

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board

February 23, 2026

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, Steve Voldal, Marcus Harding via telephone.

Administration Attending: Chief Jim Morgan, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, Karen Robbins. Bill Whittington and Sara Simonton were virtual as well as Lydia Hunter from Beach Fleishman

1. Call the Public

None.

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 January 2026

Approval of Warrants paid January 2026

Ben Borrego made the motion to approve the January 2025 Consent agenda as presented. Second by Edi Webber. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

IV. Board Business

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; 2024-2025 Annual Audit Presentation from Beach Fleishman

Lydia Hunter from Beach Fleishman was present to give a summary of the 2024-2025 Audit for the district. Once again Pinetop Fire District received an "unmodified clean opinion." This is the highest consideration for the process. There were three things she wanted to point out and that was the Pension liability and the collectability for our Ambulance Accounts and untimely signed PAFs. She explained there were no complaints from administration and nothing to communicate.

We need to write off uncollectable accounts for ambulance service, having so many uncollectable accounts left on the books makes the overall health of our ambulance program look poor. PFD is currently working with our EMS billing to get the accounts written off. She did point out that our cash was trending downward, but we just need to be a little more conservative in our spending. There were some PAFs in our payroll system that were not signed promptly, due to staff on wildland fires, but we will work on that to see they are signed timelier. The pension liability is always noted as this is one of our main concerns throughout the year.

She pointed out that personnel costs with overtime and wildland fire backfills were a little higher last year. Chief Morgan explained how hiring full-time personnel, such as reserves, would lower the overall cost of Overtime.

There was discussion about the ambulance accounts, supportive funding being voted down, and writing off the uncollectable accounts to see a better picture of our program.

Ben Borrego made a motion to accept the annual 2024-2025 financial audit for the Pinetop Fire District as presented. Seconded by Edi Webber. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

2. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Presentation and approval of January 2026 financial reports**

Sara Simonton 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 \$118,184.
Fuels Reduction income is over budget by \$35,917.
Interest income is over budget also at \$95,298.00.

Total Expenses were under budget by \$102,598.
Buildings and land, grant and managerial expenses were all also under budget.

Year to date Revenue was over budget by over budget by \$1,705,971.
Property tax revenue is under \$152,604.
Wildland revenue was over by about \$254,557.
Ambulances are under \$130,795.

Year to date Expenses were over budget by \$571,278- 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 \$3,622,608 which is up from last year, a little over \$207,244.

Percentages were 80% personnel, 13% 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.

Steve Voldal made the motion to accept the 2026 January financial reports as presented. Seconded by Edi Webber. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

3. **Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Station 10 Construction updates.**

Chief Morgan: we are finally moving in a more positive direction and should have considerably more information in the coming weeks. Things are moving along. Chief told them it looks like we can break ground somewhere from May to July. Chief asked Core to do two estimates.

1. Build the foundation infrastructure, and fully build the bays, fitness center, and wildland station.
2. The aspect noted in item 1 and build all exterior walls and roof systems, build a shell for the fire station part of the facility.

There was discussion about the cost to build currently. Chief told them we are looking in on a price for the building of the Wildland Fire Station for around 12.9. If we did a "gray shell

build” for the added fire station it would allow for the station to be finished as time and money allows. Chief is also checking on other grants for funding in the future. There was also discussion about ways to help fund the new buildings with donations or investments. This is informational only, no board action.

4. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Fire Chief Hiring and the Application process.

Discussion about the Fire Chief Hiring process, chief told them that we have several applications, and we are hoping for 3-4 good candidates. We will know more by next board meeting. He told them we may have to adjust the salary if we do not see a good pool. He is confident we will see something positive by the next meeting. The close date for applications is February 23; the application review committee should meet the following week. The assessment center would be scheduled from April 14th to the 16th. April 16th would be the meet and greet and board interviews of the candidates. Then we will have a consideration. Informational only – no board action.

V. Summary of Current Events

Fire Chief Report – There was discussion about bark beetles in our area and how poor the snowpack was this year, which if we do not get more moisture we could have an extremely active fire season. Edi Webber brought up the hydrant problems in the area. There was discussion about hydrant buying and water flow.

John asked about the Fire up on Mogollon Vista. Chief said there was information in the packet, specifically in the Chief’s Report. It was accidental and is still under investigation.

VI. Announcements.

If anyone has anything for the agenda, please send your request to Chief Morgan

The next Board Meeting is March 16th, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins