarantee the rest of us will find a way to turn this into Fry Fire District, whether we got you. And you won't have 90% of the employees.

Female Speaker 1: Why are you threatening us? We are here. We don't get paid for this job.

Male Speaker 4: I'm not threatening.

Female Speaker 1: No, you will let me speak. No, I will speak. We take this job because we want to be here and help. That is exactly why we're here. We care about this district where we live. And you are threatening us because we are asking for information that you're going to turn on us and bring in Fry when you know that nobody here really wants Fry.

Male Speaker 4: Absolutely not.

Female Speaker 1: You just did.

Male Speaker 4: I don't. I don't want Fry.

Female Speaker 1: You just said you would turn this place into Fry and there was nothing we could do about it.

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Male Speaker 4: Do you think I want Fry here? I don't want anything to do with Fry.

Male Speaker 1: Neither do I.

Male Speaker 4: That's his son. I don't want anything to do with him.

Male Speaker 1: We'll advise you that every board member here is a long-term resident.

Male Speaker 4: Yes, and I am thankful for that.

Male Speaker 1: Decades long.

Male Speaker 4: I am thankful for that.

Male Speaker 1: Forty years and going.

Male Speaker 4: I appreciate you, Ms. Rice. And I appreciate you, Ms. Shinard. I appreciate the both of you and Mr. Mosley. I appreciate all three of you because you listen to him. And you appreciate his information that he gives out. All three of you. You listen to him. But these two.

Male Speaker 1: We are entirely off the agenda and out of control here. So, this conversation will end right now.

Female Speaker 1: I'm ready to shut the meeting down. This is unacceptable, this kind of behavior.

Male Speaker 1: It is unacceptable.

Male Speaker 2: The board needs the information. And we're not getting it. And I said nothing against our current chief. Nothing at all. And I do not recall ever saying what he accused me of.

Male Speaker 5: I stood right outside that doorway when you said it.

Male Speaker 1: Excuse me. That's it, okay? You can't do this anymore. There's ways to stop that. I don't want to go there. Now, I'm going to say again, Clerk Stoner, through the years, has asked for this information. Regularly, continually. Previous chiefs have said they would come with it. And they have not. We get the feel-good report. And then, we have a problem. And it has been regular and almost predictable. And so, it is an emergency when we're faced with, Oh, no, we need huge money to fix this.

And it just has never gone there. So, the clerk is not wrong in his requests. And this is what it is. It's a request. It's an agenda item for discussion and

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possible action. It's not an order. It's not a command. It is a regular, old agenda item, as we've seen thousands of them through the years. All right. Now, I expect adults to be able to handle a conversation. It's in the business of the community. And remind that every one of these people were sent here by the community, duly elected board members of the voters and constituents in the Palomino Fire District.

And, again, we've been here, I'm sure, longer than some of you have been alive. Okay. We know this area and we know the people in it. Now, this is not on the agenda, but we will discuss it later. Back to Mr. Stoner's item. I don't think, Tom, that an appointee, if there is to be one, needs to report to the board on what they've discovered. They can report that to the chief. The chief can report it to us.

Male Speaker 2: And that's what I am recommending.

Female Speaker 1: Yes, that's what he was recommending, yes.

Male Speaker 1: Where is that stuff? I assume that every chief's report does come with information within the ranks. Right? You're not making it up.

Male Speaker 5: I haven't made anything up, sir. Sir?

Male Speaker 1: I'm sorry?

Male Speaker 5: I haven't made anything up, sir.

Female Speaker 1: We are accusing you of it.

Male Speaker 5: That's what he just said, unless you made it up.

Female Speaker 1: We are not accusing you of it.

Male Speaker 5: I'm just responding to the statement.

Male Speaker 1: So, it is clear to me that an additional meeting is necessary. And we'll arrange that pretty soon. Clerk Stoner, regarding Item No. 5, is there anything else you want to add to that?

Male Speaker 2: Yes, I would like to implement this, at least on a trial basis. And I would like to have those two. We've already implemented the areas of responsibility. What we haven't is made a directive to make two written reports to the board so that we can get information back on what's going on in our district. That's what we need to make decisions, is that information. So, the first report,

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again, was a list of who is assigned the areas of responsibility so that we can see, so that the board will know that it has been assigned. And it's just not thrown aside and ignored.

And then, the second report is the roll-up of all the reports that come from those people who were assigned these responsibilities. And in executive format, a sentence or two on each one. That's it. So, information that we need to see of what is actually going on for that particular area of responsibility. And if, like I said, we'll keep this on the agenda. And next month, if there's things coming on the report that we don't think we need to know about, we can ask that they be removed. If there's something we need to have added, we can add it. We can ask that it be added to the report.

And that way, we can get a more detailed information of what's happening throughout our district with the stations, with the SCBAs, with the PPE, tires, radios, all these things. We don't want it read aloud in the meeting. But it needs to be in writing, or we can take it home and say, okay, this thing's going okay, that's going okay. There's a problem here. And if there is a problem on one of these areas of responsibility, then it needs to be noted in that executive summary. This needs to be fixed. It needs to be added. We're going to need this soon. And here's the justification.

So, it would have a recommendation and a justification in the executive report.

Male Speaker 1: This is sounding similar, as I referred to a previous board member who is an expert in this area. A scheduled maintenance, pre-scheduled, in detail. We don't have such a thing. We've asked to have it looked into, never established one. And it's complicated, and it takes a long time to establish. But I think it's worthy. Some of these things are getting there. Front, **Peterbilt**, replacement date, arrears, replacement date. This is scheduled maintenance. It's not detailed, but it doesn't have to be right now. Okay? That's the kind of thing you're looking for.

That's kind of what I'm looking for. I don't want to be bombed by a surprise that we need to dump \$150,000.00 in December for a **[inaudible]** **[00:55:13]**. We didn't know it was on the way. You're right about that. You've always been right about that. Sorting it out into understandable language is the challenge. But we take challenges, so we can do that.

Male Speaker 2: This is why I think those two simple reports would be ideal, and we can start out with this. And if it doesn't work out, we'll tweak it so that we do get the information that we need in a timely fashion. That's what I'm recommending.

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Male Speaker 5: We're doing it a little bit backwards because, typically, that's done at the budgetary process. The definitions and the purpose of the budget is rationale in such a document so that you can approve a budget looking at a document that says, this is why we're budgeting this amount of money for these projects. And then going through the document. And I struggle, and I'm sorry I threw this off tonight, but here's my deal. Until last month, I had no job description. The only thing I have is this board policy manual, which I flagged because you violate or go against your own policy manual so much.

I'm trying to play by the rules, but it's not happening coming from this side of the table. So, I'm struggling. How do I play a fair game with you when I'm trying to play by the rules, but these are not?

Male Speaker 2: Okay. So, again, I said nothing against you. You're brand new here, and I did not say anything against you on any of this discussion or anything else. I'm saying this is what we need as a board to implement so that we can get the information that we need. We can use the chief changing as an example that we did not get enough information prior to this change of chief so that we could know what's happening in our district and make the necessary changes.

This would also be an excellent tool for making a budget because each one of these areas of responsibility will be reported on a monthly basis, and the chief can look at this thing and say, ah, we're going to need this much money coming up next year because this SCBA is going to have to be replaced. So, in every one of these areas of responsibility, it'll be an excellent tool that the chief can use to create the budget, and it'll be a more precise budget than in the past. In the past, nothing on this chief, but in the past, they would just copy the same budget from the previous year, add a little bit of money to each one of the lines. Here it is, board. This is how much money we need.

That's what I suspect was happening. This way, they could use this as a tool to say, oh, the hoses are all good. We won't have to buy any more hoses this year. We won't have to spend any money there. But our PPE is getting old. We need new stuff there. We're going to have to have some money there. Tires, okay, we can see coming up, change here and there and up, but he'll be able to see that on a monthly basis, and then he can take that and roll it up and say, okay, next year, we're going to have to add a little bit more on the tires because we have eight tires and not four to replace this next year, etc.

This can be a really good tool for the chief to create the budget. Whether he does that or not, that's up to the chief, but we need the information, and this is what I would like to implement so that we, the board, can get good

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information, timely information for making good decisions for all these things.

Male Speaker 1: In the form of a motion, Tom, what does that look like?

Male Speaker 2: It would be I would like to make two motions, one for each report, and the motion would be that we are tasking the chief to create these reports for us and to implement the program at least on an initial basis, and it'll need tweaking, I'm sure.

Male Speaker 1: So, how would you define the report?

Male Speaker 2: Okay, the first report would be a list of the areas of responsibility assigned, and all that would be would be the areas of responsibility and who they were assigned to.

Male Speaker 1: So, why do you require who they were assigned to?

Male Speaker 2: So, that we can see that they are actually being assigned.

Male Speaker 5: That's not your responsibility.

Male Speaker 1: I think, regardless of who the chief is, that it's reliable to take the chief's word for it. And if it fails, that will soon be recognized. If it's not happening, as we've already seen many times, if it's not happening, that would become evident pretty quickly.

Male Speaker 2: But if we can avoid it from failing and make sure that we –

Male Speaker 1: I'm uncomfortable, Tom, with going to a lower rank individual perhaps and saying, "Did the chief actually tell you to do that?" And then that person is on the firing line to say, "Well, yeah, or maybe, or sort of, kind of." I don't want to have that kind of discussion. I just want to take it from the chief. And it will become evident. If that's not being done, it will soon appear.

Male Speaker 2: So, you're suggesting that you won't need the second report?

Male Speaker 1: Is that what you're calling the second report?

Male Speaker 2: The second report would be a roll-up of each one of these areas' responsibility and what is actually happening with it in an executive report format.

Male Speaker 1: The chief could give that report. Another person would not have to give it, in my opinion.

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- Male Speaker 2: That's exactly what I'm saying. The chief would give that report.
- Female Speaker 2: I'm with Robert on that. As far as, I don't want to know the names of whoever the chief tells to do what. I could care less if it's Joe or Sammy that did it as long as it's getting done.
- Male Speaker 2: Okay, so you're looking for a report for each one of the areas of responsibility.
- Female Speaker 2: Yes, something that's –
- Male Speaker 2: In an executive format so that the board can see that it's being checked and tested. At the bottom of each one, if there's a suggestion for change or anything like that, then there'd be a justification underneath that. So, you have an executive roll-up. And then, you'll have a proposal for change or a proposal for correction. And then, the reasons why they're suggesting, for instance, let's just take PPE. We suggest that we replace five of them. And this is the reason why. They're too old, whatever. Just an executive roll-up.
- Female Speaker 2: Is that part of the budget or would that –
- Male Speaker 2: Some of these things will be part of the budget.
- Female Speaker 2: I know that PPE was something we might have to vote on.
- Male Speaker 2: No, PPE is supposed to be in the budget.
- Female Speaker 2: Okay.
- Male Speaker 2: But in times past, these things were not being checked or tested or anything. They didn't even look at the dates. And then all of a sudden, we needed to replace all of them. So, if we get a monthly check on these things so that we know that somebody's looking at them, then we won't be in crisis mode.
- Male Speaker 1: I keep coming back to the previous board member who had good ideas on structured investigation like that and maintenance. And I think at this time, I would rather have more time to assemble such a plan rather than right here spontaneously in a vague form. Okay?
- Male Speaker 2: Okay.
- Male Speaker 1: And it could be in a next meeting or in a special meeting. I'm always good for special meetings. So, are you willing then to assign this to a future

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meeting or table it for another meeting?

Male Speaker 2: Sure.

Male Speaker 1: Okay. Would you make a motion for that?

Female Speaker 2: I make a motion that we take our No. 5 discussion and possible action on the areas of responsibility and table it for another meeting or for a next monthly meeting or a special meeting.

Male Speaker 1: Okay.

Male Speaker 3: I'll second the motion.

Male Speaker 1: Do you second that? All right. Call for the vote to approve the motion.

Female Speaker 1: Okay. Cathy Chouinard, aye.

Female Speaker 2: Valerie Rice, aye.

Male Speaker 2: Tommy Stoner, aye.

Male Speaker 3: Let me just make sure we're going to table it so we can discuss it further.

Male Speaker 1: Yes.

Male Speaker 3: Kim Mauzy, aye.

Male Speaker 2: And I request that this be placed on either next month's agenda or a special meeting.

Female Speaker 1: Between now and next month?

Male Speaker 2: Yeah, next week and the next one. If we don't have it on a special meeting, I want it on the next month's agenda.

Female Speaker 1: Okay.

Male Speaker 2: While I'm doing agenda items, I would like the chief report to be on the agenda so that we can discuss it. And the other thing I would like to put on there is the snake call program. I'd like those things to be on the agenda.

Male Speaker 1: Snake call program?

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Male Speaker 2: Yes.

Male Speaker 1: Say that again?

Male Speaker 2: Snake calls.

Male Speaker 1: Snake calls?

Male Speaker 2: I want to be able to discuss that.

Male Speaker 1: You want to talk about snake calls?

Male Speaker 2: Yes.

Male Speaker 1: Okay. Was that on the call? No snake calls on there?

Female Speaker 2: No.

Male Speaker 1: Okay. So, you want me to discuss that?

Male Speaker 2: I just want to add those to the agenda next month. Not necessary. I don't need these on a special meeting, just next month.

Male Speaker 1: Okay.

Male Speaker 2: The chief report and snake calls.

Male Speaker 1: Is our office admin available in Texas right now? Is she listening? No, she's not there?

Male Speaker 2: It's being recorded.

Male Speaker 1: Okay. Enough?

Male Speaker 2: Yes, I'm done with that.

Male Speaker 1: All right, thank you. Let us try the sixth item. This is discussion of possible action on the training center roof damage. Who wants to start?

Female Speaker 1: I'm just looking at this borderland. It seemed like that was more detailed to understand then, we had those first two quotes, but they weren't real clear. I'm of the opinion that I don't know construction that well, but I was thinking we could go with repairing. And I think the borderland, I don't see it on this packet, but that at the last meeting, that representative that was here, he gave me and Valerie a whole folder, and he had on there like for repair, like

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\$6,000.00. So, I thought that sounded good. I don't know what everyone else thinks, if that's a good deal or not. He puts a lot of detail on it.

And I think to repair, he had \$9,800.00. Yeah. But the repair was \$6,000.00.

Female Speaker 2: And that got lost in my transition.

Female Speaker 1: So, I don't know if that makes sense or not, what he's offering because we didn't get anything back from those other two that was more clear comparing repair or replace.

Male Speaker 5: So, we filed a claim with the insurance. The adjuster came out, and he said the problem with the roof is that it Vs in the middle. So, there's a structural weakness that causes, that roof is flattened up, he says it will struggle to get water off, but over time, it Vs in the middle, and that's where a seam is, and the seam is pocketing water inside of it. So, the adjuster forwarded the information. Insurance called back and said they would cover that roof. They recommended putting a steeper slope to it.

The others looked at the roof of this facility, and because of the lengthiness and the timelines of the duration of the water damage in here, they won't cover the damage to the leaks in this roof. The skylight, I would assume the skylights over the balance of the stations that are in the back in the warehouse here, I would call it, storage room, are becoming weathered, and they're going to be problematic in the not-too-distant future. I don't foresee that as being an expensive fix. It is fiberglass coverings, but that will need attention.

So, anything we do to this side of the building will have to come out of the General Fund budget. If you want to proceed because this will be Claim 2, and I will tell you about another one, this portion of the building would be covered, the awning.

Male Speaker 1: So, an insurance company said they will cover it?

Male Speaker 5: They would.

Male Speaker 1: And would the procedure be for Palomino's Fire District to write a check to a contractor first, and they'd be reimbursed?

Male Speaker 5: They have an estimate from the adjuster. They would cut us that check, and that would be sitting in our account up until the time payment is made, so it's just like the [inaudible] [01:10:50].

Male Speaker 1: So, no money out of our bank?

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Male Speaker 5: No. I will tell you about a third situation, and that was a brush rig backed into a bay door. It tweaked the door and framing a bit at Station 193 because of the angle that brush rig has to back in with that retainment wall on the backside. Someone's come over the hill, he had a backup person, the backup person didn't see it. The claims gentleman at Endzone said, "If you have something you think you're going to report, let us know." He said the longer duration you wait, it can be rejected by the insurance company.

So, I let him know. I did not file a claim on that. But it is a metal stud that runs the side of the door from the footing to the ceiling. Some of it's welded, some of it's bolted. But right now, it's tweaked to a point where you have to really finagle the door to come down. I should have saw this before. Stations like that usually have bollard posts that are in and around the door that you would back into and not a station framing. So, I'm looking at bollard posts at the moment. But if you look at the balance of the doors in and around the station, not the first time they've been hit.

Male Speaker 1: Right. We know that. That's a separate claim.

Male Speaker 5: I haven't filed it because BFIS is the only insurance company that will really insure Fire Departments. I wanted to bring it to the board to have consideration of do we eat any of that cost or do we file another claim and run the risk of them saying that's another one in a short period of time.

Male Speaker 1: It's the same company?

Male Speaker 5: Well, the underwriter is BFIS, which is out of Pennsylvania. And they insure 99% of the Fire Departments across the country.

Male Speaker 1: Was there a third one then?

Male Speaker 5: That was the third. The roof, the fire station, fire, and then the other door.

Male Speaker 1: Was there a dollar amount?

Male Speaker 5: To the door?

Male Speaker 1: For all of it. Separately, please.

Male Speaker 5: So, with the roof, let me go back. The fire was right at \$100,000.00 because they had to scrub the entire station. We had to throw medical equipment away that they had to reimburse for. It was the correction, the fixing of the wall, we had some electrical issues. That fire wasn't nearly as bad as the one

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in Hauser, Oregon that completely burnt their fire station down a few weeks ago.

Male Speaker 1: But they covered it, right?

Male Speaker 5: They covered it. They cut us checks ahead of time to at least get the momentum going. If we submitted the documentation, they cut us another check. So, it was all ahead of time. Nothing came out of our pocket. So, we are flush. This would be the same thing. I believe their adjuster said their estimate was like \$11,000.00, just under \$12,000.00 to repair this, the awning.

Male Speaker 1: For both?

Male Speaker 5: Just the awning.

Male Speaker 1: Just the awning.

Male Speaker 5: Because they won't cover this roof.

Male Speaker 1: They won't do this one.

Male Speaker 5: Because he has looked at leaks that are dry, and he says it's been happening for a long time, and they've been ignored. It could have caused more damage, so this is more of a lack of maintenance issue then.

Male Speaker 1: Okay, so the insurance will cover the carport out there.

Male Speaker 5: Correct.

Male Speaker 1: Engine bay, whatever it's called.

Male Speaker 5: Right.

Male Speaker 1: But they won't touch the building.

Male Speaker 5: No.

Male Speaker 1: And you're thinking it was around \$11,000.00 something?

Male Speaker 5: I believe that it was a little less than \$12,000.00.

Male Speaker 1: Okay.

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- Male Speaker 5: But you're looking at a complete removal of the sheathing, I believe, underneath it.
- Male Speaker 1: If they're going to cover it up, don't much care. And then, the bay door up on the hill there.
- Male Speaker 5: I haven't done anything with the bay door. It's functional, but we have some area where daylight shows in through the metal, but I believe that that upright is tweaked enough that I don't know if they can re-tweak it or bring it back in the line, or what they can do. I did call Landmark. They came out and said, yeah, you have a problem. They never gave us a price. So, I'm finding that a little more and more with contractors that we've asked to come out here.
- Male Speaker 1: Is this functional?
- Male Speaker 5: I wouldn't use it as a primary door. There are a couple of belts that need replacement. That door happens to have a motor that's probably the weakest of them all, but that's not tied to the damage assessment.
- Male Speaker 1: Are you leaving it open at the moment?
- Male Speaker 5: No, we're shutting it. We turned the apparatus around and are running them out the front.
- Male Speaker 1: Well, it obviously needs to be fixed.
- Male Speaker 5: I'd like to get a price on it. They have a note of it. I'd like to get a price to see what that would be, whether or not this board would like to turn it into insurance and have another claim or not.
- Female Speaker 2: The more claims we make, the rates would go up?
- Male Speaker 5: Well, I would guess we would probably go into a higher risk pool, and then there's a risk of that underwriter saying we're not going to take that liability on.
- Female Speaker 2: So, we're allowed to have insurance, but we can't use it.
- Male Speaker 5: We used it, but the rates will probably go up.
- Female Speaker 2: It is what it is.
- Male Speaker 5: I have to look at the other quotes. I'm not sure where they went because of the cost, and board policy said I think over \$10,000.00 would require to get

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insurance.

