

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board  
Monday May 11, 2015 4:30 pm  
Pinetop Fire District Station 12  
5976 Buck Springs Rd, Pinetop AZ 85935

**I.** Call the meeting to Order: John Rowlinson called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

Roll Call of Board Members: Board members present, Doug Wright, Carla Bowen, Bob Scheuneman, and Ed Cibbarelli. John Rowlinson was absent.

**II.** *Call to the Public:*

**III.** *Consent Agenda*

*The items on the consent agenda are considered routine and will be adopted in one motion unless a board member, staff, or member of the public in the audience requests, before the vote on the motion, to have the item considered separately. If any item is removed from the Consent Agenda, the Board Chairman will indicate when it will be discussed in the regular agenda.*

1. Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting held on April 20, 2015
2. Approval of Warrants paid in April 2015
3. Approval of financial reports
4. Approval of Chief Report
5. Approval of Board chairman Report

Carla Bowen moved to approve the consent agenda items be accepted as presented; motion was seconded by Ed Cibbarelli. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**IV.** Board Business:

- 1) *Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action:* Review ISO Report and Grade

Chief Morgan provided the board with an overview of the ISO report received. The grading system has changed. In the prior system we were a grade 4, with the new system we received a split grade of 4 /10. Per Chief Morgan 40% of grade is from the evaluation of water infrastructure. Another portion of the grade is evaluating the dispatch component and the remaining portion is evaluating the fire department directly. The combination of the scores determines the overall grade, ten being the worst, and one being the best. Pinetop Fire District falls into the category of a four, meaning most of the businesses within the district will fall within this grade. Homeowner insurance and business insurance rates are based on ISO ratings.

Most urban departments generally have a class one or class two grade. Pinetop Fire District falls into the average with most fire departments falling into the class four grade, a generally accepted level. Pinetop Fire District needs to examine how to maintain the grade of a four or how we can improve to get more points to insure we do not move to class five.

Chief Morgan's intention is to meet with the water companies, to educate them about the ISO report and establish cooperation in improving our ISO rating. The current water systems have some four inch lines which are not adequate for providing domestic water or fire protection. It is in the water company's plan to increase these lines to eight inch. Pinetop Water has requested, from corporation commission, an increase in their rates. The increase is requested for capital improvement included in capital replacement plan.

Bob Scheuneman commented that Ponderosa Water's money is being spent on attorney's fees, as they are fighting legal issues, and not into improving their company.

Doug Wright stated it is a good idea to meet with the companies, compare records and see where improvements can be done.

No board action taken, agenda item to educate the board on ISO rating and how to maintain the 4 rating.

- 2) *Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action:* Current updates on the water district hydrant maintenance

Chief Morgan, there is a divergence between water company business practices and NFPA standards. Chief

Morgan would like to meet with the water companies to see what we can do to improve those differences. He would like to see annual testing, as over time there is an increase in build-up of sediments, test can be used to evaluate if repairs or improvements to infra structural needed. Annual maintenance is being performed, just not annual flow-testing.

Carla Bowen questioned, if based on ISO report, would department policy require a water tender to be dispatched to the areas with low water flow? Chief Morgan remarked that this will be done with regional dispatching and auto aid policies. Deployment issues will be addressed in the deployment policies created within the regional dispatching.

The Board requested bi-monthly reports on hydrants and meetings to be held with the water companies. No board action taken.

3) *Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Wildfire Preparedness Update*

Chief Morgan reported on White Mountain Coordination Group. This group is actively working on Wildland preparedness specific to our area, using our weather and conditions. Our area recently went from a high level to moderate level; Chief Morgan is expecting that to continue. Local burning was reinstated today, due to recent moisture.

Kelly Wood and Chief Morgan will be participating in a webinar on the Southwest Fire Season through SWCC (southwest Coordination Center).

No board action taken

4) *Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Board Resolution 2015-02; Supporting Letter regarding aggressive forest closure*

Doug Wright, requested that in the fourth paragraph down a qualifier be added , stating “depending on future moisture received and its effect on the E.R.C. (energy release component). In the third paragraph he would like the wording changed from “keep people out of forest” to “reduce possibility of risk of human caused fire”. Bob Scheuneman thinks it’s important to let them know the board is paying attention to these things. Carla Bowen commented that the resolution puts them on notice that we are watching.

Bob Scheuneman moved to adopt Resolution 2015-02 encouraging the forester of the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest to provide aggressive forest closure to mitigate the potential for human caused fires as amended. Carla Bowen second, passed 4-0

5) *Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Board Resolution 2015-03; Nationwide Retirement Solutions 457 Plan*

Chief Morgan; the district currently offers a variety of benefits to our employees including a defined benefit program, 457 program. This resolution would add a Nationwide plan to the current programs offered. There is no cost to the district, other than additional payroll labor for the payroll withdrawal program.

A meeting was held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, opened to all department employees. Per Chief Morgan, the employees would have signed up that day, if they could have.

Carla Bowen moved to adopt Resolution 2015-03 establishing a Deferred Compensation Plan for the Pinetop Fire District with Nationwide Retirement Solutions as presented, motion was seconded by Ed Cibbarelli passed 4-0.

6) *Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Adoption of proposed budget for 2015-16 Fiscal Year*

The budget was prepared using a budget committee format. The committee was comprised of district board members, a captain, an engineer, firefighters and admin staff.

Chief Morgan presented detail reports which were used to prepare the budget. Total expenses are \$5,369,583.36, with the largest increase due to the capital replacement plan. Chief Morgan created a 20-year capital replacement plan which has been integrated into the budget on a cash purchases plan. The intentions are to not purchase capital items through lease purchases or bonds in the future.

Chief Morgan also demonstrated the effects that the proposed budget will have on the amount of taxes paid

by district taxpayers. The proposed tax rate would increase the amount of taxes paid by \$12, based on a home valued at \$100,000.

Chief Morgan provided the board with the interest earning potential of prepaying contributions to PSPRS (Public Safety Personnel Retirement System), which will assist in paying down the unfunded liabilities the district presently, has with PSPRS.

Bob Scheuneman questioned the 40.18% increase in the budget for training and the 35.97% increase for wellness. Chief Morgan explained the increase in training is at the command level and consists of leadership focused trainings, establishing a training library, and the purchase of an EMS simulator and manikin to provide equipment to increase and maintain EMS skills.

The increase in the wellness program is due to an increase in medical exam costs. Heart Fit for Duty exams, which follow 1500 NFPA standards, will be used.

Carla Bowen moved to approve the 2015-2016 projected budget. Ed Cibbarelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0

7) *Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: EMS Week Proclamation*

This proclamation coincides with national Ems week and recognizes EMS and Paramedics for their services. This year's theme is "EMS Strong".

Doug Wright moved to accept proclamation for Emergency Medical Services Week. Ed Cibbarelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

8) *Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Pinetop Community Association Firewise Day, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

The Pinetop Community Association will be holding a block party from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Station 12. Pinetop Fire District will holding an open house and will be presenting Firewise presentations.

Chief Morgan is working on getting additional educators and educational components for the various homeowner associations and the public. Pinetop Fire District is also rolling out a voluntary inspection program.

Bob Scheuneman commented that it would be nice if the new ambulance was on display and performing blood pressure checks. He would like the crew to assist in signing up people on the reverse 911 system. He would like the brush trucks on display as well. He would also like a display of the before and after pictures of thinning done behind station 12 to give a visual of appearance of firewise property.

**V.** *Summary of Current Events:* May 16<sup>th</sup> we will be participating in the Annual Bike Rodeo, stressing bike safety. AFDA summer conference registration packets were provided to board members; please let us know if you intend to attend. The 100 Club Event was held this past weekend.

**VI.** *Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas –* Hydrants and Wildfire Preparedness. Next meeting is June 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 P.M.

**VII.** *Announcements:* None

**VIII.** *Adjournment-* Ed Cibbarelli motioned to adjourn the meeting, Carla Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

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Charlotte Williams