

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board
Monday September 15, 2014, 4:30 pm
Pinetop Fire District Station 120
5976 Buck Springs Rd, Pinetop AZ 85935

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

I. Call the meeting to Order: John Rowlinson called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

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

II. Call to the Public: None

III. Chairman Report: John Rowlinson provided his board chairman report.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting held on August 11, 2014. Approval of executive session held on August 11, 2014.

Bob Scheuneman moved to approve minutes as corrected for the board meeting held on August 11, 2014; motion was seconded by Scott Powell. Motion passed unanimously 3-0 (Doug Wright was not in attendance)

Scott Powell moved to accept the minutes of the executive session held on August 11, 2014; motion was seconded by Doug Wright Motion passed unanimously 4-0

2. Approval of Warrants paid in August 2014:

Scott Powell moved to approve the warrants as presented; motion was seconded by Doug Wright. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

3. Approval of financial reports:

Doug Wright moved to approve the financial reports as presented to the board; motion was seconded by Scott Powell. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

V. Consent Agenda / Board Business

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible action: Personnel disciplinary actions:

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1), the board may convene into executive session for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters.

Chief Morgan has a disciplinary action pending which has been discussed with the employee. Chief Morgan advised the board, per department policy, should the employee choose to appeal his disciplinary action; the board would be the party to hear that appeal. The board should try to stay as neutral as possible to allow for due process for both the employee and the chief. Employee has until September 26th to file for an appeal.

The employee has been given the right to have the discussion in executive or public session; he has chosen to have it held in executive session. The employee has stated he is willing participate in the executive session but, understands the board has the right to not have him included.

Discussion was held by board members if the employee would need to be present while the chief provides a review of the disciplinary action.

Bob Scheuneman move to go into executive session reference agenda item number one; motion was seconded by Scott Powell. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Board adjourned into executive session at 4:55 p.m.

Bob Scheuneman moved that the board come out of executive session; motion was seconded by Doug Wright. Motion passed unanimously 4-0 at 5:44p.m.

Scott Powell moved to affirm the chief's position on the disciplinary action as stated; motion was seconded by Bob Scheuneman. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

2. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Status of legal actions against TruckWorks:
Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3), the board may convene into executive session for the purpose of discussion or consultations for legal advice with an attorney.

The board packet contains information from law offices of Halloway, Odegard & Kelley on two separate settlement proposals. The first proposal would be for TruckWorks to provide Pinetop Fire District with new water tender. The second proposal, TruckWorks has offered to pay Pinetop Fire District \$165,321.47 plus attorney fees. That amount does not include the additional \$7,151.56 cost associated with the truck for decals, radios, and other related expenses. A letter has been presented to TruckWorks concerning these additional expenses. Currently we are incurring additional attorney fees as there is no agreement to date.

Chief Morgan is in favor of rescinding the contract. He is not confident in TruckWorks ability to build a truck meeting our specifications. .

Bob Scheuneman asked about the cost to the district if we were to have a truck built. There could be the additional charge for an upgraded chassis, as that has not been negotiated.

Scott Powell informed the board that he had done some checking with Kenworth, on which truck should be used to build a water tender. According to him, Kenworth will sell us the truck needed, to build a tender at the same price the original truck was sold to TruckWorks.

John Rowlinson commented that we need a truck that will meet our standards, Fire Department certifications and NFPA standards.

Doug Wright commented that the board previously was worried about backing out because of issues; TruckWorks has given us that out.

Bob Scheuneman stated the department should take the \$172,000 and run.

Chief Morgan advised the board that he has directed Mr. Kelly to seek rescission of contract but, he wants to make sure we get full costs and attorney fees.

No board action was taken.

3. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Scheduling of board work session and or public forum for discussion of ESCI Study

Workshop is scheduled for Thursday September 25, 2014, 16:30 at Station 120.

Chief Morgan would like to make best use of workshop time. He would like to invite John Flynn, County Manager Mr. Jayne, the Pinetop-Lakeside city manager, as well as employees.

Chief Morgan is working on putting together graphs and spreadsheets that demonstrate changes in AFDAT, assessed evaluations, tax rates and budgets from the last five years. Chief Morgan would like to get a sense on why the board decided to engage in the study. What the emphasis was, collectively as a board or individually; are there other reasons than just from a financial prospective. He knows the employee group has perspectives or concerns they would like to share. Going forward he wants to make sure all the concerns are addressed.

Bob Scheuneman would like an ad placed in the local paper to invite the public and

encourage participation. Scott Powell has a concern and would like to meet collectively with personnel and the board before the public is invited. The board was advised that the workshop has to be an open meeting.

Doug Wright commented he doesn't know that the board is to a point that they want to be presenting any opinions to the public, as we are still gathering information.

Chief Morgan asked if there was anyone the board would like to be present at the workshop? Scott Powell suggested inviting the city manager of Show Low, Ed Muder, he could have some valuable input. John Rowlinson recommended Jason Moore.

Bob Scheuneman suggested having the Chief of Police from Pinetop-Lakeside.

No board action was taken.

4. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action: Alternative revenue sources

Chief Morgan, if merger is financially driven; if the board wants to look at merging on your own terms then we need to ensure financial liability. There are a couple of things Chief Morgan thinks the department needs to take opportunities of. One is our Wildland program as a revenue source. When you look at the apparatus that generate revenue for the organization, Type III and Tenders will generally garner about 80% of revenues for that billing event. If the board wants to continue with Wildland income we need to look at apparatus needs. We may want to purchase another Type III versus water tender.

An additional revenue source is third party billing of insurance through a billing company. The insurance company would be billed for service render; first response to car accidents. Chief Morgan doesn't anticipate it being a large sum of money, but will help with sustainability and with our revenue stream.

Chief Morgan wants to engage James Vincent Financial Services. One to look at our CON; current base rate of billing ambulance service. We need a review to see if what we are charging is in line with our operational expenses and evaluate what our ambulance base rate is. Chief Morgan wants a complete financial review done by James Vincent, looking for better ways to manage our financial records and tighten up financial policies.

Chief asked the board if they wanted him to move forward with bringing these things to them.

John Rowlinson asked if the third party insurance billing would require a fee schedule. We could use a fee schedule or use a flat rate billing procedure.

Scott Powell is supportive of going out on Wildland fire as a method of keeping tax rate low by generating money through Wildland fires and in his opinion we should be active in Wildland fires.

Bob Scheuneman commented the better equipment the department has and better trained we are; the better we are prepared to protect our community.

The board gave direction to Chief Morgan to proceed with getting proposals and additional information. The chief will provide proposals at future board meeting.

VI. Summary of Current Events/Chief Report.

1. *Organizational Operations:*
 - a. Fire Hydrant inspections
 - b. Fire Prevention Week
2. Merger Update
3. Personnel

4. Apparatus
 - a. Brush Truck
 - b. Ambulance

The report is attached.

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

Next regular board meeting scheduled for Monday October 20, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.

Agenda- John Rowlinson requested to have an executive session with Jason Moore in attendance to provide direction on personnel policy.

Bob Scheuneman would like central dispatch as ongoing discussion item

VIII. *Announcements: None*

- IX. *Adjournment-*** Scott Powell moved to adjourn; Bob Scheuneman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Charlotte Williams

Approved