Male Speaker 1: So, you were going to still get a cost for the bay door?

Male Speaker 5: I'm trying to, yes.

Male Speaker 1: So, that's not really on here right now?

Male Speaker 5: No, that was just a heads up. There's another one lingering in the wind.

Male Speaker 1: Well, that is something we've seen in the past. It's fairly ridiculous.

Male Speaker 5: I am looking at the bollards though to try to prevent such incursions in the future, which would be a bolt-down bollard on each side of the main door.

Male Speaker 1: Well, once upon a time, there were folks within the district that could fix stuff like that. Anymore, that's not the case. Regarding this Agenda Item No. 6, possible action on the new training center. So then, if we are completely out of luck on the main building itself, all that's left is the bay, and that is reported to us to be totally covered by insurance, and we don't have to write a check.

Male Speaker 5: No. What was the price on that, \$9,000.00?

Male Speaker 1: Sorry?

Male Speaker 5: Let me go back and look and see. And even if it's off a little bit, that's what the adjuster claimed it to be. They would balance it out, which is kind of what they did.

Male Speaker 1: I didn't see any numbers on this. Well, given that, I will motion, you guys can discuss if you want, to approve the insurance-covered repair. What should we call that structure, Chief? It's some kind of a parking bay.

Male Speaker 5: What's it being called? Carport? Tread bay? Apparatus? Shelter? What does he call it in here?

Female Speaker 2: He called it a training center roof.

Male Speaker 5: Let's just call it the apparatus bay.

Male Speaker 1: Apparatus bay. Then, I will motion to approve the insurance-covered repair of the roof for the apparatus bay for training center on King's Ranch Road in the amount of approximately \$11,000.00.

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Male Speaker 5: Say \$11,500.00.

Male Speaker 1: That's going to do it?

Male Speaker 5: It should, I'm hoping.

Male Speaker 1: Then, I will include that amount, \$11,500.00, for repairs through the insurance company. Is that clear?

Female Speaker 2: Reasonably.

Male Speaker 1: Well, how clear is it?

Female Speaker 2: Clear enough to make a motion on it?

Male Speaker 1: To second? That was the motion.

Female Speaker 2: Okay, then I'll second your motion, sir.

Male Speaker 1: Any further discussion about repairing the roof outside? All right. All right, take a vote to approve the motion, please.

Female Speaker 1: Cathy Chouinard, aye.

Female Speaker 2: Valerie Rice, aye.

Male Speaker 2: Tommy Stoner, abstain.

Male Speaker 1: Kim?

Male Speaker 3: It's a hard decision.

Male Speaker 1: Well, we can still discuss it. What concerns you?

Male Speaker 3: What do we use it for? Just parking a tractor under there?

Male Speaker 5: Tractor, yeah.

Male Speaker 3: Trailers?

Female Speaker 2: It needs to be covered from the weather. It's parked underneath it.

Male Speaker 1: What would you offer? To remove it?

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- Male Speaker 3: Do we need it? That's what I'm trying to think of. You know, just to park a trailer underneath it?
- Male Speaker 1: Look, I'm not opposed to removing it.
- Male Speaker 2: My concern is we keep doing this with the insurance. Pretty soon they're going to say no more insurance or raise the rates so we can't afford it or something.
- Male Speaker 1: Then what would you suggest in the meantime?
- Male Speaker 2: If we don't need it, just leave it. Tie the roof on there as best we can. Do minimum repair. And use it until it gets so bad we can't use it anymore.
- Male Speaker 1: I have looked at it extensively. I've had some of you –
- Female Speaker 1: We're not there.
- Male Speaker 1: I've been up there with the satellite guy, the radio guy. He's got his antennas up there.
- Female Speaker 2: Do you use it? Do you find that apparatus bay roof useful?
- Male Speaker 5: Yes.
- Female Speaker 2: Is it necessary?
- Male Speaker 5: We're a training facility. And if we have the option of Cochise College willing to come in here and maybe fund some of the cleanup, not cleanup, repairs to the building to make this a functional setup to help them educate people that we could potentially hire, I would say yes, we want it to look decent. And yes, we need a covered area.
- Female Speaker 2: Okay.
- Male Speaker 1: I have suggested in the past repairing the obvious damage on both ends. Where they are exposed to the wind, especially from the west say two panels deep and the length of it because that's where all the damage is. The main body of it is normal as far as I know. That was an option. And I asked for a bid to make those repairs, but never got one. Board, help us out with a plan for the carport. Do we want to go to the insurance and we'll pay for all of it? We may get a ding on our rates because of it. Maybe not. It would be all new and outlive all of us, I hope.

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Or temporarily repair the edges for some lesser amount that's unknown or tear it down entirely.

Male Speaker 2: I would suggest let's just do the minor repairs. I mean, just put a new tin on whatever ends it needs.

Female Speaker 2: Would that be able to come out of our pocket rather than the insurance company?

Male Speaker 2: It would come out of our pocket.

Female Speaker 2: That might be a better option as long as it can be done well. We have an opportunity from what Chief said. I'm sorry. We have an opportunity here with what Chief said about Cochise College coming out here using the facility so we want to make it look good and not fall down on their apparatus in the wind. So, the repairs that we would do out of pocket would have to be good repairs.

Male Speaker 5: The problem I see with the repair is that, again, I have pictures of it. The building V's in the middle.

Female Speaker 2: So, it needs more support in the middle?

Male Speaker 5: It needs more angle, I guess. But what happens is there's a seam there.

Female Speaker 2: Yes.

Male Speaker 5: And there's like a six inch overlap on the seam.

Female Speaker 2: I remember seeing that.

Male Speaker 5: When you push on it, water comes out. So, it's trapping water in under that seam. There's no felt paper or any other water barrier between the metal and the sheathing.

Male Speaker 1: You were suggesting an insurance rate increase if we claim that. We already claimed the fire for \$100,000.00. And now this and then the bay door. And did they tell you that? Do you just know that from experience?

Male Speaker 5: What's that?

Male Speaker 1: A rate increase.

Male Speaker 5: You know, it was a conversation I was having with the End Zone guy. I said,

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“Where do we go with this? This is three and pretty short order.” Because they’re pretty flexible. They’re used to Fire Departments having problems. So, some of it was what we’ll call tongue-in-cheek speculation based on the conversation. But he didn’t come out right to say that.

Male Speaker 3: So, if we go through the insurance, they’ll probably rip it off. Give us our pitch. And we’ll have a nice roof that’ll probably last us for quite a while.

Male Speaker 1: That was my inclination also.

Female Speaker 2: And we could wind up possibly having a rate increase, hopefully, not being dumped by the insurance company.

Male Speaker 1: Do you know what our rate happens to be now?

Male Speaker 5: Not right offhand. But I do know, well, I don’t know that. It’s typically, we’re paying for other people’s tragedies. You know, rate increases for my house aren’t from fires we have here. It’s from other places.

Male Speaker 1: Then, I’m going to stick with the original motion to use the insurance company, who said they will cover the cost of a new roof at the apparatus parking garage. I believe we did have a second and two votes in favor?

Female Speaker 2: Yes.

Male Speaker 1: Kim, we are up to you at this point.

Male Speaker 3: I’ll approve it.

Male Speaker 1: Okay, that’s a yes. Tom has abstained and I will approve for a yes. So, four yes and one abstention in favor. You ready to give them a call then, Chief?

Male Speaker 5: They’ve already approved it. I said I wanted to wait to have this discussion for the board meeting tonight.

Male Speaker 1: Okay, very good. Again, it should outlast all of us at that price. So, we’ll go to the seventh item, discussion, possible action on Palomino Fire District pursuing a bond with **Stipe**. I apparently have sponsored this item, so I will say that I am not in favor of pursuing a bond with Stipe or anyone else. The rates and the cost and the duration were a deal breaker to me. Not only that, considering taxes in Cochise County on several other fronts, including a new jail, which there’s election for coming up here on the fourth, is a significant tax increase with up to 17 years.

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And that is the talk of the day in Cochise County. I don't want to pile on our people in Palomino for an additional sales tax or tax of any kind. And I think we can get by without it. We don't want to oblige everybody else to it, even after 17 years when, I don't know, I didn't either. I don't want to pass that on. Okay.

Female Speaker 2: Discussions?

Male Speaker 1: Yes, discussion, please.

Female Speaker 2: I have been looking in the bond, and I have a slightly different take on it. We have enough, according to our clerk, to be able to purchase our apparatus that we need, from engines to fresh fuel and water tenders, I'm sorry. My mouth's getting dry, and I'm choking on my tongue here, I apologize. But with the discussion about this roof, and the insurance company not touching it, and the condition of some of our buildings, it might make more sense to go with a bond to do the repairs on the buildings, rather than to purchase the apparatus and things we need for the firefighters to fight. Thank you.

Male Speaker 1: So, the problem with that is that this is at least two years down the road, maybe three, maybe four, before even getting a dollar out of a bond.

Female Speaker 2: And that's why I was thinking it's not going to do us any good.

Male Speaker 1: That roof would be in Scottsdale by that time.

Female Speaker 2: So, the only reason I would think of a bond was to get, like you said, they don't touch this because, again, we've had people in the past who don't pay attention to maintenance, and now this roof is not going to be touched by the insurance company.

Male Speaker 1: Yeah, so that's going to be an agenda item we'll address very soon because it has to be addressed.

Female Speaker 2: Yes. So, that was one reason I was considering doing a bond.

Male Speaker 1: Again, it's already leaking now to some unsatisfactory level. You wouldn't see one dollar from a bond until you retired in Florida.

Female Speaker 2: I'm not going to Florida. They have hurricanes. I have cousins there though.

Male Speaker 1: A bond's not going to help us. I'm arguing against the bond for the reasons of cost, duration, the penalty of taxation, and when we don't need it.

