

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board

April 19, 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, Steve Voldal, Marcus Harding, and Ben Borrego resigned his position.

Administration Attending: Chief Jim Morgan, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, Interim Fire Marshal Charles Rose, Karen Robbins, Sara Simonton, Louis Mirabelli WMFFA/Labor group and Catrina Jenkins.

Attorney Thomas Montoya attended virtually.

1. Call the Public

Louis Mirabelli from Local 4217 addressed the board, support for the Board's decision to offier Josh Livermore the Fire Chief position. He affirmed the union's goal to collaborate with the district, and he offered help from the political action committee (PAC) to any member running for re-election.

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 March 2026

Approval of Warrants paid March 2026

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Edi Webber. Steve Voldal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

IV. Board Business

1. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Presentation and approval of March 2026 financial reports

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

Navajo County Revenue for March is under budget by \$2,615.

Non-Levy Revenue is over budget by \$83,370.

Ambulance service is under budget by \$32,919.

Grant Revenue is over budget by \$72,605.

Interest income is over budget by \$32,352.

Total Expenses for March were \$647,364 which is over by \$20,068.

Travel and Training were almost \$10,000 under budget due to employee training and tuition reimbursement.

Grant Expenses were \$39,133 under budget due to timing of grant awards.

Personnel expenses were over budget due to timing of overtime and holiday expenses.

Managerial costs were over by \$17,942 due to liability insurance payments.

Credit card expenses were not posted in the amount of \$49,033 due to missing coding by staff.

Year to date Revenue was over budget by over budget by \$1,773,716.
FDAT Revenue was under budget by \$201,307.
Wildland Revenue was over budget by \$1,602,325.
Interest income is over budget by about \$1,602,325.
Property tax revenue is under \$152,604.
Fuels Reduction Revenue was over by about \$130,171.
Ambulance Revenue is under budget by \$207,745.

Year to date Expenses were over budget by \$632,958- driven by additional wildland deployments...

Total Cash less the bond is \$2,538,898 which is down \$894,705 from this time last year.

Percentage was 79% personnel, 12% ops 6% 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.

Sara Simonton from JVG provided an overview of the budget planning process and schedule for FY027. Documents included in the packet.

Significant items where AV grew by 5.28%, increasing property tax revenue by approximately \$326,000, totaling \$6.5 million.

Edi Webber asked if we were only at 22% of the budget left for fiscal 25-26, Mrs. Simonton told her that is correct.

Ambulance revenue hopefully is resolving itself – currently is under by \$277,000.00. We did have the collection and write off set to happen. And we have gotten rid of the Supportive Funding situation.

Significant expenditures, Cost of living adjustment in 2.8% is being considered which raises personal costs by \$150,000.00.

PSPRS and ASRS have both decreased this year.

Healthcare has become a big problem at a 78% increase. The district will be looking at alternatives.

There was a discussion about wildland fire and fuel costs.

Steve Voldal made the motion to accept the April 2026 financial reports as presented.

Seconded by Edi Webber. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

2. **Discussion/Consideration; November 2026 mid-term Fire Board Call of Election.**

Chief Morgan advised that John Rowlinson and Marcus Harding were up for election this upcoming season and he explained the packet for them to get signatures. He told them they only need fourteen signatures and if not contested we would not have call an election and it would save the district about \$8000.00.

Ben Borrego resigned his position, and we have 90 days to appoint a new board member. Chief advised them that we will post the position at both Stations and in the newspaper and we will hopefully have some candidates to chose from at upcoming meetings. There were limited discussion and questions.

This is informational only, no board action.

3. **Discussion/Consideration; Presenting Draft Navajo County CWPP for consideration.**

Chief Morgan – Catrina Jenkins is here to provide and update. Catrina gave an overview of what is to be expected. This plan is crucial for securing federal grants and emphasizes action and accountability. Documents were provided in the packet. This is a locally driven effort to reduce risk after identifying wildland fire strategies. This involves public and private land in our area, every risk is identified and mitigation strategies are developed to reduce risk and improve forest health.

John Rowlinson is worried about the property at Buck Springs Resort and their huge piles of slash. It is a fire hazard if one is to start or come through there. Chief told them that Charles would be checking on it to see if they would be cleaning it up. They have new owners.

There were some questions and discussions about local properties and funding. What accountability would look like, and how the plan would affect our area.

Steve Voldal made the motion to approve resolution 2026-01 adopting the 2026 Navajo County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Seconded by Marcus Hardinng. Motion carried unanimously 4-0

4. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Professional Service Agreement for Fire Plan Review.

Chief Morgan, we do plan reviews for businesses and sometimes residential homes. With the retirement of Fire Marshal Berlin, who was a qualified plan reviewer, we have an interim solution to the Fire Marshal, but we would still need certified plan reviewers. There were quotes from local qualified vendors- these would be for consultation/certification if needed. We would use either of these two companies, NAIS and SCA, for review services. There was limited discussion. Keep in mind Charles is in training, he is working towards his certification. Chief added that we would be reimbursed through our cost fees. Edi Webber highlighted third party vendor in the short term.

Edi Webber made the motion authorizing the fire chief to enter into an agreement with NAIS and SCA for fire plan review professional services. Seconded by Marcus Harding. Motion passed unanimously 4-0

5. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re; Station 10 construction updates

Chief Morgan, Perlman is making progress to hopefully begin our building –but there are some uncertainties.

1. An electrical engineer determined the single-phase power at Station 10 is insufficient and requires a three-phase power upgrade of 8000 ft coming from Safeway at an estimated cost of \$74,000.
2. Fire flow is also inadequate, necessitating a water tank and fire pumps to achieve the necessary fire flow. Hopefully, however, Arizona Water has a five-year plan to improve the water main which could make that tank unnecessary, they have a new manager, and we have yet to meet with him. The current water line is an old undersized four-inch line, and we probably need a 6-inch line – we are trying to pin down Arizona Water so we can confirm the improvement timeline with the water company.

Chief has also put in for a congressional direct spending grant for 6.25 million dollars to cover station build costs and provide more funding for the building project.

Edi Webber wanted to know if the architect was aware of these problems. Chief told the board no, not until they started looking into the utilities needed for the project. Mrs. Webber also

wanted to know if we could maybe get a grant to help with the water problem, chief said that if we received the 6.25 grant we could use some of that money.

Mrs. Webber made the point that people are asking why the station has not broken ground yet. John Rowlinson suggested that maybe we should do a press release to let citizens know what is going on with the building. Edi Webber wants to do some kind of information for the public.

Steve Voldal asked if we have an actual estimated price for the water tanks and pumps. Chief told him we have not gotten a price yet. The lines would run from Springer Mountain to our property. It will run on the new road we are allowing with the city. John Rowlinson stated that a lot of the water lines in Pinetop are old and the water companies are trying to fund newer lines. It takes a while, especially in our current situation economically.

A concern was brought up about handing over the state of the new station to the new chief, but Chief Morgan has agreed to remain involved due to grant management duties. He will still have direct involvement in the project.

This is informational only – no board action.

6. Discussion/Consideration/Possible Approval re: Fire Chief Hiring Process.

John Rowlinson suggested we table this discussion until further date. Josh Livermore was offered the position – we need to let the process play out – to hire him.

This is informational only – no board action.

V. Summary of Current Events

Fire Chief Report – Wildland season is upon us and there are costs for wildland firefighting, such as fuel. Fuel is continuing to rise in price, currently we have fuel cards and there should not be any problems.

SRT and SWAT– Louis Mirabelli can carry a weapon and is participating in SRT, then they always have a medic on hand if things were to go wrong. He is sworn in like a deputy.

VI. Announcements.

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

Points:

Board selection if we receive any letters of interest.

We should have a detailed analysis of the budget presented at the May 18th meeting.

Tentative FY 2027 budget adoption is scheduled for the June 15th board meeting with final adoption in July.

Josh Livermore will go through the necessary procedures to finalize his hiring as Fire Chief.

Charles will provide an update on the Buck Springs Resort Piles.

The next Board Meeting is May 18, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 6:03pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Robbins