

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board  
Monday July 21, 2014 4:30 pm  
Pinetop Fire District Station 120  
5976 Buck Springs Rd, Pinetop AZ 85935

Members Present: Doug Wright, Carla Bowen, Bob Scheuneman and Scott Powell  
Others Present: See attached sign in sheet.

**I. Call the meeting to Order:** Doug Wright called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

**Roll Call of Board Members:** Board members present, Doug Wright, Carla Bowen, Scott Powell, and Bob Scheuneman. John Rowlinson absent

**II. Swearing in of James Morgan as Fire Chief,** by Doug Wright

**III. Call to the Public:** None

**IV. Chairman Report:** John Rowlinson's board chairman report was read by Doug Wright.

**V. Consent Agenda**

**1. Correction of Approved Minutes for June 16, 2014 regular Board Meeting**

Carla Bowen moved to approve the minutes as presented, Bob Scheuneman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**2. Approval of Warrants paid in June 2014:**

Scott Powell moved to approve the warrants as presented, Carla Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**3. Approval of financial reports:**

Carla Bowen moved to approve the financial reports, Scott Powell second the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**VI. Consent Agenda / Board Business**

**1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible action: Commercial Insurance Proposal for Property Coverage, General Liability, Business Auto, Umbrella Liability.**

Carla recused herself for potential conflict of interest.

The district has received two proposals; one from ESIP with Brown & Russo and the other from VFIS. Chief Morgan has been in contact with representatives from both companies. Both vendors have reviewed and adjusted their proposals in order to be close as possible; the umbrella amount is the one difference. ESIP proposal would be about \$8500 less with the same umbrella amount. ESIP and VFIS are the two insurance providers for fire department. Our current policy is expired; both vendors will issue policies with a date of coverage back to expiration date.

Annette Schroeder with ESIP and Wiatt Wong with VFIS provided the board

with information concerning their policy coverage, limits and benefits. Scott Powell commented he isn't concerned with the lower policy limits; the amount saved is beneficial.

Doug Wright liked the fact that Brown & Russo, a local company has the lower bid. There is value with being with a company for a while; however the lower bid needs consideration.

Scott Powell moved to accept the proposal from Brown & Russo with ESIP, Bob Scheuneman seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0, with Carla Bowen abstaining.

2. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Continuation of Accident and Sickness policy on Full-time employees:

This coverage is used to provide the gap in wages when an employees is unable to work due to a workman compensation claim. Per state status the employee needs to be made whole in their wages, they will receive 66 2/3 % of wages from workman Comp. The department is also required to pay the amount the employee normally would contribute to PSPRS. The difference needs to be made up from some other source. Within the last two years only one claim has been filed.

Carla Bowen commented the amount of the insurance is budgeted for; we can wait a year then come back and address this again.

Doug Wright, employee wages are built into the current budget that will cover the expense.

Doug Wright asked the Chief for his recommendation. Chief Morgan's recommendation would be to look at other avenues to address the requirements. He feels that for at least a year we could be without the policy and self-fund, and look at other options.

Carla Bowen moved that the current accident and sickness policy presented to the board not be accepted, and that we self-fund for the next twelve months, and charge Chief Morgan with following up with this. Scott Powell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0

3. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Acceptance of proposal from Truck Works

Chief Morgan acknowledged Rob Watson for his work on this matter. Chief Morgan questioned what the board end goal was, he was hoping that it was to receive some sort of remediation from the vender and made whole.

TruckWork president has agreed to accomplish that endeavor, if that is the board end goal.

Doug Wright commented we wanted to get the truck we ordered and paid for, we want what was promised us.

Chief Morgan is not comfortable with email iteration with what they are going to do. Chief Morgan can request Mr. Kelly, the district's attorney, draft document to TruckWorks to specify that the truck be constructed to our specifications and meet the requirements of NFPA standards for this type of vehicle, and seeking numeration for Mr. Kelly's fees.

Carla Bowen asked what the delivery time would be to get the truck. Chief Morgan said that this time the timeline is unknown. It could be included in the draft letter.

Scott Powell is concerned with a spring ride suspension; he would like to see a walking beam suspension.

The original proposal was for an air ride suspension; this is one area that will need to address to make sure it meets our needs.

Carla questioned if we could get our money back.

According to the attorney the problem with that is, you are looking at least a two year process to go through the legal system and we may not get our legal fees back. Our attorney feels that getting the truck replaced is our best course of action.

Scott Powell is okay with having them (TruckWorks) build the truck, he just wants to make sure the truck meets our needs.

Chief Morgan would like the board to authorize him to execute an agreement through our law firm to enter into an agreement with TruckWorks to build a truck to our specifications.

Carla Bowen motioned to allow Chief Morgan to execute an agreement through legal to pursue being able to make the department whole with a new Tender built to our specifications including our legal fees. Scott Powell seconded the motion.

Bob Scheuneman asked Rob Watson for his opinion. Rob feels this is our best option to get a truck that will work for the district.

Bob Scheuneman has concern with TruckWorks building a truck that didn't work for us; he wants to make sure we get what we ask for this time.

Motion passed unanimously 4-0

4. *Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Wildland Preparation, Response and Public Education amendment to the Strategic Plan*

Bob Scheuneman feels the department needs to implement a component into the strategic plan to address Wildland response, preparation, and education, making our district a fire wise district.

Chief Morgan has reviewed the plan; there are areas where that component of our jobs could be included. Operationally, wildland is imbedded in the department. He understands that the board wants something in writing that demonstrated that the department is engaged with the community and it is part of our business model.

Scott Powell asked Paul Watson his views on Wildland fire and firewise. Pinetop has been a firewise community for over 20 years per Paul Watson; the community is only interested in it when they see smoke, at other times it's unsalable.

Carla Bowen feels the community is getting concerned with the current fires and conditions, some cannot get insurance any more. They want this kind of a program.

Doug Wright moved to allow Chief Morgan some latitude on including Wildland preparation, response and public education into the strategic plan.

Carla Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0

5. Discussion/Consideration /Possible Action: Maintenance and reporting of department property and apparatus

This item was addressed at June's board meeting, Bob Scheuneman would like an inventory of all of the department vehicles.

Chief Morgan presented the board members with a list of vehicles and apparatus the department current owns.

Bob Scheuneman would like to see an annual report of how much mileage has been put on the vehicles, when they have to be replaced. Carla Bowen suggested a quarterly report be provided. Scott Powell feels semi-annual report be presented.

Scott Powell moved that the board receive a maintenance report semi-annually on all vehicles. Carla Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

6. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Report on department participation in San Juan Fire containment:

Captain Green reported that his type 2 team was called out to the fire. His team made initial attack and was able to get ahead of fire. The pretreated forest helped to contain this fire. The department also responded with Type 6 and a Type III. Kelly Wood was a P.I.O. (Public Information Officer) for the fire.

Chief Morgan gave the board a copy of a letter from the Forester talking about the treatments that had been done to this area of the forest prior to the fire.

7. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: July 10, 2014 Joint board meeting of Lakeside, Show Low and Linden Fire Districts boards Reference : Options available to Districts for possible merger.

Agenda items 7 & 8 were combined for discussion.

8. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Reporting of current and future Merger activities of neighboring Fire Districts

Doug Wright stated he is frustrated that Pinetop Fire District contributed equal money to participate in the study, but then there are meetings being held by other districts moving forward to merge without including Pinetop Fire District.

Scott Powell reported on the joint meeting that he was in attendance. He felt there should have been some consideration, before moving forward. Pinetop Fire District did contribute to the study, all the other districts have already moved forward with steps to merge. The other districts had already started moving towards merging prior to the study being completed. Scott Powell

mentions there has been no consideration to the effect on the cities. Why is this being railroaded, in his opinion Pinetop Fire District is fine, were going to be fine. We don't need to be part of this system; we want to take a look at it. This department is going to do its due diligence and look at the study and evaluate it.

Chief Morgan commented that based off of the reviews of the study and the history provided to him on our organization participation, this has been an ongoing discussion with the fire districts for a number of years. There is no sense of urgency for this fire district board to act on this now.

Carla Bowen, her concerns are that when the input from these people (Pinetop Fire District members) is minimized to where they have no input what-so-ever with something they have to live with on a daily bases and as a fire district we have no input. Also concerned with the amount of increase in the tax levy to Pinetop Fire District and the unresolved embezzlement financial problems at Show Low Fire District.

Doug Wright, there is some value in proceeding with the information from the study.

Bob Scheuneman feels the board took the high road; we put in our share of the money, but haven't been included. He feels the board needs to study this area, take what good we can get from it, to support our firefighters, district, and our constituents. The tax rate has been set and there is time to consider it and have a workshop, and not worry about what they are going to do.

9. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Pinetop Fire District board workshop on the ESCI Study.

Discussion was held on dates for the workshop. Chief Morgan mentioned that John Rowlinson would like to see a financial overlay to include Pinetop Fire District along with the other districts.

Bob Scheuneman would like chief to pursue obtaining information on the financial model.

Bob Scheuneman moved that a date be set at the Aug board meeting for a workshop to be held in September. Carla Bowen seconded the motion. Bob Scheuneman amended the motion to include authorization of up to \$2,500 for the cost of having a financial overlay of a merged district to Pinetop.

Motion passed unanimously 4-0

10. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Approved signers on Pinetop Fire District financial accounts.

Bob Scheuneman moved to add Chief Morgan to all financial accounts and remove Rob Watson from those accounts. Scott Powell second the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**VII. Summary of Current Events/Chief Report.**

1. *Update on brush truck:* Rob Watson provided an update. The skid unit was delivered to NAFCO, but did sustain some damage, which the district will have to cover the cost. It is not covered by the shipping company. We have

not received a completion date for when the new skid unit will be received and installed.

2. *Transition:* Chief Morgan provided the board a report of his activities since coming on board with the department. He responded to a house fire which resulted in minimum damage due to the neighbor quick reporting and job done by our crews. He also informed the board that the crew attended and assisted with White Mountain Summer Homes 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

**VIII. *Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas -***

Next regular board meeting scheduled for Monday August 11, 2014 at 4:30.  
Agenda item: Scheduling of workshop.

**IX. *Announcements:*** None

**X. *Adjournment-*** Doug Wright moved to adjourn; Scott Powell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm

Respectfully Submitted

---

Charlotte Williams