

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board
Monday April 18, 2022
Pinetop Fire District Station 12
Video & Conference Available
1845 S. Pine Lake Rd, Pinetop AZ 85935

Call the meeting to Order: Clerk Ernie Lawes called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Roll Call of Board Members; - Carla Bowen, Ernie Lawes, Brad Baker and Ben Borrego were present, John Rowlinson was excused

Chief Jim Morgan, Asst. Chief Richard Wallace, (JVG) Gabe Buldra and Sara Simonton were present along with Attorney William Whittington by telephone.

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 for March 2022
- 2) Approval of Warrants paid in March 2022

Brad Baker had one correction for the date of next meeting; 4-18-22 noted.

Carla Bowen made the motion to accept the February 2022 consent agenda with the correction as presented, seconded by Brad Baker, motion carried unanimously 4-0

IV. Board Business

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re; Presentation of the February 2022 Financial Reports

All documents and reports are included in the packet.

Gabe Buldra (JVG) gave a brief summary of the March financial reports.

A few highlights: Revenue and expenses were over for the month.

Vehicle Maintenance/was over-probably due to EMS supplies outfitting the new ambulance, and the GTT Opticom remote system for GPS and traffic lights.

Grants were over budget, and we received the Stryker gurney money.

However, Year to date and total cash are still over budget about 1.6 million - with wildland and grant income driving those numbers up.

Percentages for February were; Personnel 65%, Ops 29%, Admin 4% and Communications 2%.

Personnel is still trending lower but should change during upcoming Wildland Fire Season.

Carla Bowen made the motion to accept the February 2022 Financial reports as presented, seconded by Brad Baker, motion carried unanimously 4-0

2. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; 2022/2023 Budget Committee Report

Chief Morgan postponed this item until later in the meeting. SEE AFTER #4

3. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Approval of the Fuels Crew 2022/2023 Pay Scale to align with DFFM AD adjustment

Pay Scale is included in the packet.

Chief Morgan explained that DFFM wage scale was increased this year and he would like to raise the fuels crew hourly pay to reflect the changes and retain our current crew as well as recruiting future positions and seasonals. The grant would cover 1/3 to 2/3rds of the cost, comparatively they deserve to be more in line with what other wildland firefighters are making. Chief Wallace commented that this would cover their COLA (figured in). Of course, we would continue to have annual merit increases throughout the year- not included in this initial increase. Chief Morgan told the board, currently we have 8 crew members, hiring at least 5-10 additional seasonals would bolster our crew hoping to be qualified as a "hand crew" instead of "suppression module" which we are currently deployed as. Carla Bowen made the comment that these folks work very hard, they are the face of Pinetop Fire out in the community and deserve whatever increase we can afford them.

Carla Bowen made the motion to approve the proposed Fire & Fuels Crew wage scale as presented. Seconded by Ben Borrego, motion carried unanimously 4-0

4. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Approval of Purchase of LMR Communication Equipment awarded under 2021 SHSGP not to exceed \$63,124.00

Chief Morgan; we were awarded the Homeland Security Regional Joint Grant for a radio project to improve interoperable communications. The project evaluated PFD and TMFMD radio infrastructure - determining that our radios were not P-25 capable or compliant, our current radios were 10-13 years old. TMFMD And PFD would each receive 10 Mobile and 14 handheld portables under the program.

Chief Morgan is recommending purchase up to \$63,124 but we would like to purchase 2 additional radios if authorized. Carla Bowen is glad the bid came in for White Mountain Communications which is a local company. Ernie Lawes agreed. There was discussion about the language on the invoicing, chief Morgan assured them everything is as described.

Brad Baker made the motion authorizing staff to purchase all hazard mobile and portable radios from White Mountain Communications not to exceed the amount of \$63,124. Exclusive of shipping and taxes as presented.

2. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; 2022/2023 Budget Committee Report

Sara Simonton gave a brief scenario of how the schedule would be for the budget committee going forward. 4-19 Workshop, 5/16 workshop overview with tentative approval, and June 20 would be the final adoption with hearing.

The chief is recommending a 5.7% Cola, he commented that health insurance went up 5% and other increases in line with SS.

Sara Simonton explained that we always strive for a balanced budget and this year we are not as of yet. There was some discussion about steps we could take to balance the budget, for example; re-evaluate the COLA, pay off the current COPs balance on St 11, raise the tax rate slightly. Chief asked the board to think about ideas brought up today and we would talk about moving forward at the next meeting. Carla Bowen would like to see the numbers on paper to help make her decision.

Informational only – no board action

Summary of Current Events

1. Chief Report

Wildland season is here and we have already seen some local fires. We also have crews out in AZ and NM. He asked the board if they would like monthly updates and they said yes. Ernie Lawes asked if we had someone to get information out in the public, chief Morgan told him we do.

2. Board Chair Report

Nothing significant to report

VI. *Future Meeting Dates: May 16, 2022*

1. Tentative consideration of adoption of 2018 ICC Fire and WUI Code
2. Update on land purchase quest
3. Wildland Fire updates with a year over year summary

VII. **Announcements**

1. 2018 ICC Fire and WUI Code adoption with the city.
2. AFDA summer meeting in Glendale – for scheduling contact Chiefs Morgan or Wallace.

III. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins