

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board
Monday June 15, 2020
Pinetop Fire District Station 11
Video & Conference Available
1845 S. Pine Lake Rd, Pinetop AZ 85935

Call the meeting to Order: Doug Wright Called Meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Roll Call of Board Members, Kurt Alcumbrac, John Rowlinson, Carla Bowen, and Doug Wright

Chief Jim Morgan, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, Gabe Buldra and Sara Simonton were present by video conferencing

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 May 2020
2. Approval of Warrants paid in May 2020

Carla Bowen made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Kurt Alcumbrac seconded, motion carried unanimously 4-0

IV. Board Business

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re: Acceptance of Mr. Ed Cibbarelli's resignation from the board.

Chief Morgan; Ed Cibbarelli turned in his resignation due to personal reasons.

There was some discussion about Mr. Kurt Alcumbrac also presenting his resignation. It was determined to include that resignation on the next agenda. Included in the packet is a copy of the by-laws for review in determining a board member when one resigns. An add will be placed seeking interested citizens to serve. It will post for two weeks, in the newspaper, website and Station 11, 12. Chief Morgan; once the letters are received, they would be included at the next board meeting for selection of new board members.

Mr. Alcumbrac submitted his resignation letter to the board on June 13, 2020 indicating his last meeting would be the June 15th meeting.

Carla Bowen made the motion to accept Mr. Cibbarelli's resignation from the fire board in good standing as submitted, seconded by Kurt Alcumbrac.

Carla Bowen Made the motion to regretfully accept Mr. Cibbarelli's resignation from the fire board, in good standing and with gratitude for his exemplary service. Seconded by Kurt Alcumbrac, motion carried 4-0.

2. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re: Appointment of board Chair.

After a small discussion it was determined that John Rowlinson would assume the position as interim Board Chairman and Doug Wright would accept the role of interim Clerk. We will revisit the issue in January after the 2020 elections.

Carla Bowen made the motion to approve John Rowlinson as interim Chairman of the board and Doug Wright as interim Clerk of the board for the Pinetop Fire District board, in accordance with §ARS 48-803, seconded by Kurt Alcumbrac, motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Attorney Bill Whittington arrived at the meeting in person 5:14

Suspend regular business move to public hearing. 5:16

3. Public Hearing: Notice of public Hearing regarding Proposed 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget

There were no questions or comments from the public or the board. Chief Morgan reiterated that the meeting was posted according to Arizona State Statute, we had no public comment, good or bad during the budget posting period. No board action information only.

Public Hearing for the proposed 2019-2020 budget concluded at 5:20

4. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Adoption of proposed 2020-2021 budget
Gabe Buldra and Sara Simonton were present by video conferencing to go over some of the highlights already discussed in previous meetings. Mr. Buldra told them the budget is balanced at \$7,428,752.00, not only for this fiscal year but also the next. Mr. Buldra highlighted funding for ST 12 repairs, Training with Tuition reimbursement and money for Capital Funding, the Fuels crew, the SAFR grant with 3 new firefighter positions, full-time fuels crew employees with benefits, a 3% COLA increase for all employees. The tax rate at \$3.17 – again the same rate, with a \$4.5 million tax revenue increase over the \$224,000 from last year. Grant revenue projected at 1.4 million, which supports the Fuels crew reduction program and capital items, and communication and IT increase for the new traffic preemption program. Exciting new programs that are being realized as we speak.

The board is looking at adopting budget this year and next fiscal year. There was a more discussion concerning property valuation and catching up from previous down turns.

Carla Bowen made a motion to approve the 2020/2021 fiscal budget, fee schedule, wage scale, and resolution 20-02 in the amount of \$7,428,752.00, authorizing the board chairman to execute the certification pursuant to ARS §48805.02-D as attached thereto. Seconded by Kurt Alcumbrac, motion carried unanimously 4-0.

5. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Presentation of the May 2020 Financial Reports

Gabe Buldra gave the financial presentation all documents included in packet. Highlights are Navajo County Revenue for May \$404,942.00 Which is over budget. Non-Levy Revenue was under budget by \$2,171.00
Note: Grant income is over budget by \$118,481.00, Fuels Reduction and AIM grants.

