

**PONDEROSA FIRE DISTRICT (PFD) GOVERNING BOARD**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Held January 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.  
at Ponderosa Fire District Station 81  
1511 N Spring Valley Rd  
Parks, AZ 86018

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Chairman Mark Christian called the regularly scheduled board meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

**Members Present:**

**Members Absent:**

Mark Christian, Chairman Thomas Humphrey, Vice-Chairman Rick Tomjack, Clerk Deanna Hueston, Member Bill Louis, Member	
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**Fire District Personnel Present:**

Lee Antonides, Fire Chief
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**Members of the Community:**

**Guests:**

	Candus Tibbits – Hinton Burdick
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2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Call to the Public - NONE**

4. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. Review of Regular Board Meeting minutes from Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Action: Stand approved as written with the changes discussed.

5. **Financial Reports**

- i. Discussion and possible action regarding financial reports ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- ii. Action: Rick Tomjack made a motion to approve the financial reports ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Member Deanna Hueston seconded the motion. Unanimous.

6. **Chief's Summary and Reports**

Chief Lee did not have a formal report. Chief Lee discussed the most recent wildland fire that had grown to around 56 acres by the end of it. It was an amazing show of mutual aid efforts with surrounding departments. The AFG grant for the washer and dryers has been submitted by Chief Hudman and we are currently working on the Governor's Office of Safety Grant. PFD will be available for wildland assignments by the end of this coming weekend. We will most likely be sending people to California, we will be available for engine and med team assignments.

7. **Old Business**

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding the Memorandum of understanding (MOU) from DEMA regarding the Type 3 Engine.

In early December, everything seemed to be moving along. Some edits were proposed and discussed and DEMA said they would work on the edits proposed and get back to Chief Lee soon. The hope is to get an

update by next week. The agreement will reach two years by March, with over \$22,000 invested in the truck in that time. There was discussion about going to the media, escalating to higher government officials, taking legal action or cutting losses and abandoning the truck and MOU if there is no agreement by the 2-year date. Bill Whittington called and said they are not hearing anything from DEMA either and have decided to take a pause on services until further is given, so not to use further PFD expenses.

Action: Clerk Rick Tomjack made a motion to have the Fire Chief move forward with scheduling a meeting with DEMA by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. If no agreement is reached by the set date from the meeting the next steps would be to reach out to Arizona Governmental Officials for further resolution. Thomas Humphry seconded the motion. Unanimous.

## 8. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on updating the tobacco policy to ensure alignment with current health standards and legal requirements and exploring options for providing support and resources to employees seeking assistance in quitting tobacco use.

The board agreed to most of the changes being made to this policy. Clerk Rick Tomjack wanted to see one change to the section 2 scope to add at the end “while conducting PFD business”. The board agreed to the changes.

Action: Clerk Rick Tomjack made a motion to approve the 20.01 Tobacco-Free Workplace Policy & Wellness Initiative with the addition to Section 2 scope “while conducting PFD business”, Chairman Mark Christian seconded the motion. Unanimous.

- b. Discussion and possible action regarding transitioning fuel card services from WEX to National Bank of Arizona, based on more favorable rates, enhanced benefits, and improved customer service.

Chief Lee discussed the difference between WEX and National Bank of Arizona; including how they handle late payments, as well as cash back on purchases. PFD has other credit cards with National Banks of Arizona, this will just include the fuel cards. These cards will improve the coverage of accessible gas stations for fuel needs.

Action: Chairman Mark Christian made a motion to transitioning fuel card services from WEX to National Bank of Arizona. Member Deanna Hueston seconded the motion. Unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - The Board may vote to go into an Executive Session on any agenda item, which will not be open to the public, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3).

9. ADJOURNMENT – At 7:40 p.m. Member Deanna Hueston made a motion to adjourn the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. Chairman Mark Christian seconded; unanimous.

  
Mark Christian, Board Chairman