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- Female Speaker 2: Again, finding a way to finance fixing not only this roof, but what's going on in Station and Palomino Road and the one right on the highway that is just sitting there collecting dust. We need to make decisions on what we're going to do with those and how the repairs are going to get done as well.
- Male Speaker 1: It's my contention that we will still do the tour of our facilities. It's just been way too much going on, but we will do that. But I have two of them, and in my experience, we're not in a dire situation. There's repairs always needed everywhere sometimes. But buildings are not collapsing. They're not endangering anybody, and they're not even unusable. Just need proper maintenance, that's all. Okay. Any further discussion about the bond item? Cathy Chouinard?
- Female Speaker 1: I've been trying to study on it also, and I'm thinking to pass on going with the bond issue. I think we need to have more discussions on urgent things like vehicles and grounds, buildings, and recruitment. We have the crews to work at these locations and go on wildland assignments, and we have a bunch of things to consider. But I think if we discuss and make some good decisions on these items, I think we'd do good.
- Male Speaker 1: Do good.
- Female Speaker 1: Be okay. So, I think that I would pass on the bond issue.
- Male Speaker 1: So, at this point, you like the idea of the bond?
- Female Speaker 1: No.
- Male Speaker 1: I didn't think so.
- Female Speaker 1: No, I think we need to seriously make decisions on other subjects.
- Male Speaker 1: Yes, I agree with you totally. And there are options, okay? We don't have to go in and hop for 20 minutes. Kim, did you have an idea about the bond or not? That's okay.
- Male Speaker 3: You know, I'm in there yes and no, but like Cathy had a good point, but we need to have the equipment that our men need and women need to operate in our community. So, like we know we're going to need new equipment coming up here soon, so like Cathy was saying, we need to start planning for that equipment. We don't wait until the last minute.
- Male Speaker 1: As was pointed out to us, buying equipment on a bond with a 20-year repayment plan on a 10-year truck is not really a smart plan. And that's about

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the lifespan that you can expect or should expect. I don't know about other equipment, forklifts or tractors or anything like that. Again, you don't want to be paying 20 years on something that's done in 8. And we still have options. I mean, we live here. This is an active, functioning fire district. People live here. They're moving in all the time.

More houses are being built. We're generating revenue. You saw our report today. We got, what, \$1.2 million out of that? Okay. I don't worry about that. We're not going to fold or cave in. We're going to be okay. I personally cannot justify burdening the taxpayers with a 20-year obligation at a pretty high rate, actually. That would increase everybody's taxes a lot.

Female Speaker 2: If we went for buildings, buildings are going to last a lot longer than an eight-year, ten-year vehicle. That's why I was considering structure for a bond because they're going to last a lot longer.

Male Speaker 1: Well, we can get new buildings. We've already approved an engine bay down in 101 for a two-bay with a little extra room for other stuff. We've already approved that. So, that's in the bank, and that can be had any time we want to get it going, as far as I know.

Male Speaker 5: I didn't know the exact status of it. I apologize.

Female Speaker 2: And the station on Highway 92, that's collecting dust that you can instead of having people live there? What are we going to do with that?

Male Speaker 5: That's the volunteer station. That's centrally located water tenders, so our volunteers respond to that station to respond with the water tenders out of that house. It's kind of a central location where everybody can kind of come at an equal timeframe.

Female Speaker 2: It is pretty much centrally located in the entire district, which is really nice. There are no living facilities there?

Male Speaker 5: No.

Female Speaker 2: What is the condition of the building other than water tenders can hang out there and you mow grass?

Male Speaker 5: Other than that, Tim cleans it, and our volunteers go down there once a week to do their apparatus checks, and they'll sweep out the floors and keep the place as clean as they can. It's just a building with a pair of trucks and two bathrooms and an office area.

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- Male Speaker 1: But it's not a crumbling building?
- Male Speaker 5: No, it's not a crumbling building. That's the one that somebody tried to break into.
- Female Speaker 2: Yes, we did have some break-ins in there. It was a while back, but not good.
- Male Speaker 1: Tom, you're silent on the bond.
- Male Speaker 2: I've been opposed to it since the beginning.
- Male Speaker 1: I think I remember that. Okay. So then, for discussion on Item 7, board member wise, possible action on pursuing a bond with Stipe. My last comment, I hope, will be that I did ask the chief and anyone else to look into that, set up an interview so we could talk about it. That was a noncommittal. It was doing what I felt was our due diligence to find out. And we did that, and the numbers to me were frightening and oppressive, actually, for us and for me. And we don't really need it. I mean, who wouldn't like \$3 million to spend on some new toys? But we don't have to go that way.
- So, I will motion to not pursue a bond of any type with Stipe for Palomino's Fire District, and at this point, ending all discussion on it.
- Male Speaker 2: I'll second the motion.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay. Last chance for comments. Oh, you missed it.
- Female Speaker 2: I made my comment, sorry.
- Male Speaker 1: Call for the vote, please.
- Female Speaker 1: Cathy Chouinard, aye.
- Female Speaker 2: Valerie Rice, no.
- Male Speaker 2: Tommy Stoner, aye.
- Male Speaker 1: Robert, aye.
- Male Speaker 3: I'm going to say no.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay, we have in favor of the motion 3 aye and 2 no. The motion carries. And this particular bond, at least, is now nonexistent in our discussion. Item No. 8. This is discussion of possible action on declaring the **Fowdy** Road

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property a surplus for possible sale. Didn't we already sign that resolution?

Male Speaker 2: I think it's there. I don't remember.

Female Speaker 1: That was for the Kedron property.

Male Speaker 1: Oh, the Kedron property.

Female Speaker 1: For Fowdy, are we talking about selling all of it? Isn't it 24 acres?

Male Speaker 1: Well, that is what we are now discussing.

Female Speaker 1: Okay. All right.

Male Speaker 1: I would say we're selling all but appropriate four acres that we may use in the future. I don't know which four acres that is, but we know that to be enough for a station, a water tank, and the needs of our district. To make the motion accurate, I would have to know which four acres.

Male Speaker 2: Well, I say there's no rush on it. We should get all the details before we make a motion.

Female Speaker 2: Is the property in two separate pieces?

Male Speaker 2: It is in two separate pieces, yes. There's a 20-acre parcel, and there's a 4-acre parcel. The four-acre parcel is immediately accessible off of Fowdy Road. The 20-acre parcel joins it on the back, the west edge, and it's much larger. Of course, it's 20 instead of 4. It goes all the way up to the next road in behind, and most of it is in a flood zone.

Female Speaker 2: Down in a wash.

Male Speaker 2: There's a wash that goes through, and it's down in there. Make somebody some good horse property. That's about it. But there is a house down in there, too, just to the north of the four acres that I think we should keep.

Male Speaker 1: You want to keep the four?

Male Speaker 2: That would be my choice.

Female Speaker 1: The next item on the agenda has a resolution. I'm assuming it's for Fowdy. So, is that made up to show the acreage on it or no?

Male Speaker 2: I have a point of order on that. We do have a resolution. Does everybody

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have a copy of it? No? Yes? No? And it is no better off. It says parcels 102-110-17 and 102-110-17C. I can only assume that that's both the parcels because I don't know. So, I don't think that this would be a good resolution. You want to pass that around? The other thing about it is that resolution does not line up with Item No. 9. Item No. 9, it has my name on it, but I did not ask for it. And it is not this resolution because this resolution has a dash one on it. This does not.

So, I have no idea what No. 9 is about, even though my name's on it.

Male Speaker 1: Could be a typo, could be a mistake.

Male Speaker 2: It could be anything.

Male Speaker 1: Anything.

Male Speaker 2: But it's not a good agenda item because it has no details that the public would know about it.

Male Speaker 1: We'll get to that next.

Male Speaker 2: But the Fowdy Road, I would not suggest using this one because this is for both parcels. And what I'm hearing is we might want to declare the 20 acres as surplus, but not the 4.

Male Speaker 1: That is my intention.

Male Speaker 2: So, I think maybe it gets –

Male Speaker 1: Kim, what would you recommend about the acreage out there?

Male Speaker 3: I'd get rid of the 20 and then keep the 4 just in case, you know.

Male Speaker 1: Okay. A future endeavor, right?

Male Speaker 3: Yep.

Male Speaker 1: Okay. I think this side is good. Cathy, what do you think about that? Did you already say?

Female Speaker 1: No, I didn't see all the property out there, so I don't know. Is it worth keeping the four acres, you think, in the future? Possibly we could do something with that?

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- Male Speaker 1: Which is right off Fowdy Road, so it's accessible.
- Female Speaker 2: The original idea was to set up a water tower there and be able to in emergency time –
- Female Speaker 1: Is that where the four acres would be?
- Male Speaker 1: Yes.
- Female Speaker 1: Oh, okay. That sounds good.
- Male Speaker 2: It's a future investment so that we don't have to pay top dollar when the time comes that we want to build a station out there because our district does cover that area and that's a long way from this end of the district and it would be ideal maybe 20 years down the road to put a small station there, maybe 40 years down the road.
- Male Speaker 1: So, I recall when we agreed to buy the property that this was an option in the future. If we needed the money, if time declared a good purpose for it or whatever, we'd go ahead and sell it or sell part of it. So, today, regarding this particular item, I will move to agree to sell the –
- Male Speaker 2: But we don't know which parcel it is.
- Male Speaker 1: That's right.
- Female Speaker 2: We don't know which parcel. We have to have a parcel.
- Male Speaker 2: So, I think we should just move it tonight. It's no big rush.
- Male Speaker 1: Yeah, I know.
- Male Speaker 2: Okay, great. I'd say move it tonight.
- Male Speaker 1: We can't identify it today, so we can't –
- Female Speaker 2: And it doesn't match up with the numbers here in this resolution on 9.
- Male Speaker 1: Table. Requesting identification parcel numbers. Okay.
- Male Speaker 2: For the 20-acre and the 4-acre. And if we're going to have a resolution, it should be a separate one for each one, or at least whatever.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay, I consider Item No. 8 to be done.

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- Male Speaker 2: You might want to put it on the agenda to just say the 20-acre parcel near Fowdy Road, and that way, we can just discuss that one, whoever's got it here.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay, we are unofficially in agreement to part with 20 acres out of that property. We just need to identify it and take an official vote. We'll do that at the next meeting.
- Male Speaker 2: With the proper parcel number on it, and so on and so forth.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay, I am intent to move on to Item No. 9, which we will skip and go to Item 10.
- Male Speaker 2: No. 9, it was my name on it, and I think it's not properly agendized, and I would suggest we just skip it.
- Male Speaker 1: Agreed with that. Any objection, board members? Moving on to Item 10.
- Female Speaker 1: No.
- Male Speaker 1: No. 10, discussion of possible action regarding the fire chief's job description and employment contract. Who wants to start that shot?
- Male Speaker 2: I think we have tentatively approved I believe it was the job description for 60 days or 90 days?
- Female Speaker 2: Yes.
- Male Speaker 2: Waiting because there was a couple board members not here, and this was an important item, and we wanted to have all board members here when we discuss this. But it is in effect currently. If I'm not mistaken, it's the job description is in effect.
- Male Speaker 1: Was that with a 3-0 vote from the last meeting?
- Male Speaker 2: For 90 days.
- Female Speaker 2: Yes.
- Male Speaker 3: Sixty days.
- Female Speaker 2: **[Inaudible] [01:46:24].**
- Male Speaker 2: So, we need to discuss it and either continue it or alter it or something else?

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- Male Speaker 1: Discuss away, please.
- Male Speaker 2: Well, I don't have any problems with it. How about we ask the chief to look into it?
- Male Speaker 5: I proposed it. I'm in support of it. I need something to operate from, and that was the recommendation from Brenda.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay, so is everybody pretty satisfied with that? Then, Tom, do you require another motion?
- Male Speaker 2: Yes, we would require another motion to extend that to permanently implement the job description until it's thrown out or superseded or voted out.
- Male Speaker 1: That's a motion.
- Female Speaker 2: That's a motion?
- Male Speaker 2: Okay, I'll make a motion that we go ahead and approve the fire chief job description so that it's in effect permanently until it's replaced by a different job description.
- Female Speaker 2: I'll second that motion.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay. For discussion purposes, Chief is happy with it, and apparently everyone else is.
- Female Speaker 1: I had some questions. I was okay with it. There was a lot of information on it. There was just a few things. I noticed the job description at the top. It says full-time, and I believe he wanted to stay part-time. I don't know if that's a big thing or not to be changed.
- Male Speaker 5: I guess if I made a recommendation, you could make it full or part-time. I mean, it's –
- Female Speaker 1: It could be either or? Okay. And it does talk about a strategic plan, which I think we don't have or couldn't find or something, so I don't know if that needs to stay in there or not. I don't have a problem with it. I just wondered if that's okay. And let's see. The second page at the top, it talks about working with the district management team. I don't know if that was the board or if that's with other employees.
- Male Speaker 5: That's typically other employees.

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- Female Speaker 1: Okay, like the administration or something? All right. And let's see. It does mention that same page that chief would give us, like a written annual report or something. That sounds really good. That's kind of like a strategic plan of some sort. And then, just one on the third page, I just wondered there was a sentence added at the top section there, the last one. It says, "Within six months of appointment, residency within forty-five minute radius of district boundaries." I just wonder why that was in there. I didn't know where you live.
- Male Speaker 5: It's usually a common verbiage. Depending on where you live, prices of housing might be different or the cost of living where you're at. I live about a little less than 10 minutes from Station 3.
- Female Speaker 1: Okay, that's good. Okay, I just was curious that I had seen that listed before. Okay, that's all I was asking about. Otherwise, I'm good.
- Male Speaker 1: All right.
- Male Speaker 2: So, it didn't get a second?
- Male Speaker 1: Yeah, I gave one.
- Male Speaker 2: I don't think so, but that's okay. I can make a new one.
- Female Speaker 1: We were asking, we were discussing.
- Male Speaker 1: Carry on.
- Male Speaker 2: Well, how about if we just strike the part that says full-time?
- Male Speaker 1: Okay.
- Male Speaker 2: Would that be agreeable?
- Male Speaker 1: Yes.
- Male Speaker 2: Okay, so then I make a motion that we approve the fire chief job description with one modification, striking the full-time and to be in effect until it's replaced by another job description.
- Male Speaker 1: I will second that.
- Female Speaker 2: Good enough.

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- Male Speaker 1: Okay. Any other discussion? I think it's been had. I'll call for a vote to approve the motion, please.
- Female Speaker 1: Cathy Chouinard, aye.
- Female Speaker 2: Valerie Rice, aye.
- Male Speaker 2: Tommy Stoner, aye.
- Male Speaker 3: Kim Mauzy, aye.
- Male Speaker 1: Robert is aye. So, there we go. The 11th item.
- Male Speaker 2: No. 10, what about employment contract, part of that?
- Male Speaker 1: Job description and employment contract.
- Male Speaker 2: Yes, we addressed the job description, but not the second part.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay, what is the current status of the contract, chief?
- Male Speaker 5: It's in effect. It's in effect. I think the verbiage was just there.
- Male Speaker 1: I have it somewhere.
- Male Speaker 2: Then, we don't need to address it.
- Male Speaker 1: I guess not. It does exist.
- Male Speaker 2: Just wanted to point that out.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay. All right. Is there any other reason to discuss it? Hearing none, we'll move to the next item, which is called No. 11. Discussion on possible action on purchasing new or used apparatus. That looks familiar.
- Female Speaker 2: What do we need?
- Male Speaker 5: So, the board had given authority early on about purchasing an apparatus in Oregon based on the discretion of the fire chief. I went up there, I looked at it, I measured it, and while I still think it's a nice rig, it's not a rig for Palomino. We talked, the board voted, that engine was taken out of service September 22, 18, somewhere around there. And the new one was placed into service. I think in trying to provide information and educate the board on the different pieces of equipment that were up there, there was some confusion.

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And when the vote was made, I had heard from board members saying that they voted for the wrong truck. So, both of them are still available. One is a Type 1 engine, it's a 2008. The other is a 2014 KME. Interface engine, not a four-wheel drive, but has higher clearances than the Pierce. The Pierce is an engine that is going to cost you money in the future because of the obstacles underneath it. When given directive to go purchase the apparatus, I worked co-jointly with our mechanic, talked with him about it. I talked to our staff, who would be pulling hose off of it and operating off of it.

And the concern is, the district that owns it, they have had damage underneath the other one, not this one, having low-lying obstacles being struck. I just want to make sure that, if that's the direction you want to go, it's probably not my recommendation for the Pierce. But, again, both of them are available. I can show you the pictures. And if you look at the Pierce, that's the first picture. That is the low-lying obstacles on it. That's the engine they're replacing it with. So, if you look at the undercarriage very closely, there is no low-lying obstacles. And that was the second engine that was available for consideration.

The lowest clearance on that Pierce is 7 inches off the ground, and it's mid-span between the front and rear axle, which means it's going to be at its lowest point. After the front wheels have crossed an obstacle, it's going to drop back down. The low-lying stuff will drag until the rear axle climbs over the top of it.

Male Speaker 1: I believe we saw a photo of you measuring that. But I couldn't tell from the picture what that was.

Male Speaker 5: It's a piece of plumbing off the pump, which, by the way, is loose because it's been hit. So, that would be something that would have to be fixed or what the engine would not offer.

Male Speaker 1: Not knowing much about that apparatus, is that a piece of plumbing that could be moved to a higher elevation?

Male Speaker 5: If it was a single component under the truck, I wouldn't be so concerned. But if you look at the front end, and what you call the front angle of departure, and the rear angle of departure, they've got a six inch front hard suction, which hangs down underneath it. You guys got to run? With Steve the other day, I'm not even sure the engine would meet the angle of departure falling down on the station. So, the option is up to you. I will go whichever direction you want to go and put it there.

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- Male Speaker 2: So, my concern is the two options that I'm seeing is a Type 1 and a Type 3.
- Male Speaker 5: That's actually a Type 1 engine. But they call it a Type 1, Type 3. That's a 1,500 gallon minute pump. This second one here has a 1,500 gallon minute pump, and it has a 800 gallon water tank.
- Male Speaker 2: So, my concern is our district really needs a Type 1 because we have the ladders.
- Male Speaker 5: It has ladders.
- Male Speaker 2: Well, we need a full array of ladders. I don't think this other one will hold that many ladders. It doesn't look like it.
- Male Speaker 5: It does. To be a Type 1 engine, and a PA compliant triple combination pumper, it's required to carry a 24-foot extension, 14-foot roofer, and a 10-foot attic.
- Male Speaker 2: The other thing that we need is the SCBA space. We have all the SCBAs and the tanks. We need extrication equipment. A Type 3, if you're saying this is not a Type 3 –
- Male Speaker 5: It's a Type 1 engine with Type 3 capabilities. Well, Type 3 engine's a 500 gallon tank, 500 GPM-ish pump. That one is designed to be a structure engine. Actually, it's the same pump flow capability as the Pierce.
- Male Speaker 2: I don't think that that is going to meet the district's needs. I think that we really need the full-length Type 1 engine.
- Male Speaker 5: That is a Type 1 engine. It's just an international chassis versus a Pierce. International is also produced by Pierce for some of their other engines as well. On the wildfires this last year, because I heard your concern about the international chassis, internationals on the fires are about 10 to 1 other models or brands. State of Oregon bought a bunch of them this year. The problem with them was not the international, it was the **compartmentry** and construction from Rosenbauer that built it.
- And then, they bought Freightliner water tenders. They've been on the road for about eight months. I think they are in the process of buying 35 of them and so far 2 of their frames have cracked.
- Male Speaker 1: So far what?
- Male Speaker 5: Two of their frames have cracked.

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Male Speaker 2: On the Freightliner?

Male Speaker 5: On the Freightliners. And their 2,000 gallon attack tenders.

Male Speaker 2: We have a Freightliner, don't we?

Male Speaker 5: We do.

Male Speaker 2: And is it holding up so far?

Male Speaker 5: That's a good question for Jeremy.

Male Speaker 6: Yes and no. It's not in as good shape as it should be for as little miles as it has on it.

Male Speaker 2: But we don't have any cracked frames?

Male Speaker 6: Not that I have noticed yet, no.