Expenses for May were under budget by approx. \$108,878.00
Fiscal year Revenue is under budget by \$458,449.00
Fiscal year Expenses are under budget by \$168,313.00
Total Cash is \$402,752 which is almost \$283,231 more than April 30, 2020 and approximately \$499,866.00 more than this time last year.

A point of interest caused by Covid 19 challenges, while our expenses are up for PPE and Covid supplies, it is offset by unutilized personnel costs - vacations for example are down so less PTO time paid, travel and training is way down due to cancelations, it is merely interesting how something like this literally affects everything.

Good news, wildland is over budget for May and Ambulance is about right on track- we should see an increase for ambulance in the coming months as transports are up slightly.

Total expenses were under, the major category is vehicle equipment significant engine repairs.

77% personnel Ops at 16 % Admin 5% and 2% communications.

Just for information, Pension Liabilities increasing this year, ASRS increased and PSPRS has some increases also with substantial impact to district at approximately \$120 to \$160,000.00 when paid out.

Carla Bowen made a motion to approve the May 2020 financials as presented, seconded by Kurt Alcumbrac, motion carried unanimously 4-0.

6. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Adoption of ADOT Agreement.

This is the ADOT agreement for the preemption package.

Bill Whittington explained the changes included in the ADOT Agreement – documents included in board packet. One of the items is on Page 4 item #16 the parties certify to comply with the anti-Israel regulation, and not doing business with anyone who supports terrorism against Israel. Subsequently Page 5 paragraph #18, the signature page needs to be revised, Resolution 2020-03 which allows the sign offs on the agreement. The paperwork had Mr. Cibbarelli and Mr. Alcumbrac who have since resigned from the board. ADOT has no issues with changing the names, Mr. Whittington will clean up the document with the new changes and present it to Chief Morgan when completed.

Kurt Alcumbrac made a motion to enter the ADOT IGA for traffic preemption technology as presented, seconded by Carla Bowen, motion carried unanimously 4-0.

7. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Review of Automatic Aid/Mutual Aid

Chief Morgan, this is review of our agreements with Timber Mesa Fire and Medical (TMFMD) and White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT). Auto Aid is the “Automatic” Agreement with TMFMD – in effect basically we consider there technically are no borders, **the closest unit is the first response**. Mutual Aid is a “requested” service, **we will provide - as requested** and visa-versa. This was requested by a board member who had been approached by tax payers in district asking why TMFMD was in our district. Chief Morgan explained, crews had a very tragic youth fatality a few months back, having to utilize our Employee debriefing put TMFMD in position to cover our emergencies until PFD crew had been debriefed. This is probably the best example of why TMFMD was in

our district – we have and would -- do the same for either district. Carla Bowen said she felt they would better understand if she had an example like this to explain when questions came up, it gives one a better understanding of how things actually work. Board information only, no action.

Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re: Updates on COVID – 19

Discussion about reopening the State and seeing increases in positive cases, also having more testing available and being utilized. Chief Morgan updated the board on our specific situation and how we (PFD Personnel), thus far, have been very blessed and no has contracted the virus. All personnel who had taken the antibody test came back negative indicating that none have had COVID and are asymptomatic. The crews still have enough PPE and were being very careful since transports of suspected and confirmed were starting to increase.

V. Summary of Current Events

1. Fire Chief Report regarding District Activities

Chief Morgan updated the board about district involvement in wildland fires throughout the state of Arizona and a couple in Alaska. We can utilize the fuels crew for wildland fires as they are posted in IROQ and our med unit/REM obviously is keeping busy with Chief Morgan out on a medical crew. Chief Wallace told the board that his wildland fire assignment is basically in “babysitting mode” currently. Obviously COVID 19 was affecting wildland firefighting in several ways including food and lodging.

VI. Future Meeting Dates:

Our next Meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2020

VII. Announcements

AFDA has been cancelled this July due to Covid 19. The district will be accepting letters of interest for the two board positions.
We had our call to elections.

VIII. Adjournment

Carla Bowen made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 pm, seconded by Kurt Alcumbrac, motion passed 4-0

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins