



SUNSITES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT

SERVING RESIDENTS OF THE SUNSITES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT,
AND NEIGHBORING COCHISE COUNTY

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Sunsites-Pearce Fire District Regular Meeting October 13, 2026

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM. by Board Chair Tucker.
2. **Roll Call**
 - A. **Attendance** Board Chair Nancy Tucker, Board Clerk James Meister Board Member Charles Reed, Board Member Robert Fino and Board Member Olivia Beemer.
 - B. **Staff in attendance** – Fire Chief Levi Garner, Deputy Chief Chris Ader Admin Bookkeeper Nancy Sowards.
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance** –Chief Garner led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Recognition of Guests** –Multiple community members attended the meeting
5. **Consent Agenda**
 - A. **Acceptance of the September Bank Statements.**
 - i. **September Bank Statements** Following Discussion Board Clerk Meister made a motion to approved and Board Member Reed seconded the motion. Vote: All Board Members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - B. **Approval of Minutes –**
 - i. **September 08, 2026, Regular Meeting.** Following discussion, following discussion, Board Member Reed requested that Item 10B be revised to reflect that Chief Garner recommended extending the budget posting period to allow the public additional time to review. Board Member Fino made a motion to extend the posting period, but the motion failed due to lack of a second. Board Member Beemer then made a motion to proceed without extending the posting period. Board Member Reed seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Once the agenda item has been corrected, no further action is needed. Board Member Reed made a motion to approve the revised item, and Board Member Fino seconded the motion. Vote: All Board Members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Financial Report**
 - A **Review, discuss and possible approval of the financials for September 2026.**

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Fire Chief Levi Garner provided financial report. Chief Garner recommended tabling the financial report due to inaccuracies and missing information resulting from lack of access to county records. Board Member Beemer moved to table the report until November 10, 2026, meeting. Board Member Reed seconded the motion. Vote: The motion passed unanimously. Vote: All Board Members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 7. Fire Chief's Report** – The Fire Chief's Report was presented by Chief Levi Garner. **Call Volume:** September: 66 calls (31 Fire, 35 EMS); 2026 YTD: 611. **Call Volume:** September: 66 calls (31 Fire, 35 EMS); 2026 YTD: 611. **Training:** EMS airway management training scheduled next week; emergency vehicle driving training ongoing. Five employees attended State Fire School in September. Nancy Sowards attended ASRS system management and retirement payment training. **Wildland/Out-of-District:** No current assignments or new updates. **EMS:** New federal billing process for incidents involving sick or injured immigrants; portal access application underway. **Regional Updates:** Chief attended regional HazMat/TRT and AFDA meetings. AFDA Winter Conference is January 5–7 in Tucson. Statewide fire districts continue addressing long-term funding challenges. **Maintenance:** New FEEP truck arrived to replace P30. Three surplus vehicles listed for sale; all others remain in service. **Communications/Events:** Open House and Chili Cook-Off scheduled October 23, 12–3 p.m. Cochise County Emergency Management wildfire planning meeting scheduled at Sunsites Community Center, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. **Administration:** Training for the new Deputy Chief and administrative staff continues. Essential operations are progressing, though system access delays remain. **Hydrants:** Approximately 75% of 69 hydrants are operational; flow capacities remain untested. Residents should report issues to Hope Water (623-219-4740), then the Arizona Corporation Commission (602-542-4251) if unresolved. Chief contacted the State Fire Marshal's Office for guidance. **Grants:** Applications are progressing; federal grant decisions are expected in the coming weeks following extensions. AZ@Work is assisting with administrative on-the-job training and paramedic tuition for one full-time employee. Notice Of Potential Quorum Cochise County Emergency Management Community Wildfire Protection Plan Meeting on 10/24/2026 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m at the Sunsites Community Center. **Staffing:** All full-time positions are filled; one employee is out due to injury.

8. Old Business

- A. Review, discuss and possible action regarding Policy updates chapter 100.** Chair Tucker opened the item for discussion. Chief Garner corrected the policy headers from Chapter 300 to Chapter 100. The Policy Committee reviewed all six policies for adoption, and Board Members were given the opportunity to review and recommend changes. Reed Board Member, who served on the committee, agreed with the Chief's recommendation to adopt the policies as presented. Reed made a motion to approve all six policies, seconded by Board Member

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Beemer. Vote: All Board Members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Review, discuss and possible action regarding Open House Work Session.** Chair Tucker opened the item for discussion, stating the Open House Work Session had no recommendations or requests for monetary approval. Board Member Beemer noted volunteers are needed, and Chair Tucker reported additional raffle items had been received. Another work session is scheduled for Friday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m. No action was required.
- C. Review, discuss and possible action regarding status of collections.** Following discussion, Chief Garner reported a meeting with Sierra Collection is scheduled for October 16 to discuss monthly reports. The Board requested 4–5 alternative collection agencies with pricing and performance comparisons be presented at the next meeting or sooner. No action was required.
- D. Review, discuss and possible action regarding follow-up to contract services.** Following discussion, Chief provided updates on priority items. Insurance quotes for property, liability, auto, and equipment are expected within two weeks. He is researching alternative auditors, reviewing email and Google benefits, addressing website compliance, and working toward ADA compliance. He is also discussing QuickBooks options with schools and other fire districts. No action was required.

9. New Business.

- A. Review, discuss and possible action regarding items mentioned in last month's call to the public including posting agenda, minutes, budget, and other documents in additional locations.** Following discussion, Chief noted that notices have been posted in the same three or four locations for over 20 years. Based on community feedback, Nancy expanded postings to the VFW, SCA Board, library, Next-door, SCA Facebook page, and District website. Board Member Beemer expressed concerns about the budget being difficult to find. The budget is available at sunsitesfire.org/admin/budgets, with additional years to be posted by next Friday. Board Member Beemer also asked to have the board email address on the website. No action was required.
- B. Review, discuss and possible action regarding board members cell phones and tablet.** Following discussion, Chair Tucker recommended removing the item since it pertains to next year's budget. Board Member Fino has requested the item be added to the agenda to address public concerns. The Board discussed AFDA/AFCA recommendations to protect members' personal devices from subpoenas. Chief clarified that funds remain under communications if the Board chooses to proceed. Board Member Beemer noted community opposition. No action was required.

- 10. Call to Public Elizabeth Hawkins:** Expressed concerns regarding civility, moving Call to the Public to the end of the agenda, and the importance of listening to citizens. **Barbara Cobb:** Clarified misunderstandings regarding board electronic devices and Open Meeting Law requirements.

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Jo Peterson: Yielded her time to **Robert Sowards**, who raised concern the Board for overriding the Chief's recommendations and expressed concern that public concerns were not receiving adequate consideration. He also raised concerns about moving public comments and alleged intimidation by a Board Member. **Charles Hill:** He opposed taxpayer spending on tablets and phones, urging the Board to prioritize firefighter equipment and operational needs. **Lisa Le,** Lisa Le questioned the need for cell phones or tablets for Board members, stating that receiving only one email per month did not justify the expense. She emphasized the difference between recommended and mandated items and felt taxpayer funds should be used for the Fire Department rather than Board members' devices.

- 11. Announcements and updates from the Board Chair** She reported participating in January conference planning meetings. The Conference Planning and Education Committees focus on board training topics and requested input on presentations that would be most helpful to Board Members. No other new items were reported.
- 12. Requests from Board members for future agenda items** Move the call to the Public to the beginning rather than the end. Add more policies to the next meeting.
- 13. Adjournment** - Board Member Beemer moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. Clerk Meister seconded the motion.
Vote: All Board Members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sowards