Male Speaker 2: Anyway, that's off topic. We're talking about the engine here.

Male Speaker 5: My thought behind the other engine is that with our limited staffing, it's a pump and roll capable. Over the last few years we've burned about 2,000 acres in and around that we have responded to either co-jointly with Fry or in our own district. And it would give us the opportunity to spread our personnel to a degree and allow a single person operation in that engine while you're running two in a brush rig. It's got remote nozzles on it which are pretty common for pump and roll capabilities. It's got the ability to put all your structure pre-connects on it. It does have the SCBA seats in it.

So, it's designed to be a structure rig with an interface component. I talked to that chief today. I said that one more time. I said, "Is it still available?" He said, "Yes." They're asking price online through a commercial vendor is \$279,400.00. They're going to drop the price to \$250,000.00, I think he said, this coming week. When I previously talked to him, I said, "All BS aside, tell me what you would take for it." He said, "I can make \$225,000.00 work." The engine's got 28,000 miles on it, I believe. They still operate it as a conservation engine because they don't have as many volunteers anymore.

And it still runs perfectly down the road. I drove it. I drove the other one. I drove the Pierce. But for us, I drove the roads around the Palominos, the subdivision right behind our fire station there. They took [inaudible] [02:00:49] down there. And there was a hole there that I'm pretty sure the

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Pierce wouldn't get through. And I drove some of the roads back. And I'm just concerned that when those break, that engine's going to be out of service. If it breaks on the way to the fire, it's going to be a paperweight when it gets there.

And then the replacement and repair of it means a trip to Phoenix for an unknown downtime and an unknown replacement cost because, truthfully, if it's going to happen, it's when it's going to happen.

Male Speaker 2: My other concern was that International Harvester, when we had one, it was no way a good thing. We couldn't get rid of it fast enough. One of the big things was there's no one around, there's no International Harvester dealer around to get parts for it. Parts were sky high when you did get them. It broke down in California and it took us months to get it back because they couldn't get parts for it. It was a radiator, couldn't get a radiator for it. And it was, I don't know how many thousands of dollars to get it back here.

But we had to wait until they found somebody in California to fix it. Now, that's my experience with the Internationals. So, that's my concern with that. Is there an International dealer here now?

Male Speaker 6: Tucson, RWC, where your engine was just at, is an international dealer. Parts for Internationals are fairly readily available. Nothing is readily available anymore for any parts. And I will say that all of the four service vehicles I work on are all Internationals also.

Male Speaker 2: Yep, I know they are. And BLM, too, I believe.

Male Speaker 5: That is, I think on the conservations this year, I think I saw two Freightliners.

Male Speaker 1: I'm sorry, could you say that again?

Male Speaker 5: On the conservation fires, they bring resources in from around the state. And I think out of those, those are Type 3s and a couple of them are the Type 1, Type 3 like you saw there. I think two of them are Freightliners, the balance are International.

Male Speaker 1: But International service or parts is available in Tucson?

Male Speaker 5: Yes. And I spoke with RWC as well. It's a Max Force engine. He asked me which one. I said it's the DT-9. He said, "If it was the DT-7, I'd be selling you parts all day long." He says the DT-9 is pretty bulletproof. Correct me if I'm wrong, they use Cummins emissions on the Max Force engine. And he goes, "You're going to have problems with the emissions component." And

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that's going to be whether or not it's on a Cummins engine or if it's on a Max Force engine.

Male Speaker 6: That's going to be on anything anymore. It's not a [inaudible] [02:03:58].

Male Speaker 5: The other thought process to this is, yes, it costs a little bit more money getting more longevity out of that apparatus, separating them out so you're not having to replace two in close proximity to each other. The Freightliner is an '06, the Pierce is an '08, that KME is a 2014 and we're running a 2020. So, I can separate them, my thought process again, every six years we're not having one come, or two, come up for replacement in such close proximity.

Male Speaker 2: You said the Pierce was an '08?

Male Speaker 5: Yes.

Male Speaker 2: And what's the International?

Male Speaker 5: 2014.

Male Speaker 2: And the difference in price?

Male Speaker 5: The difference in price, he said he can make \$225,000.00 work.

Male Speaker 2: And the Pierce was \$170,000.00?

Male Speaker 5: It was \$150,000.00. I was budgeting to get some.

Male Speaker 2: But we authorized \$170,000.00 to get it here?

Male Speaker 5: To transport.

Male Speaker 2: You're talking \$75,000.00? But it's a newer.

Female Speaker 2: What year did you say this was?

Male Speaker 5: I'm sorry?

Female Speaker 2: The year. The International.

Male Speaker 5: The International is 2014.

Male Speaker 2: And you said it will hold the full –

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- Male Speaker 5: I got other pictures here if you'd like to see them, it's a full meal deal.
- Male Speaker 2: It'll hold everything we need for extrication, for EMS stuff, and everything?
- Male Speaker 5: Yes, the only pitfall behind it, and I know the guy who spec'd the engine, who doesn't work there anymore, is that the front compartment is where the pump panel is. So, it takes up a little space. But I can dig up the pictures here if you give me just a moment.
- Female Speaker 1: What is the ground clearance for the International?
- Male Speaker 5: So, the International is at least 10. And there are some other low-lying parts on it, but not that low. Your axles are actually the lowest component on that engine. And it is not a four-wheel drive, but it does have a rear-locking differential. So, they used them primarily up there as rural volunteer engines. It's a large grass seed community, so they pump and roll on grass seed fires. I ran them on their house fires. They had a pretty good urban area, so they had pretty large commercial buildings. Either way, they're both good running engines.
- And as much as I hate to say it, I foresee the problems with the Pierce. And he's waiting for me to give him a response on it, and they're going to go public with it.
- Male Speaker 1: I believe we discussed that four-wheel drive was not necessary here. That was unanimous. But I remember something about air conditioning.
- Male Speaker 5: So, the air conditioning issue wasn't an issue. They just didn't have it on the Pierce. There isn't any. Are there options to that? I think there are, but they're based off of mounting a sleeper truck 12-volt system to it that's like 10,000 BTU.
- Male Speaker 6: There's various different routes to go that we could go.
- Male Speaker 1: Some aftermarket product, right?
- Male Speaker 6: Yeah. Just a little bit of information I might offer. From Colorado, where I came from, we had an International that was over 20 years old. We never had a problem.
- Male Speaker 1: I will briefly, and hopefully, for the last time, mention my concerns on that. I had several chats early on, months ago now, with the chief about this Pierce. I know only that the Pierce is a good name.

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Male Speaker 2: Used to be.

Male Speaker 1: I don't know much. I could not qualify to talk about emergency apparatus like this at all. So, I'm completely dependent on experts. And after a while, I mean, we were so sold on the Pierce that we voted at two different meetings to approve it. And then, it turned out maybe it's not good. And then, the better offer was an International, which raised huge concerns with people in support who had experience with the International name. And it was awful.

Male Speaker 5: Can I make a comment there?

Male Speaker 1: Okay.

Male Speaker 5: Three points about that. They did an in-frame rebuild on that engine. And they, very similar to the Freightliner, said it had not received maintenance.

Male Speaker 1: So, I have not had experience with any kind of apparatus from International. Anybody else? Valerie, have you?

Female Speaker 2: Nope.

Male Speaker 1: Cathy?

Female Speaker 2: Not me. Couldn't tell you.

Male Speaker 1: And so, I have to represent the taxpayers in this district to the best of my ability on the advice of experts who do know. And I don't want to steer them wrong. So, while I was unhappy about switching horses after that had been approved, I understand why. I was compelled to look into other places that have all these things. And there are a number of them. They're all over the country. I'm trying to stay west of the Mississippi. But there's plenty of rigs out there. I don't know anything about them.

Male Speaker 5: And I can only say I've looked commercially on the used sites. And the problem, I had mentioned this to Cathy, is Pierce and Rev Group own 85% of the market. And they're \$4 billion behind in producing fire apparatus. And it's all about profit. Pierce used to be a five percent, six percent profit. They're now 14%. And I think it's a roll of the dice whether you buy a used truck or a new truck, because I've seen new trucks come off the assembly line and sit dead at a fire because of an electrical failure. Everything on them is no longer pull valves, ball valves, manual operation. It's air switches, electric switches, and multiplex wiring that controls this stuff. And it dies.

And honestly, for me, it's what can I, as an operations guy, look at to be the best value, the best bang for the buck for everybody in our community? I

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mean, these guys right now –

Male Speaker 1: So, that's an important comment to make. And I'll say why. But the International name, now we've been told by several people, well, there's the good International and there's the bad International. Apparently, we had a bad International. I don't know where the line changed to good. Did they change everything, get rid of their garbage, and now they're all good? A lot of people use them, right? You both said they're everywhere. And I have to bank, again, on the experience of those who know.

Male Speaker 2: So, I'm seeing that Tom might be agreeable to an International if it fits different parameters, right? If it's not like the old crowd.
If it fits all that we need, and we have his word that this is a newer one that apparently it has some good –

Male Speaker 1: So, that gets to the comment that he approves it, he stands by it, he wants to do the best thing for people in this community. So, taking that quote, which we'll put on the wall up here, okay? I'll take it. And with that, I would, not knowing any better, take your professional advice on that and approve the International that you like.

Male Speaker 2: Where do we get the money from?

Male Speaker 1: Right. You're always asking questions.

Female Speaker 1: The money?

Male Speaker 2: We're looking at, what, \$250,000.00 to get it here?

Male Speaker 5: After you approve that, that would get it here. I don't think it'll be that much. I'm thinking transport's going to be about \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. And that's a flatbed lowboy. They insure it, they drag it down here, so if it crashes between here and there, it's on them.

Male Speaker 1: So, \$225,000.00 and \$10,000.00, \$235,000.00?

Male Speaker 5: Can you go \$240,000.00? I mean, I'm not pushing. And the only reason I say that is because they said that this is a deadhead route for transport.

Male Speaker 2: We don't have our finance person here to tell us if we've got that much money in our –

Male Speaker 5: We do, we had \$725,000.00 in our capital reserve.

