

**PINEWOOD FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman - Richard Drinen	Clerk of the Board - Len Friedlund	
Barbara Timberman, Member	Bill DeGroot, Member	Ben Click, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

NONE

STAFF PRESENT:

Acting Chief - Captain Josh Tope	Office Manager - Kim Ball	Captain – Rick Maggard
Derek Day	Terri Perry	Brett Smith
Casey Welsch		

STAFF ABSENT:

Chief - John Welsch

VOLUNTEERS PRESENT:

None

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Sue Drinen	Bunny Click	Bob Timberman
------------	-------------	---------------

Meeting opened at 5:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. A quorum was affirmed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Chairman Drinen explained that Chief Welsch would be absent due to having had surgery on Monday. Chairman Drinen asked Casey Welsch to give the board an update on Chief Welsch. Casey told us that Chief was released from hospital on Thursday but unfortunately he is now back in the hospital due to an infection at the surgical site. Chief should be out in a few days, he has a very positive attitude and he wants to thank everyone for their concern and good wishes.

We all are sending him our best wishes and hopefully he will be out of the hospital in a few days.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for December 18, 2012 were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. NOVEMBER EXPENDITURES:

Chairman Drinen explained that we are 50% thru the year and we are right where we should be for the year. Office Manager Ball explained to board if the carry over funds are added to the income that we are

actually at 65.29% with a total of income of \$2,034,986.23. Chairman Drinen asked if the board had any questions on the financial report, the board had no questions.

OFFICE MANAGER’S REPORT – Office Manager:

A. Ambulance Billing Report:

In December we charged out \$15,467.80, we received \$4,069.68 in payments with a year to date total ambulance income of \$91,638.93. Out of district income for the month was \$1,425.00 with a year to date total of \$9,400.00. We are still waiting for the state land income to come in and Highlands still owes us \$27,791.57. We should be receiving these funds any day now.

B. MONTHLY RUN LOG COMPARISON REPORT:

In December we had 35 medical calls, 0 fire calls and 8 special duty calls for a total of 43 calls for the month. We had 13 transports and transported 14 people to the hospital. We had 27 calls inside the district and 16 calls outside of the district.

Our year to date total on calls was 535; 371 medical, 36 fire, and 128 special duty and with the 250 med room encounters brings our year to date total 785. The total calls inside the district for the year was 410 or 77% and the outside of district total was 125 or 23%.

Member Click asked how many calls we had when the snow storm hit; Captain Tope stated “It was an A shift day and the majority of the calls were slide offs, we did have several walk-in medical transports that day also. The most interesting call was the following week’s storm down at I-17 MP 311 SB; we were called for a rollover, when we got on scene we had one vehicle that rolled over, but it was a refusal. As we were working that scene we had 4 more cars crash behind the accident scene. We ended up having 12 patients but we only transported 1 patient (with their family) to the hospital”.

Chairman Drinen stated “There is a article in the Pinewood News about that accident”. Captain Tope stated “I told Jan all about that accident”.

CHIEF’S REPORT: Acting Chief: Captain, Josh Tope

A. Response Exception Reports:

1. Fire
2. EMS
3. Rescue

Captain Tope explained to the board that Chief Welsch had asked him to be the “Acting Chief” while he is gone. Captain Tope went on to explain that one of the things the Chief wanted him to talk about was our health insurance. Captain Tope stated “Mr. Fendley (our insurance broker) was here 2 weeks ago; we are planning on staying with BCBS but we have 2 options that we can go with; the first option is that we leave everything as is with individuals having a \$10,000.00 deductible and families having a \$20,000.00 deductible which is reimbursed by the district, this would result in an 8% increase in our premiums. The second option is remaining with BCBS with the \$10,000.00 deductible for individuals, \$20,000.00 for a family with an additional deductible of \$2,500.00 for an individual and an additional \$5,000.00 deductible for a family with an 80/20 split with the district paying 80% and the employee paying 20% which will save the district \$800.00 a month savings in the premium costs. This is still under discussion but we are looking at going with the higher deductible”. Captain Tope went on to say “that even with the higher deductible it is going to save money, so that is the option I will bring to the bargaining group”. Then Captain Tope stated “We only had 1 person this year max out their deductible”. Office manager Ball

stated “Actually he only maxed out 1 individual in his family”. Captain Tope went on to say “We have never used all of the money we budget for this category. And we are saving a lot of money on insurance even though the district pays the deductibles on everyone’s insurance. I think it’s a safe bet to go this way and at this time the Chief agrees”.

Office manager Ball explained that we have to renew our insurance by January 31, 2013.

Captain Tope explained to the board that next week he will be meeting with the different crews to talk about the insurance change but he does not foresee any issues with this change.

Captain Tope stated “The other issue Chief Welsch wanted me to go over with you is that we apparently just got awarded a firefighter assistance grant which will focus on purchasing wildland gear for the volunteers. It is a 50/50 grant for \$5,200.00 that has been in the process for over a year now. This grant was budgeted for and we will be spending that money shortly to prepare for the season”.

Captain Tope went on to explain that this month we are doing reserve testing due to having a reserve quit last week. The testing will be this weekend; we have 10 applicants with 3 being volunteers, we also have a promotional spot for the open engineer position, that testing will be done next month on the 11th and 12th of February. We are moving forward and hopefully Chief will be back by then.

Board member Click asked Captain Tope “How do we publicize the reserve program?” Captain Tope explained that he had Matt Burns put it on the website, advertised at Coconino Community College in the fire science classes and he sends it out to all the local fire districts in the state.

Board member Click asked “How many open reserve positions do we have?” Captain Tope explained that right now we have 1 open position and we need to fill that position as soon as possible. We also have 3 volunteers testing for the open reserve position. We would like to get the new reserve in place before the end of the month; usually the Chief and I make the decision but it is up in the air due to his surgery. The candidate that gets the reserve position still has to pass a CPAT test and take a physical.

SUMMARIZE ACTION ITEMS:

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Board member Click suggested that once the new website is up and running he would like to see a demonstration. Put on the agenda when new website is up and running.

Derek Day explained that he had emailed the designer and was waiting for an answer. Derek stated “He would be happy to do a demonstration”.

CALL TO PUBLIC:

Bob Timberman wanted to know how the insurance reimbursement program works.

Captain Tope explained that in order to keep down the cost of health insurance we agreed to go with a really high deductible and the district would reimburse the employees for all deductibles. We have been doing the reimbursement program for about 6 years and it has saved the department a lot of money.

Captain Tope explained that an 8% increase in premiums is probably the lowest increase anyone has gotten, most departments are seeing anywhere from a 10% to 16% increase in their premiums.

Board member DeGroot stated “Who pays the deductible for employees, probably because he is new to the board”. Captain Tope explained that the department pays all deductibles at this time, the employee turns in BCBS Explanation of Benefits (EOB) which shows the costs that have gone to the deductible portion of the insurance, and Kim pays that amount back to the employee.

Chairman Drinen explained to member DeGroot that the district has saved a huge amount of money by incorporating this reimbursement program.

Office manager Ball explained that in 2011 the program spent \$46,000.00, in 2012 the program spent \$48,500.00 and we have saved that much in premium costs. We budget \$160,000.00 every year for this program and what funds we don't use gets put back into the budget for the next year.

Board Member Click asked "Do employees pay the premium?" Captain Tope stated "Not at this time. This program is one of the main reasons we have been able to hire the great people we have and keep them."

Board member Friedlund asked "Do the reserves receive health insurance?" Captain Tope explained that only fulltime people receive health insurance, the reserves don't qualify."

NEXT MEETING: February 19th, 2013 at 5 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted by _____
(Clerk of the Board, Len Friedlund)