

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board

**June 16, 2025**

Pinetop Fire District Station 12

Video & Conference Available

1845 S. Pine Lake Rd, Pinetop AZ 85935

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

**Roll Call of Board Members, Present John Rowlinson, Edi Webber, Ben Borrego, and Steve Voldal. Marcus Harding was absent.**

Administration Attending: Chief Jim Morgan, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, Karen Robbins, Gabe Buldra.

**1. Call 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.*

Approval of meeting minutes for May 2025

Approval of Warrants paid May 2025

Edith Webber made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Ben Borrego. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**III. Board Business**

**1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Presentation and approval of June 2025 Financial Reports.**

Gabe Buldra present for financial reports. All reports are included in the June Board Packet for reference. Some highlights were.

Navajo County tax collection was slightly up, by \$657,090.

Non-Levy – Ambulance, fuels reduction and Grant were under budget and Interest Income was up.

Total Expenses for May were over budget, also over budget were Managerial-variance likely the end of year uniform expenses. Personnel Travel/Training, were under budget driven by lower employee training.

Year to date Revenue was over budget by \$1,774,225 driven by Wildland revenue and Ambulance Revenue.

Year to date Expenses were over budget driven by additional wildland deployments.

Total Cash at \$13543,058 which is \$9,890,565 more than last year, due to the GO Bond process.

Please refer to the board reports and any questions or concerns should be directed to Gabe Buldra or Sara Simonton, from the James Vincent Group.

Note: we are 100% budget spent for the year.  
Chief Morgan was asked to give a summary of hopeful upcoming grant projects.

Ben Borrego made the motion to accept the 2025 May Financial reports as presented.  
Seconded by Steve Voldal. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

2. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Adoption of Tentative 2025/2026 Proposed Budget.**

Mr. Buldra gave a summary of the budget – he told them it is just as it was at the last meeting with the change of the 10cent increase to property tax – allowing us to balance the budget. He summarized each category and explained the Ambulance money increase and the need to quit offering Supportive Funding write off for property taxpayers. There was some discussion about the tax write off and chief Morgan explained that it is basically just a courtesy and not exactly approved by DHS. Mr. Buldra suggested we adopt a hardship policy, so we were not just leaving people who maybe needed help.

He talked about the new BC positions and how that would help scheduling with the high OT rate we are experiencing. He explained they would better manage the backfilling and PTO so there was not as much OT taking place. He told the board it was not going to add that much to the budget, maybe only about \$50,000 more, which should pay for itself with OT management alone.

There were questions about training and tuition reimbursement and how that looked to be a smaller amount this year. Chief Morgan explained that the people did not seem interested in some of the training courses they had already attended at one point or another and the tuition reimbursement was increased.

A few maintenance projects were scheduled for both stations – they are aging, and we need to keep them up.

Steve Voldal asked about the capital replacement plan and Chief Morgan explained how our process works.

Chairman Rowlinson added that we will need to be very careful next year.

Steve Voldal made the motion to approve and tentatively adopt the 2025/2026 fiscal budget, fee schedule and wage scale as presented. Seconded by Edi Webber. Motion passed 4-0.

3. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: PSPRS Pension Funding Policy for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year.**

Chief Morgan, we need to adopt a PSPRS funding policy in accordance with A.R.S. title 38-863.01.

This will have to wait until the next meeting to have all the correct numbers. This is an annual process.

We will revisit this at the next board meeting.

4. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Adoption of the 2025/2026 MOU with the Pinetop Chapter of the White Mountain Firefighters Association Local 4217**

Chief Morgan, you have all had copies of the MOU for a while now and have had time to review the documents. There were a few changes with the MOU and after much review and discussion we should be at a point where we can have a vote.

Mr. Rowlinson had some discussion about his experience with firefighters and how he found this to be a good policy. He summarized the document and went over several points.

Everyone agreed this is a good policy.

Edi Webber made the motion to adopt the 2025/2026 MOU representing the Pinetop Fire Firefighters Local 4217 as presented. Seconded by Ben Borrego. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

5. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Selection of a Consulting Firm for Fire Chief Replacement**

Chief Morgan, this is the first step in the planning process to hire a new Fire Chief. He summarized the five different proposals – Included in the packet. Chief Morgan’s recommendation would be the HRS and ESCI. They were the most comprehensive proposals. He explained that Brenda Tranchina HRS is familiar with the district and engaged in his hiring process. There was little discussion, and the board all agreed.

Ben Borrego made the motion authorizing the Fire Chief to enter a contract with HRS for the recruitment of Fire Chief as presented. Seconded by Steve Voldal. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

6. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Wildland fire conditions update.**

Chief Morgan – Included in the board packet is some statistical information for you to see where we are with Wildland Fire Danger. We are currently at PL2 nationally and locally. We are not as bad as we could be, but we have no measurable rain in the forecast for at least the next 10 days. Unless we see some measurable rain, we really need to be aware of the conditions and restrictions. We are still in Stage 2 restrictions.

There was some discussion about the local HOA causing trouble for residents and Chief Morgan told them that collectively we would like to see “chains of properties” that are Firewise and treated. Moreover, there was discussion about hardening homes with siding and other things to prevent ignition if there was a fire.

This is informational only – no board action.

IV. **Summary of Current Events**

1. **Fire Chief Report** – Discussion about personnel, Jimmy Meek and Ryan Carpenter getting their paramedic class graduation. Congratulations to Ryan and Jimmy, Ryan has been practicing, and Jimmy just completed his required hours so he will be testing soon.

Announcing Captain Moseley, Captain Halcomb and Captain Altop for their new roles as BC for A, B, C. Congratulations.

The Firewise Even it is scheduled for July 12 at BRSD in Lakeside.

V. **Announcements.**

AFDA is going to be July 14-18 in Glendale if anyone wants to attend.

Next Board Meeting is July 21, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 18:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted

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Karen Robbins