

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board

January 26, 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 - Edith Webber, Ben Borrego, Marcus Harding, Steve Voldal. John Rowlinson was excused.

Administration Attending: Chief Jim Morgan, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, Karen Robbins, Attorneys' Bill Whitting and Jeff Matura were present. Sara Simonton from JVG was remote.

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 December 2025

Approval of Warrants paid December 2025

Steve Voldal made the motion to approve the December 2025 Consent agenda as presented.
Second, Ben Borrego made the motion unanimously 4-0.

III. Personnel

Employee Recognition for Cole Estes – Chief Morgan gave a plaque to Cole Estes and discussed the wonderful things he is doing for the district Fleet Service. All our vehicles are on schedule now. The district is seeing the positive benefits. We are lucky to have him on our team.

IV. Possible vote to go into Executive Session

Discussion/Consideration/Possible Action re: possible vote to go into executive session for legal advice. pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3); and possible instructions to attorney pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(4) regarding "Notice of Claim and Charge of Discrimination from JD Ottman".

Ben Borrego made the motion to enter Executive Session at 5:19. Seconded by Steve Voldal. Motion passed unanimously 4-0

Back to public Session 5:42pm

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re Direction to staff or district attorney to proceed as instructed in the executive session regarding "Notice of Claim and Charge of Discrimination from JD Ottman."

Steve Voldal made a motion to direct legal counsel to continue as directed in executive session on the JD Ottman matter. Seconded by Ben Borrego. Motion passed unanimously 4-0

Ben Borrego had to leave for a personal matter.

V. Board Business

2. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Presentation and approval of December 2025 Financial Reports

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

Navajo County Property Tax Revenue for December was over budget.
Non-Levy Revenue was also over as well as interest income. Ambulance revenue was still under budget by about 34,860.

Total Expenses for December were under budget, Personnel and Travel/Training were also over budget driven by wildland deployments.
Grant Expenses were under budget due to timing of grant awards.
Vehicles and Equipment were under budget due lower than normal vehicle repair and maintenance costs.

Year to date Revenue was over budget by \$672,637 driven by wildland fire.
Property tax revenue is under budget.
Wildland and interest revenue was over budget.
Ambulances are under \$124,542.

Year to date Expenses were over budget by \$672,637 over budget - driven by more 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 \$3,785,297 which is up from last year, a little over \$72,707 from this time last year.

Percentages were 74.70 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.

Steve Voldal made the motion to accept the 2025 December Financial reports as presented.
Seconded by Marcus Harding. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

3. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Ambulance write off Policy

Chief Morgan began the discussion about the supportive funding policy. Statutes say we can. Providing this service for a long time. The district will lose about \$75,000.00 in Revenue for this next year if we don't decide today. This is a courtesy that we have provided and unfortunately with the economy and other business factors it is not something we can keep doing. Realizing it sounds like a great service to taxpayers, ultimately it ends up costing them. Insurance is paying less and less and we seem to be writing off increasingly, we just need to stop this service. There was a discussion about ambulance rates and the write offs that insurance imposes on healthcare providers.

Marcus Harding made the motion to rescind resolution 2013-03 discontinuing the provision of supportive funding for ambulance transportation. Second, by Steve Hardy. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

4. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; On authorizing the fire chief to enter Into the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact

Discussion about Standard practice for mutual aid, local agreements for seamless borders. Chief explained about State Arizona Department of Fire Management and that we should take part in case of a disaster, so we could seek reimbursement. This is also to provide an open door to federal and state funding. Resource sharing and multiplying the responsive resources. This will also coordinate planning and joint exercises among participating entities.

Marcus Harding made the motion to authorize the fire chief enter the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact (AZMAC) through the Emergency Management Division of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs as presented. Seconded by Steve Voldal. Motion passed 3-0.

5. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Entering an IGA with Navajo County Sheriff for White Mountain Regional Special Response Team participation (SRT)

Chief Morgan explained we have been providing tactical medical support personnel to the Navajo County joint law enforcement special response team. The Team has been functional for About a year. Our personnel received specialized training to aid in the unfortunate situation, where a law enforcement officer is shot during tactical incident. We would be aiding SWAT or any other specialized tactical team in the area. There was some discussion about liability and professional malpractice.

Marcus Harding made the motion to enter an IGA with the NCSO for participation in the joint. SRT task force as presented. Steve Voldal seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

6. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Entering an IGA with Navajo County Sheriff for SRT Vehicle

Discussion about using a support vehicle from Navajo County for use with the IGA for SRT. Chief explained that this would be a donated vehicle and we would manage the upkeep of the vehicle, which would be general maintenance only.

Mr. Whittington has reviewed the documentation.

Edi Webber made the motion to enter an IGA with the Navajo County Sheriff's Department for an SRT vehicle agreement as presented. Seconded by Marcus Harding. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

7. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Station 10 updates.

Chief Morgan told the board about the positive soil report. There was discussion about the Reports that were provided in the packet. The district is reviewing cost estimates for added alternatives. Chief and Cory have been working hard and having several meetings with Core Construction which have provided updates on design changes to combine the facility plan. We should have updated plans and an added cost estimate soon.

This is informational only – no board action.

8. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Fire Chief Hiring

Chief Morgan gave a brief update on the fire chief hiring process. He told them that we would file again in January and the fire chief website has 550 views so far. 11 had pulled brochures and we had 2 apps at time of the meeting. The target is 5-6 but ideally, we may need 7 quality candidates. We would have an assessment center and meet and greet interviews with Brenda Tranchina

This is informational only – no board action.

V. Summary of Current Events

Fire Chief Report – Kelly Wood Celebration of life. We appreciate all the logistical support and help from Chief Wallac3e.

Grant mitigation – chief is expecting some more grants.

The investigation for the Mogollon Vista Fire was ongoing. It looks like an accident from the propane tanks, but more investigation is needed.

VI. Announcements.

Next Board Meeting is February 23, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins

APPROVED