

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board

October 20, 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 5:01 pm

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

Administration Attending: Chief Jim Morgan, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, Karen Robbins. Sara Simonton and Bill Whittington were remote.

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 September 2025

Approval of Warrants paid September 2025

Edith Webber made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Steve Voldal Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

111. Personnel

Swearing in – Fred Riley and Daniel Brubaker. Badges were not ready yet so there will be. They were both sworn in as official firefighters for Pinetop Fire District. Badge Pinning for them later.

New Battalion Chief Richie Halcomb was present for his official promotional badge pinning by his wife, Paige.

The other two will be pinned at a later board meeting, Ben Alsop and Allison Moseley.

IV. Board Business

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Presentation and approval of September 2025 Financial Reports.

Sara Simonton was present remotely for financial reports. All reports are included in the September Board Packet for reference. Some highlights were.

Navajo County tax collection was under budget by about \$290,000.00 they had a mistake on the mailers which has caused a delay in payments – this has since been corrected. Payments should start coming in.

Non-Levy Revenue is up slightly due to wildland fire deployments.

Ambulance is down slightly, and interest income was slightly over.

Total Expenses for September were over budget, Personnel and Travel/Training were also over budget driven by wildland deployments.

Year to date Revenue was under budget by about \$30,982.

Property tax revenue is under by about \$300,000.00.
Wildland revenue was over by about \$221,000.00.
Interest income was over by about \$118,000.00.
Donations were over budget by \$39,220.00.
Ambulances are under \$70,393 but seems to be rising.

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

Total Cash was down from this time last year by about \$778,238.00.

Percentages were 80% personnel, 13% ops 5% admin and 2% communications.

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

Ben Borrego made the motion to accept the 2025 September Financial reports as presented. Seconded by Marcus Harding. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

2. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Update to the Fire Chief Hiring Process**

Chief Morgan, there will be a delay in the Chief Selection Process, there was a problem with the website, and we did not receive enough candidates, we were hoping for at least three but one was not viable according to Brenda TRANCHINA. It just seems like the timing was not right with school and people having to move their families and maybe waiting a little bit longer would give us more candidates. The problem with the website was also a factor and maybe if we wait just a little while we can get all the problems resolved. Chief Morgan will keep them in the loop as any developments happen. He will be willing to extend his contract as long as needed or July 7, 2026.

Information only, no board action.

3. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Fire Chief Contract Extension**

Chief Morgan explained that Mr. Whittington had done the contract extension and if it were the board's pleasure he would stay on until possibly July 7, and for consultation if we were to hire someone sooner.

Marcus Harding made the motion to authorize the board chair to execute the addendum to the fire chief's employment agreement as presented. Seconded by Edi Webber. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

4. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Station 10 construction updates**

Chief Morgan we were provided preliminary estimate on St 10 complex, and all in – it would cost about \$37,000,000.00. That was based on conversations and not the actual cost with all the work problems involving the malpais rock in the area. Estimate is that we would have to do like here at ST 11 and dig down about forty-eight inches and replace the dirt and rock with packable soil which adds tremendous cost – not even including the inflated cost of concrete at this time. Also, the town just adopted the 2024 building code, which adds costs we could not foresee for energy efficiency, sprinklers and alarms adding 10-15% increase in cost.

We are talking about using metal builds, like TMFMD, maybe eliminate the second story and administration offices for the time being and have gender neutral bathrooms shaving the cost of urinals for the men's rooms, these are just a few of the ideas to shave down costs. We have

approximately \$14.9 million dollars for the station build. Reducing costs would allow us to start moving forward.

This is informational only – no board action.

V. Summary of Current Events

Fire Chief Report – is included in your packet. Chief Morgan wanted to express his appreciation to TMFMD and let them know that we support them with their LODDs. He told the board that it is hard as a district to come back from one death, and they experienced three. We have seven candidates for Captain; they will be testing in the following weeks. We need to have active succession planning.

Board Chair thanked everyone who helped and participated in the services and backup for Timber Mesa Fire. Also, including Flagstaff, we have a truck over there for their loss.

VI. Announcements.

AFDA please let the Chiefs know if you plan to attend so they can get you a room. January 14-16, 2026

Next Board Meeting is November 17, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 18:23 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins