

Regular Meeting of Pinetop Fire Board

**May 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 - John Rowlinson, Edith Webber, Steve Voldal, Marcus Harding was absent**

Administration Attending: Karen Robbins, Allison Moseley, Louis Mirabelli were present, Asst Chief Richard Wallace, Attorney Thomas Montoya, Gabe Buldra- JVG, were virtual.

Note; this is a special meeting for budget and board member business.

**1. Call the Public**

None

**IV. Board Business**

**1. Possible vote to go into executive session.**

Chairman Rowlinson: Carin Rubin was given the 24-hour notification of the possible executive session. She declined executive session and said she had no preference and would like to proceed in public session.

**2. Discussion/Consideration; Interview and possible Appointment of applicant Carin Rubin to fill vacant board position.**

Note: Carin Rubin lives in the Pinetop Fire district. Attorney Thomas Montoya noted also there is no conflict of interest.

Edi Webber had some questions about Carin Rubin's Employment with State Farm, her ties to the local firefighter union and staff. There was some discussion that we should have advertised longer to see if there were other qualified candidates interested. There was also concern that Mrs. Rubin, being affiliated with State Farm, could possibly put questions in public. Mrs. Rubin told the board of all her qualifications and their discussion concerning insurance companies in the area. Edi Webber expressed concern that there could be a perception of conflict or biased partnership with the Insurance company.

Steve Voldal made the motion to appoint Carin Rubin to fill Mr. Borrego's position as presented. Second, by John Rowlinson. Motion passed with a 2-1 vote.

**3. Discussion/Consideration possible approval; Development and possible approval of tentative budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027**

Chief Livermore: we are hoping to get our budget tentatively approved today with the help of staff and Gabe Buldra from James Vincent Group.

There was discussion about the state of PFD budget. We were handed many hurdles, but it seems like we are at a place where we can balance the budget and not have any increase to our tax rate. Gabe Buldra laid out the budget changes with the health insurance increases, the changes in personnel and the Ambulance program known to us as IFT transports. He noted that in his opinion the IFT's were draining the ambulance program with no way to break even.

He said if we took all the numbers including- personnel, fuel, supplies, wear and tear on the vehicles, and billing – we probably cannot afford to continue the same path. A comment was made about volume and not having enough call load to support the service. Chief Livermore said this was a difficult decision, but the program continues to be upside down. There was a question about our CON and contracts. Mr. Montoya assured the board there were no binding contracts or policies, just a verbal agreement. Our CON and 911 calls will remain the same.

We will have some changes to healthcare which had an initial increase of 78%. We have moved to another company trust, which is still an increase to the district and the employees. The district employee split will have to raise up to 80/20. We are keeping the 3% COLA and Merit increases for those who qualify.

There was discussion about grants and historical spending. Mr. Buldra said there were some additions during the year in personnel which made personnel our biggest budget increase, 3 Battalion Chiefs and 3 Captains which were promoted from within.

Shop tools and equipment were also coming down buildings and land; prevention had some money earmarked but had not been spent historically. Also reducing the staff for that position would also help the budget.

There was discussion about the Fuels Program and grant money.

Chief Livermore: we have a balanced budget – we will still work hard as a team to keep the programs and operating. The wildland revenue is expected to out-perform, we will watch the capital expenses, and we will have some capital reserve next year, which is the goal. We should also see a spending freeze, or be mindful with any spending going forward to the next fiscal budget on July 1 2026.

Edi Webber made the motion to approve the tentative 2026-2027 budget as presented. Seconded by Steve Voldal. Motion passed unanimously 3-0

Chairman Rowlinson thanked everyone for their hard work and timing to meet the objective and keeping the tax rate the same. We hopefully will be stable for another year.

Adjournment at 6:10 pm

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Karen Robbins