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- Male Speaker 2: And it's not needed for the payment for our current limit, as they call it?
- Male Speaker 5: No, I believe that's my budget.
- Male Speaker 2: We can still make that payment without any problems?
- Female Speaker 2: That's got the basis. What's the name of that?
- Female Speaker 1: The International being used, from where it would come from, the people, do you know them pretty well, that you would trust them, that it's not a lemon?
- Male Speaker 5: I worked for the city of Salem for a while. That apparatus was maintained by the city of Salem, which has good NFPA emergency vehicle mechanics. They maintained their fleet for the city of Salem. Salem got expensive, and they took it to another shop. This department paid their mechanics to go through the NFPA mechanic emergency vehicle, whatever that is, stuff. And they take their apparatus there. I will tell you, on the component of that, I would still like to look at the maintenance records. I would still like to do a little more heavy breathing on the apparatus before I say yes, because I'd like to double-check that before it was purchased.
- Male Speaker 1: So, what I was hoping to hear is that you would put your name on it, and this board, taking your advice, would trust you, and so we'll call it the Mark Prince International.
- Male Speaker 5: So, like I said, Mr. Chair, it is a roll of the dice with any truck. I can tell you that Gaston put \$15,000.00 into that truck, which kind of took me back a little bit because I thought, what all was wrong with it? So, I called the company that did the work, and rebuilding alternators, a full filter, circuits.
- Male Speaker 1: Anything, any machine, yeah. Yeah, of course. And this type that takes that kind of abuse.
- Male Speaker 5: And the organization has no garbage, and I say that is they keep their six stations, their combination, but the only reason they're selling this truck is it was a volunteer engine, and they're running out of volunteers, and they'd rather invest their money in something they can use more productively in their organization.
- Male Speaker 1: Okay, how are we holding up today with what we've got?
- Male Speaker 5: I just put the tires on the front end of the Freightliner. Jeremy serviced it, so at the moment, the guys aren't saying there's any problems with the HME.

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So, we are at full. The Ford still has the electrical in it. It's got a water leak problem, but I don't know what that would take to fix.

Male Speaker 6: Redoing the piping.

Male Speaker 5: Redoing the piping and valving because of the hard water we have. So, we have two engines that are ready. We staffed them both yesterday because we had four, so we staffed Station 1 yesterday with the Freightliner and the HME up here.

Male Speaker 2: So, what is our oldest engine?

Male Speaker 5: It is the 1996 Ford.

Male Speaker 6: I think it's the '95 that we can't get parts for anymore. Last time it broke down, I had to fabricate parts.

Male Speaker 2: If we do get this, then we would expect to liquidate, get rid of that one.

Male Speaker 1: Are they apparatus parts or drive train parts that you can't get, or both?

Male Speaker 6: I don't know too much on the apparatus parts because we haven't done anything to that. It's the drive train part.

Male Speaker 1: Drive train, okay.

Male Speaker 6: That's got a Ford Cummins in it when Ford owned Cummins. Saw the linkage, went broke, and nobody could find it, so I made it.

Male Speaker 2: So, it's basically 30 years old?

Male Speaker 6: Yeah.

Male Speaker 2: Probably drove it.

Male Speaker 5: It did pass pump test, but again, the electrical gremlins, how much money did you want to put into it? The headlights went off arbitrarily at night and the emergency overheads went off arbitrarily at night, which is why we chose to borrow the engine when we still had it.

Male Speaker 2: So, our other engine that we have, what year is it?

Male Speaker 5: 2006 Freightliner, 65,000 miles. Yeah. And I'm going to say that's probably not totally accurate because we pump and drive.

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- Male Speaker 2: Does it have a four-man cab or just the two?
- Male Speaker 5: Okay. Both of the new used apparatus are four-person, five and six-person cabs.
- Male Speaker 1: And 28,000 miles, Tom, from 2014.
- Male Speaker 5: I took a picture of the odometer.
- Male Speaker 2: So, it is almost 20 years old.
- Male Speaker 5: What's that?
- Male Speaker 2: The next one is almost 20 years old.
- Male Speaker 5: Yep. Right there. Almost. When I drove it last summer when I was up there, it had 28,640 miles on it. So, it might have 30,000 on it by now, if they're using it.
- Male Speaker 2: We'll take their word for it and take a chance.
- Male Speaker 1: What is convincing me, after I've been unconvinced, is that the chief is willing to take full responsibility on that purchase for the International. But he's describing them. And, of course, as I said, for the 10th time, we have to take the professionals' advice.
- Male Speaker 2: But it is a Type 1?
- Male Speaker 5: Yeah, it's a 1,500-gpm pump, 1,500 gallons per minute, 800-gallon tank. The ladders are kept between the hose bed on the top, and it's got full compartmentry on the back. You can put a full compartment of large-diameter hose line in the back. One, two rear pre-connects and front pre-connects. And it has the pump and roll from the cab, so if you have a fire running alongside the roadway, you can chase it with a remote nozzle and knock it down. They are re-chassising that particular agency. So, if we want to talk a little bit about their maintenance, an ambulance, that's an Onternational ambulance, and they're re-chassising it.
- That ambulance had 270,000 miles on it. They're taking the box off the back and putting it on another International.
- Male Speaker 1: I do not have the minutes from the two previous meetings. Tonight, which we approved \$170,000.00 for the Pierce.

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Female Speaker 2: Yes, we did.

Male Speaker 1: Do you have it?

Female Speaker 2: Do you have it, Cathy? Because I just had it up there.
Male Speaker 1: I'm trying to construct a motion here.

Female Speaker 1: No, I think that was from the June minutes I was looking through. I think that's where I recall we approved up to \$170,000.00.

Male Speaker 1: Yes, \$150,000.00 for the vehicle, \$20,000.00 for transport. Okay. That was approved twice. How do we modify this into a different thing? Can I have a motion to un-approve what we approved?

Male Speaker 2: Yes, I think so. I'll make a motion that we rescind the approval of the purchase of the Pierce 2008 fire engine in the amount of \$150,000.00.

Female Speaker 2: I'll second that motion.

Male Speaker 1: Cathy, do you want to rescind approval of the Pierce?

Female Speaker 1: Yes. Cathy Chouinard, aye.

Female Speaker 2: Valerie Rice, aye.

Male Speaker 2: Tommy Stoner, aye.

Male Speaker 3: Kim Mauzy, aye.

Male Speaker 1: And aye. So, we have rescinded the Pierce. Now, we need a motion to approve this particular International.

Female Speaker 2: I will make a motion that we purchase, should I use that term, Tommy?

Male Speaker 2: Yes.

Female Speaker 2: Purchase the 2014 International with 28,000 miles to purchase at \$225,000.00 plus how much for travel?

Male Speaker 2: It's \$15,000.00.

Female Speaker 2: So, \$15,000.00 for travel.

Male Speaker 5: It won't be that much, but that will cover it, yes.

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Male Speaker 2: To be taken from the capital improvement.

Female Speaker 2: To be taken from capital improvement. How does that sound?

Male Speaker 2: I'll second the motion.

Female Speaker 2: All right.

Male Speaker 1: All right, then. Any last discussion about this International?

Female Speaker 1: No.

Male Speaker 1: So, you want an aye, don't you?

Female Speaker 1: Yeah, we'll try it. Cathy Chouinard, aye.

Female Speaker 2: Valerie Rice, aye.

Male Speaker 2: Tommy Stoner, aye.

Male Speaker 3: Kim Mauzy, aye.

Male Speaker 1: Robert, aye. We're all good. Nothing to it, right?

Male Speaker 5: I'll keep this picture.

Male Speaker 6: Thanks for not getting the Pierce. I'd have broken it.

Female Speaker 2: Then, you'd have paid for it. You break it, you buy it.

Male Speaker 2: Pass those back to the chief, please. I kept the other one. I put it in my records.

Male Speaker 1: It was an educational experience. The 12th item today, unless it's tomorrow already, discussion, possible action, said special meeting for board members to chair facilities. Okay, we've all agreed to do this.

Female Speaker 2: We don't know when.

Male Speaker 1: We never have set a date, and I'm not prepared to do that right now. Is anybody else?

Female Speaker 2: Probably not, if nobody else is, because I'm –

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Male Speaker 2: If we don't have three board members there at one time, we don't need a meeting. The chief can arrange individually or with two –

Male Speaker 1: Shifts?

Male Speaker 2: Yes. That's my suggestion. No need to make a special meeting.

Male Speaker 1: I like being informal.

Male Speaker 2: That's one possibility. If the chief is willing to do at least two –

Male Speaker 1: If you're prepared to tour the facilities at two separate times?

Male Speaker 5: Or three, whatever it takes.

Male Speaker 1: Okay, multiple times. Can that be on a call basis, or what do you want to do? You're on call.

Male Speaker 5: I'm pretty flexible. I've got flooring going in, hopefully, here before long. If we can get heads up, we'll work through it.

Male Speaker 1: We have previously agreed to such a tour. Let's just not even make this a motion or a vote. We'll just agree when board members and the chief can work out a time. As the clerk has suggested, less than three board members at a time will not constitute a formal meeting.

Female Speaker 2: True.

Male Speaker 1: We all good? Good enough?

Male Speaker 2: I'm good.

Male Speaker 1: All right. What do we got, the last one here?

Female Speaker 2: Yeah, [inaudible] [02:24:37].

Male Speaker 1: Possible action on payment to Fry Fire District for indemnification laws.

Female Speaker 2: Yes.

Male Speaker 1: Say that fast five times.

Female Speaker 2: No. I would like to get a little bit of clarification on this indemnification clause simply because everything's being recorded and I would like to have it on record.

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Male Speaker 5: Sure. So, following the Waters fire the district was named in a lawsuit for that fire. And with Palomino's Fire District, Fry was also brought in for litigation for the same fire. Under the Automatic Aid Agreement –

Female Speaker 2: One minute. The Waters fire happened at what time?

Male Speaker 5: April '23. And it was the one that there was concern that it was potentially started or ignited from a rekindle. And that was proved to not necessarily be correct, which is why it was dismissed. So, the Automatic Aid Agreement between Palominos and Fry talks about indemnification for lawsuits. So, the indemnification basically says that it talks about each party agrees to hold harmless and indemnify other parties, including the party officers, agents, employees, or volunteers, for that portion of all costs.

Damages, liability, incurred as a result of a negligent act or omission of an employee or agent of the indemnifying party or in the case of activity in which the law applies a gross negligence standard, any costs, damages, liability incurred as a result of gross negligence of an employee, agent, or indemnifying party. So, what they're saying in dropping the lawsuit was there was no negligence. However, in the spirit of the contract, I think that they're looking to say, "We sent you a lot of resources, we come to your neighborhood, we come to your district, and in doing so, we were sued helping you."

So, they would like to be reimbursed \$10,530.15, of which \$10,291.70 is attorney's fees to \$238.45 is legal costs. We did run this past our attorney, and indirectly he said, "If you were to fight this in court, it's going to cost you a lot." And in the spirit of trying to be good neighbors, neighbors that come and help you, they would do the same thing for us if we went to their jurisdiction. And the same thing happened, and it was a State Farm lawsuit, I believe.

But if we went to Carr Canyon, or we went to Ramsey, or someplace up there, and somebody happened to see a Palominos firetruck and says, "They let my house burn," that they would do the same thing to indemnify us our costs of attorney's fees if we had to fight it as well.

Male Speaker 1: Okay, so it's a business deal.

Male Speaker 5: Yep. And it's unfortunate it happened, but it happens in this business. And contractual agreements are not covered by insurance, so it is a discussion here about paying that cost.

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Male Speaker 2: You say you've gotten information from our lawyer concerning this?

Male Speaker 5: Yeah, because it was sent out to the board. So, you should receive an email, and I sent it along with this document.

Male Speaker 1: And he thinks we're better off to go ahead rather than fight it because the cost would be much more.

Female Speaker 2: And it's a good neighbor policy to reimburse them for –

Male Speaker 5: I would say it is. I mean, I am a taxpayer of Fry, and then you have to consider we both do automatic aid to each other, but if one starts to cost the other party more money than what is expected, it's reimbursement.

Male Speaker 2: So, what was the amount again?

Male Speaker 5: It's \$10,530.15.

Male Speaker 2: That's the total?

Male Speaker 5: Correct. That was \$10,291.70 in attorney's fees, \$238.45 in legal costs.

Male Speaker 1: Wow. Okay.

Male Speaker 2: As long as our attorney said it was okay, where would the money come from?

Male Speaker 1: Right. Again, always with the questions.

Female Speaker 2: He's the money man.

Male Speaker 1: You got \$10,000.00?

Female Speaker 2: Yes, but you can't have it.

Male Speaker 2: I would say it will come out of the wildland fund.

Male Speaker 5: That's what I was thinking, too.

Female Speaker 2: That makes sense.

Male Speaker 2: Well, then I'll make a motion. Thank you. Authorize a payment to Fry Fire District for indemnification in the amount of \$10,530.15 to be taken from the wildland. What bank is that?

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Male Speaker 5: It's Chase, isn't it?

Male Speaker 2: No.

Male Speaker 5: It's Arizona?

Male Speaker 2: Wells Fargo.

Male Speaker 5: Oh, Wells Fargo.

Male Speaker 2: Savings. Can we do it from the savings?

Male Speaker 5: Can we just say the bank account, whichever one?

Male Speaker 2: Okay.

Male Speaker 5: Yeah, from Wells Fargo.

Male Speaker 2: Never mind, savings or checking from Wells Fargo. That's the motion.

Male Speaker 1: There you go. Excellent motion. I'll second it. Any other questions?

Female Speaker 1: Yes, discussion. I think it's horrible that this lawsuit even happened. I think the people owe the crews a great apology. I think it's awful. They're trying to save lives and property. And I truly believe, yeah, I read through what we were served in that. And I don't think PFD crews or Fry had any wrongdoing. I think it's horrible that we're treated like that. And I know we have the auto aid with Fry, and I respect that. We work good together and want to continue. So, what I feel, go halvesies. I see no reason why they should pay the full amount.

It's awful they're even stuck with that.

Female Speaker 2: Actually, from what I understand, we've already paid our part of it. That's what they paid. We paid a similar amount for our lawyer fees. This is their lawyer fees.

Female Speaker 1: I wasn't aware of anything that we had to pay thus far.

Male Speaker 5: Well, that is like, and I'm speaking out of place, I don't know, because I don't know the full history of this. This was John's PFD. But the indemnification of costs is not typically half. It's indemnification of them costing any money. And just as a side note, we have another public records request for this fire. I have no idea what it's for. The attorney knows about

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it. So, I don't know if it's neighbor going after neighbor or what else there is. And that just came Friday, Monday-ish.

Female Speaker 2: I would assume from what's been said already is we paid our lawyer fees because they came to help us, they're asking for help with paying their lawyer fees.

Female Speaker 1: Well, I don't know. I never heard of what we had to pay. I know in June, the claims management company sent PFD a check for \$212.00.

Male Speaker 5: They're not separate. That was for the fire station. Are you talking –

Female Speaker 1: It was from this whole lawsuit thing for 2023.

Male Speaker 5: Oh, I'm sorry. I spoke out of place.

Female Speaker 1: Oh, because, yeah, I asked Brittany. I said, "Oh, that's it then?" Because I've been concerned what was going to happen with this big lawsuit. Those people wanted so much money. And I can understand. I was in the Monument fire. We had damage. We didn't lose everything. So, I understand that. But I don't feel PFD or Fry was at fault. And it's awful they're stuck even with those attorney fees. I'm not aware if we paid anything earlier. But I don't think we should have to pay the full \$10,530.00. I would think halvesies would be good to stay on good terms with them.

Male Speaker 1: Chief, what was the breakdown on it? It was mostly legal fees, right?

Male Speaker 5: Yeah, it was.

Male Speaker 1: Almost all of them.

Male Speaker 5: Fry incurred \$10,291.70 in attorney's fees.

Male Speaker 1: Once again, how much for attorney's fees?

Male Speaker 5: It's \$10,291.00. And then, \$238.00 for filing.

Male Speaker 1: Yeah. Okay, so the lawyers wanted \$10,000.00 and change. It's pretty common. For better or worse, which is probably worse, I deal with indemnification cases a few times a year in other worlds that I live in. And it's very common. You're right, it's not right, you might think, in a moral sense. It's the way it's done. That's the business. You can't avoid it. But you can force the issue with a better lawyer, which will cost you \$50,000.00.

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Female Speaker 1: Probably.

Male Speaker 1: There are settlements made all the time that are unjust, honestly. It's to prevent a worse thing. It's a system. It's rigged, isn't it? So, there's been a motion and a second. Cathy, have you been able to assuage your concerns?

Female Speaker 1: No, I'll go ahead and vote. Cathy Chouinard, nay.

Female Speaker 2: I think we need to keep the good neighbor policy going, so I say yes. Valerie Rice, aye.

Male Speaker 2: Tommy Stoner, aye.

Male Speaker 3: Waiting on me?

Female Speaker 2: Yes, sir, we are.

Male Speaker 3: I am going to say yes. Aye.

Male Speaker 1: Okay. For the reasons stated, with working with our neighbors who have been very dependent on each other, and will continue to be that way, and knowing how the system works, I vote aye to approve. So, it's four to approve, one against. Appreciate your concerns on that though. You're standing for the moral high ground.

Female Speaker 1: That's right. Yeah, they save lives. Really, our crews are heroes, and for people to go after them to get money, it just doesn't seem right. They're laying down their life.

Male Speaker 1: I believe that everything associated with airplanes or fire trucks or fire district, police units, the price on everything is gouged. That's just my opinion. They raised the price. If that was your personal truck, and you took it in there, it would be less. How much did that radiator cost us to fix, with the alleged two-inch hole in it?

Male Speaker 2: It was a big hole. It was a fracture, but how much was it?

Male Speaker 6: I don't know.

Male Speaker 5: I don't know either.

Male Speaker 1: Yeah, so why? That's an after-discussion. We don't have to have it now. But it is the reality. So, the last item is –

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Female Speaker 2: Before we go into the last item, I'd like to say something.

Male Speaker 1: Is it nice?

Female Speaker 2: Probably not.

Male Speaker 1: What is it, Valerie?

Female Speaker 2: I have been following this fire board since 2010, not only as public, but on the board. This board is a legal government entity. All discussions happen between the board and the chief. We are a little lax, and we allow a few people to mention things here and there during the meeting. But what happened tonight was completely unacceptable. To have people yelling back and forth at the board, making threats, completely unacceptable. I have been through stuff like that, and I will not do it again.

If something like this happens again, I will stand up and demand that this meeting be closed, and everybody will leave. I will not put up with this kind of stuff. I lost my temper tonight, and it did not feel good at all. Thank you for hearing me.

Male Speaker 1: Well said, and you're absolutely right about that. We are mandated to exist by Arizona state law. And it doesn't matter what bodies are sitting in these chairs. Somebody will be sitting in them by law. It's a requirement of law. And that's the beauty of our system. Going back 250 years next year? Yep. That's why I do many of the things I do, to thank those guys. Put their lives on the line, and everybody sits there, so that we can sit here and do this. But there's a system, and that is also described in law, and she's right. That behavior is not tolerable in a board meeting, or any board meeting, of any kind. So, thank you.

Female Speaker 2: You're welcome. Look at Item 14. I would like to make a motion to adjourn this meeting.

Female Speaker 1: I'll second it.

Female Speaker 2: Thank you.

Male Speaker 1: All in favor, say aye.

Group: Aye.

Male Speaker 5: Mr. Chair, there's some checks.

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Female Speaker 2: They're being taken care of.

Female Speaker 1: Do you have the back of the papers, the bills, to go with this?

Male Speaker 5: I'll tell you what they are. I don't because they're in the other folder. So, I was learning how to write checks today.

Male Speaker 2: Did that get all signed?

Male Speaker 3: I'm going to do it right now, Tom.

Male Speaker 2: I need one copy of that, and the other one of the checks.

Male Speaker 3: You just want this one?

Male Speaker 2: I need the whole package.

Male Speaker 3: Oh, you can't have it.

Male Speaker 2: I must by law. Don't put it in the file. You can just hand that to the chief.

Female Speaker 1: I would like the back of the bills before I sign my name to assess.

[Background chatter]

[End of Audio]

Duration: 166 minutes

Minutes approved by the Palominas Fire Board:

Signature

Date