

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board
Monday October 17, 2022
Pinetop Fire District Station 12
Video & Conference Available
1845 S. Pine Lake Rd, Pinetop AZ 85935

Call the meeting to Order: Chairman Rowlinson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

1. Roll Call of Board Members; present- John Rowlinson, Ernie Lawes, Carla Bowen, Ben Borrego. Brad Baker was present electronically

Also present in person; Chief Jim Morgan, Asst Chief Wallace. Bill Whittington and Sara Simonton present electronically

II. Call to the Public: None

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

Carla Bowen made the motion to accept the September 2022 consent agenda as corrected.
Seconded by Ernie Lawes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

IV. Board Business

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

Sara Simonton (JVG) gave a brief summary of the September 2022 financial reports.
All documents and reports are included in the packet.

A few highlights;

Navajo County Revenue for September was \$428,657 which was \$319,642 over budget.

Wildland Revenue was over budget by \$114,636 and grant revenue was under by \$48,381

Expenses for September were \$629,882, which were over budget by \$124,458

Personnel expense was \$108,987 over budget due to Wildland and associated expenses.

Year to date total revenue was \$1,097,592 which was \$326,635 over budget

Wildland Fire was \$220,803 over budget.

Grant income was \$145,739 under budget.

Year to date expenses were \$1,933,431 which were over by \$493,280, mostly due to wildland fire -including personnel, travel, and fuel for deployments.

Total Cash was \$2,733,849 – which was \$192,440 less than this time last year.

Cash position \$2.7 million compared to last year at \$2.9 this time of year.

Other assets were up at \$11million compared to last year at \$10million.

District Percentages were Personnel 78%, Ops at 18%, Admin at 3% Communication 1%

Mrs. Simonton told them that when cash goes down assets typically go up. Mrs. Bowen would like to track the amounts as we go forward - in real time - expenses vs assets, in order to make a determination for a lease purchase option to lessen the burden on district funding. Chief Morgan reminded them that the district is in better Cash Position than a number of years prior. He also reminded them that we still have resource money coming in and people going out, he assured them we will show reports tracking real time expenses and revenue.

Fire Districts are also waiting for the voting results on prop 310 – it would be wildly funded by tourism throughout the state of Arizona, if it goes through it should generate approximately 3 million for the district the first year maybe allowing us to take some of the burden off of our property tax payers.

Ben Borrego made the motion to accept the September 2022 Financial reports as presented. Seconded by Ernie Lawes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

2. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Entering into a property lease agreement with Navajo County for a 20-year period.**

All documents are included in the board packet. With the return of the Sheriff's office across the street, parking has become extremely limited and cramped. Deputy Swanty advised Chief Morgan that they need their parking lot and would offer us the old Sheriff's posse area for overflow parking for the district employees. The county would like to offer for a \$1.00 annual lease, up to 20 years with a 5-year option in years after.

Chief Morgan; there is an old structure on the property. It would provide a unique training opportunity for our firefighters and a class we are hosting, then disassembled and hauled off. He explained there would be small cost for grading, gravel and a possible security fence. A question arose about adding a pad or building, he assured the board we have no plans for that.

Ernie Lawes made the motion to approve the 20-year lease agreement with Navajo County for \$1.00 per year as presented. Seconded by Ben Borrego. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

3. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Accepting a State Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$88,000.00**

All documents included in packet. Chief Morgan; SHSGP homeland security grant to improve interoperable communications. PFD and TMFMD radio infrastructure has limitations with coverage and multiple drop offs. Hopefully this would eliminate our problems with two towers – one at Station 11 and one at St 12. Total cost for the complete build would be approximately \$218,000 for each tower and would be phased over 4 years due to costs and share costs. Phase 1 would be the erection of the tower and funding of them- a full year of work. Phase 2 would address the tower microwave repeaters. The grant is a non-matching grant but with the cost of the project we would have to fund 50% of that cost and the grant would fund 50%. Chief told them that if proposition 310 passed we would be able to fund the project with no problems and would not have to spread over 4 years

The towers will be approx. 150 ft tall, at St 11 that may vary due to the grade of the hill behind where the water tanks are. There was a lot of discussion about negative public perception for towers vs. cosmetics, they all expressed the need for positive public information. If the public

knows how the project will benefit all things emergency in the whole area, maybe they will get onboard. The board agreed that PFD will have to provide good public safety information outlining how the benefits would outweigh any negative impact.

There was discussion about if someone else would possibly lease space on our towers and Chief Morgan told them NO.

Then discussion about the lease purchase (COPS) and how the project could possibly affect St 12 with the C.O.P.s collateral funding, Chief Morgan told them there shouldn't be a problem, we would start the project as soon as possible - but at project finish the C.O.P.S would probably be paid off, thus eliminating the possibility of any problems that could arise.

Carla Bowen made the motion authorizing the fire chief to execute subrecipient agreement 22-AZDOHS-HSGP-220103-02 accepting grant funds for communication improvements in the amount of \$88,000.00 as presented. Seconded by Ernie Lawes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

4. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Discussion on Fire District recourse to address homeless encampments on district property.

Chief Morgan; Mrs. Bowen requested this item be on the agenda, there is no RBA because we have not gotten all the paperwork researched and in order. This has become a worsening problem not just here but around the country. Attorney Bill Whittington told them that with current legislation the district really has no recourse. You cannot even chase them away unless there is somewhere designated for them to go. Chief Morgan asked if we could maybe charge them rent for camping on district property. Mr. Whittington told them he would look into it. We will revisit this item again when we have more information and update the board accordingly. There was a brief discussion about security fencing around district property and camping in the forest which is directly behind the property. Informational at this time, no board action.

V. Summary of events

1. Chief Report

- a. Report is included in the board packets; Chief Morgan advised the board that Linda Kramer had retired. He told them she is a very private person and did not wish a party or attention. We did however award her an engraved axe for her service and outstanding community service- she said was very grateful for her years at Pinetop Fire district and how it allowed her to be involved in the community. She was an employee for 15 years.
- b. AFDA would be in Laughlin this year in January 2023.
- c. Chief updated them about our board election being cancelled- the two incumbents were running and no one else. He told them that Mr. Baker and MR. Rowlinson had officially been elected. He said that Mr. Baker may be resigning his position at the next board meeting.

2. Board Chair Report

Nothing significant to report

**VI. Future Meeting Dates:
November 21, 2022**

VII. Announcements

1. Update on encampments on district property
2. The Board would like to see a tracking report in detail of where the district financial stability after the major expenses. She would also like to see the assessed valuation projection
3. Possible resignation of a board member and the board needing to consider a replacement.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins

Approved