

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board
Monday November 16, 2020
Pinetop Fire District Station 12
Video & Conference Available
1845 S. Pine Lake Rd, Pinetop AZ 85935

Call the meeting to Order: John Rowlinson Called Meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Roll Call of Board Members, John Rowlinson by video conference, Carla Bowen, Brad Baker, Dr. Doug Wright, and Ernie Lawes was absent

Attorney Bill Whittington phone conference and Finance Directors from James Vincent Group, Gabe Buldra and Ben Archer by video conference

I. *Call to the Public:* None

II. *Consent Agenda Board Business*

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 in October 2020
2. Approval of Warrants paid in October 2020

Brad Baker made the motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented, seconded by John Rowlinson, motion carried unanimously 4-0

IV. Board Business

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re: Presentation of July Financial Reports

Gabe Buldra presented the financial report by go-to-meeting, all documents are included in the packet.

Highlights; Navajo County Revenue for October was under budget by \$9641.

Non-Tax Levy Revenue was strong and over budget by \$56,451.00

Grant revenue was under due to timing. By \$117,419

Wildland was over budget by about \$172,467.

Expenses were over budget by about \$279,685.00 with the wildland fire season finally seeming to wind down. Personnel was up with wildland wages totaling around \$213,020. also included in the wildland expenses are fuel for apparatus and vehicle maintenance which were also over budget. These expenses should start dwindling downward in the next few weeks.

Year to date cash is about \$4,073,842 which was more than last year September by \$1,380,199 and \$290,995 more than this time last year.

Cash is sufficient for the foreseeable future. There is no need for a draw on our county line of credit.

Summary of expenses: 82.25% personnel --Ops-- 12%-- Admin/managerial--4% and --2% communications. These are inline with other districts of our size and personnel.

There was discussion about our CAFR audit maybe being available for next meeting since the PSPRS actuarial has been completed.

Carla Bowen made a motion to approve the October 2020 financial reports as presented, seconded by Doug Wright, motion carried unanimously 4-0

2. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Updates on Covid 19.

Chief Morgan; included in the packet is information concerning COVID 19 numbers as of board meeting. Numbers are on the rise; ICU isn't troublesome at the moment, but if numbers keep rising, Summit ICU could reach capacity. Dr. Wright told them there are plans in effect in case of rising numbers and ICU capacity- they have good plans. The nature of the virus seems to be becoming less severe; deaths seem to be diminishing slightly. PFD is good as far as PPE for Crew Members. The vaccines will be coming out soon. Please be safe everyone. Observe good practice for safety.

Informational only, no board action.

3. Discussion/Consideration/Updates on Wildland Fire Season

Discussion on current Wildland Fire Season, Chief Morgan; information is in the packet. Our ERCs currently are below the 70th percentile at 40 for wildland fire conditions. An update was provided on resources PFD sent out and that most of our crews were home at the time of the meeting. Still deployed; a type 4, a type 6 and 1 single resource still out in the field. National numbers went to a PL2, which means the season is effectively over. Chief Morgan attended the White Mountain Burn Restriction Coordination meeting and they will reconvene as needed from now until next season. We still need to be watchful but the small amounts of sporadic rain and snow seems to be helping. The moisture content in the trees is still about 12-14% which really isn't wonderful, but we are holding safe. We are hoping for more moisture in the coming weeks and months. Please be safe out there.

Informational only, no board action.

4. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Purchase of a new 2021 Ambulance not to exceed 191,671.00 excluding tax and shipping

Chief Morgan; Included in the packet is a purchase requisition for a new ambulance. The back story for this is that we have been trying to do this for a couple of years. Chief Morgan went over our Capital Purchase policy for the new members, he explained how our R3 (Rescue3 --2006 Ford Ambulance), has a total of 35 points in the vehicle replacement eval system indicating immediate replacement (chart included in packet) We would retain R3 for use in wildland cooperative agreement for wildland assignments for a period of 3-5 years. We thought we had secured a couple of grants, but Covid 19 affected their ability to fund them. The PFD Apparatus committee had been working with a couple of vendors in preparation. They compared a couple of different options and considered some safety options, which led to a couple of solid quotes, from Braun Northwest, Republic EVS and RedSky Fire Apparatus. After much deliberation the best most, practical option is through Republic EVS- a MEDIX Unit, Ford F450 4x4. He explained that the committee carefully weighed all the options and made a wise choice.

Chief Morgan explained there will be additional costs of course as with any new build, our insurance premiums will likely increase for coverage of a newer vehicle and we would

still have equipment to purchase in order to outfit the unit for service. For example; we have already purchased the gurney lift, we have had it for a while now. We would have to purchase heart monitors they are upwards of \$30,000, hopefully we can secure a grant, rotating our older models to our other units. We would need IV fluid warmers, drug boxes and some other small capital items.

Carla Bowen asked about delivery of the new unit, Chief explained it would be around the end of May with the build and emergency response package install i.e.: radios, lights, sirens, and decals.

John Rowlinson asked why a gas engine instead of Diesel? Chief explained that DEF for emission control is becoming a problem. He explained that the ambulance may have to idle for hours which could present a problem on a wildland fires for example, gas would eliminate these problems. There was a debate in the committee because of a perceived loss of power without diesel, but with our two other gas engines we have pulled very heavy loads and have not had a problem yet. After discussion about warranty, who locally could service it and how the company can access the computer system and detect problems, a decision was made.

Carla Bowen made the motion authorizing the fire chief to execute a purchase agreement with Republic EVS for the purchase of one (1) 2021 Ford F-450 4x4 Medix Specialty Type 1 MSV 170" Ambulance not to exceed \$191,766.00 excluding taxes and shipping. Seconded by Doug Wright. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

5. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Training Impacts due to TMFMD Bond Election Issues:

Chief Morgan, Carla Bowen asked me to include this topic for discussion regarding training impacts to our fire district as a result of the bond election loss. Training in our own backyard would be very beneficial if TMFMD could have built the facility. When we go to Snowflake/Taylor we do have backup from TMFMD and we also back them up, it would have eliminated that increased travel time back and forth and would have provided a long-term regional academy for our district. We will continue to train out at Snowflake/Taylor, we just adjust to the response logistics to accomplish the training needs we have and look at other delivery options. We will continue to train in cul-de-sacs, streets, and parking lots as we have been doing so for years. Chief Morgan added, we adapt and overcome.

This is informational only, no board action.

V. Summary of Current Events

1. Chief Morgan, With the passage of prop 208 we will see that 16% excise tax, 33% of the 16 will go to Public Safety. We can earmark that for our Pension Liability. Gabe Buldra added it is our intent to fund PSPRS, we will present a policy to address this at a future meeting.

VI. Future Meeting Dates:

December 21, 2020

VII. Announcements

Anticipation of audit being completed for next meeting

Badge pinning ceremony for new hires, firefighters and fuels employees.
Discussion on a brush vehicle, ours is starting to fail, we need to replace soon.

There are statutory classes with dates coming up although there aren't locations yet. We should have information soon.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:08pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins

Approved