

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board

December 21, 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, Edith Webber, Ben Borrego, Marcus Harding, Steve Voldal.

Administration Attending: Chief Jim Morgan, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, and Gabe Buldra. Attorney Tomas Montoya was remote.

1. Call the Public

Keith Plympton addressed the board about the Fire Chief Hiring process and having a seat at the table during the selection process.

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 November 2025

Approval of Warrants paid November 2025

Ben Borrego made the motion to approve the November 2025 Consent agenda as presented. Second, by Edith Webber made the motion unanimously 5-0.

III. Personnel

Badge Penning Ceremony for Battalion Chiefs, Allison Moseley, and Ben Altop

Captains – Eric Brown, Louis Mirabelli, Jaret Jensen, and Garret McCloud.

Firefighters, Ryan Mary, Frederico Riley and Daniel Brubaker

Frederico Riley received personal news and was unable to attend. We will get to him another day. All had family or someone to pin them. Big congratulations to them for the work in getting their positions and promotions.

Additionally Chief Morgan requested a summary of a working fire that was located at Mogollon Vista Estates. The board was shown a video and heard a summary from Battalion Chief Richie Halcomb. Chief told the Board that Chief Halcomb had overseen 223 major incidents since becoming a Battalion Chief at the end of June 2025.

IV. Board Business

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

Gabe Buldra from JVG is here to present the financial reports. All reports are included in the board Packet.

Non-Levy Revenue is over budget by almost \$520,897, mostly due to wildland deployments, which are over by \$225,638.

Interest income was over by almost \$330,038.

Ambulance billing for the month was slightly over by \$43,543.

Total Expenses for September were over budget, Personnel and Travel/Training were also over budget driven by wildland deployments.
Building and land were over budget due to unbudgeted debt service payment for the Zions Loan
Vehicles and Equipment were over budget due to additional costs for wildland cost share for PPE purchases.

Year to date Revenue was over budget by #613,242.
Property tax revenue is under \$938,078.
Wildland revenue was over by about \$972,495.
Interest income was over by about \$554,123.
Ambulances are under \$89,682.

Year to date Expenses were over budget by #711,756 - driven by additional wildland deployments, Zions Debt payment and increase in Salaries and Wages which are also over, due to Salaries and wages.

Total Cash less the bond is \$4,214,513 which is up from last year, a little over #180,000.

Percentages were 79% personnel, 14% ops 4% admin and 3% 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 December Financial reports as presented. Seconded by Edi Webber. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

2. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Adopting resolution 25-03 to pay off Station 11 lease purchase agreement with Zion's Bancorp with bond proceeds in the amount of 1,680,549.68 and any associated per diem.**

Chief Morgan, as adopted by the board as part of the budget we discussed eliminating the lease purchase for ST 11 and the prior purchase of portion of the land for St 10. He gave a summary of the presentation with Nick Dodd and the Bond underwriter to authorized Pinetop Fire District to be able to use a portion of the proceeds to pay off other aspects, St 11, and St 10 land. Gabe Buldra summarized the budget and line items this item pertains to. Chief Morgan told them they are looking toward the future with a projected growth of over 5% and maybe 5% subsequent years for assessed value.

If we pay this off, we will be looking at \$260,000 in debt service operating fund- not paying would have a negative effect on current and projected budgets forward.

They discussed the future tax rates and what could happen, how to be fiscally responsible during possibly fickle assessments like we saw a couple of years ago. Mr. Buldra demonstrated a forecast budget with assumed AV growth rates.

Marcus Harding made the motion to adopt resolution 25-03 in accordance with the 25-26 budget adoption to pay off the Fire Station 11 lease purchase agreement. Seconded by Edi Webber. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

3. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Adoption of 2026 Board Meeting Calendar**

There was discussion about the holidays and scheduling dates and time for the new year.

Steve Voldal made the motion to approve the proposed 2026 regularly scheduled board meeting dates to include the recommended January and February adjustments to accommodate the Federal Holidays as presented. Seconded by Ben Borrego. Motion Passed unanimously 5-0

4. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Station 10 Construction Updates**

Discussion concerning the build for the St 10 project. Soil testing is upcoming to see what expense that will bring. We are all in cash at approximately 14.9 and that does not include the FFE. Projected actual building money sits at \$12,920,000 The last estimate is around 16.9 million.

There was discussion concerning the added information and setting up the construction for future builds. Chief Morgan feels like we are close to realizing a groundbreaking for the new station. There are many options such as philanthropic country club members have expressed an interest of putting a “brick” in the station and other opportunities, such as grant and other revenue possibilities in the future.

Information only – no board action.

5. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Fire Chief Hiring and the Application Process**

There are currently eight applications- we could have as many as 10-11, some very qualified candidates.

Chief Morgan would like for himself and his command staff to review the applications before submitting them to the HR person for review. We could do all the vetting in house and then turn it over to her; he has complete confidence in our command personnel.

Chief Morgan also reminded them that the Labor Group would also like a seat at the table. He said the board had set ambitious standards for applicants. There was discussion about a 30-day window and closing the application process in February. There was discussion to include someone from the labor group. But they suggested Chief and Command do the initial vetting and interviews and then allow a representative from labor into the mix.

John made the motion to authorize the Fire Chief to form a candidate application review committee, including the command staff, review with committee, including command staff and a representative of the Labor Group for the position of Fire Chief. Seconded by Ben Borrego. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

V. Summary of Current Events

Fire Chief Report – is included in your packet. Clarification, Chief Berlin is not leaving the district as previously thought. Christmas party reminder.

VI. Announcements.

AFDA meeting is on January 14th, 16th in Laughlin.

Next Board Meeting is January 26, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins