

Pinetop Fire District Station 12
Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board
Monday, August 16, 2021
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

1. Roll Call of Board Members: John Rowlinson, Carla Bowen and Brad Baker were present. Ernie Lawes was present by telephone and Doug Wright was absent.

Also Present, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, Gabe Buldra and Ben Archer. Chief Morgan and Bill Whittington were available by video conference.

II Call to the Public: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hunter from Bull Frog Loop were present to present a mock donation check to the district/board in the amount of \$26,500 that they collected at the annual 4th of July Parade in White Mountain Summer Homes. This is an annual donation and seems to grow in size each year, the district is very fortunate to have such loyal supporters and we take the donation very seriously, it will help with training, equipment and Christmas children.

III. 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 July 2021
- 2) Approval of Warrants paid in July 2021

Carla Bowen made the motion to approve the July 2021 consent agenda, as presented, seconded by Brad Baker, motion carried unanimously 4-0

V. Board Business

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Presentation of June 2021 Financial Reports

Gabe Buldra from James Vincent Group gave the summary.

All reports are included in the board packet.

Some highlights are;

Wildland Fire has already outperformed this season and continues to do so.

Navajo County Revenue for July was \$25,554 which is under budget by \$3,119.

Non-Levy Revenue was Over budget by \$382,730

Grant income was under budget by \$132,191

Wildland income up and over by **\$199,465**

Expenses for June total \$684,528 which is over budget by \$90,343

Personnel Expense was \$154,809 also over budget, driven by Wildland Deployment expenses.

Vehicles and Equipment was \$2,666 over budget driven by Wildland Fire Fuel for Vehicles.

Travel, Meetings, and Training was \$6359 over budget also driven by WLF costs

Grant Expense and Managerial costs under budget by \$60,427 and \$13,392 respectively due to timing and billing.

Total Cash for the month is \$3,642,796 which is \$209,194 less than June 30, 2021 and is \$684,953 more than this time last year.

Monthly Percentages for June 2021 were:

Personnel 82%, Ops 10%, Admin 2% and communications at 6%.

Wildland fire season is alive and well, unfortunate for those states we are helping, we will see those revenues and expenses continue to balance out and increase throughout this fire season.

Brad Baker made the motion to accept the July 2021 financial reports as presented, seconded by Ernie Lawes, motion passed unanimously 4-0

2. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Update on Land Sale Agreement and Retention of Law Firm Perkins Coie for Legal Services regarding Land Purchase agreement and environmental contract language.

Chief Morgan - upon direction from the board, forwarded the letter of acceptance to the attorney. He received it late because it went to a junk mail folder. Steps are to go forward, preventing or reducing the district's liability concerning well #6. The attorney was concerned about the Superfund protection and had put into motion that level of protection for the district, board and Waste Management.

Chief Morgan explained that we still want to see the baseline testing of well #6 to see if the natural attenuation had continued throughout the years and more importantly to give the board, district and Waste Management a level of protection from that particular liability in the purchase contract. The cost to do a phase 1 & 2 testing of Well #6 should not go over \$7000.00 for both phases. Brad Baker asked if Waste Management was agreeable to wait for the completion of the testing and reporting. Chief Morgan assured him that WM has agreed and are patiently waiting as they know the testing will also be to their benefit. As soon as the attorney has drafted a contract that appeals to both Pinetop Fire District Board and Waste Management we will proceed. Chief Morgan will keep the board updated as the process continues.

This is informational only - no board action.

3. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: updates on 2021 Wildland Fire Season

Informational only, charts and documents included in the board packet. Chief Morgan gave update on crews still out at the various fires and a summary of those back in district. There was discussion about our area compared to OR, CA, WA and ID, we are very fortunate to be experiencing the monsoons, although causing some flooding in our area. Chief Morgan predicted we would be going on assignments probably out as far as December-Oregon and California don't plan on having the fires under control until probably October. Our region is in a preparedness level 3 which allows our crews to keep going on assignments in other areas. Locally all restrictions have lifted, while not out of the drought - immediate conditions are improving daily.

4. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Wildland PPE Sharing policy

On June 21st the board authorized Chief Morgan to develop an incentive policy for Wildland PPE at a 10% cost share. With the WLF season doing so well it allows for a 3-piece outfitting of PPE for each firefighter actively participating and an incentive to potentially recruit others to accept assignments. Carla Bowen expressed how happy she is with the program, the other members agreed.

Ernie Lawes made the motion to approve the adoption of the Wildland cost share incentive PPE policy authorizing 10% of equipment revenue to be utilized to purchase wildland PPE as presented. Seconded by Carla Bowen, Motion carried unanimously 4-0

IV. Summary of Current Events

1. Fire Chief's Report regarding district activities

Chief Morgan told the board that 4 of our crew members had tested positive for Covid 19 and were just ending their 10-day quarantine period.

He updated the board on several of our personnel taking the medic class which would benefit our district citizens and Pinetop Fire. He told the board that testing for new employees would begin on August 18, 2021 and we hoped to establish a hire list for Paramedic/EMT and Fuels Crew Personnel.

2. Board Chairman Report

Chairman Rowlinson wanted to say he hopes all crews stay safe and return safely, also thanking supporting families. He updated the board on his condition- he is doing very well.

Future Meeting Dates:

September 20, 2021

VI. Announcements

Carla Bowen asked the Chief to address Doug Wright moving out of district and also the town events at It's Magic/ Charlie Clarks, she wants to be sure it is safe for people and the emergency vehicles can maneuver around and in them.

VII. Adjournment

John Rowlinson adjourned the meeting at 5:31

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins