

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 21, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nash called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance: Art Nash, Acting Board Chairman
 Bess Banister, Acting Board Clerk
 Gilbert Gil, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Duane Brofer, Board Chairman
 James Barnett, Board Member

Others in Attendance: William Miller, Fire Chief
 Maria Gordon, Administrative Manager

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Mr. Nash led the pledge of allegiance and Chief Miller gave the invocation.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Nash opened the call to the public at 7:01 p.m.

Jere Fredenburgh, a resident of the Fry Fire District, introduced herself to the board and stated that she would first like to thank the board and staff for the great work it provides, and would like to ask that the board not raise the tax levy rate for the upcoming fiscal year. She stated that assessed values continue to decrease on homes, while the taxes continue to increase. She asked the board to hold the rate at the current \$2.76.

There was no one else to appear before the board at this time.

Call to the public closed at 7:03 p.m.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT/SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Chief Miller updated the board on the septic system at station 365. We are still waiting to see if the system is properly draining or not and Stamback will advise if we need to install a new leaching field or not.

On May 16, we were awarded the Best of the Best for the fourth year in a row from the State Compensation Fund of Arizona, now called Copper Point, for reporting of injuries, prevention of injuries, and accurate filing of invoices and paperwork

We have had a total of 21 fires that have been intentionally set since April 16 in both the city and district areas. Law enforcement personnel, along with our Fire Marshals, have been looking into leads and suspects. We will be working with Home Land Security and their drone surveillance program next week to see if they can help us identify a suspect(s).

Currently we have three units out supporting a wildland fire in Sonoita and will be sending out an engine this evening to the Slide Fire, which is close to Flagstaff.

We lent a spare medic unit to the Sonoita/Elgin Fire District for Santa Cruz Days. We have helped them out for the past several years and they sent us a letter of appreciation.

We have responded to a couple of high profile wildland fires in the area one being the Brown Fire (\$31,871.35) and the other being the Aerostat Fire (\$4,559.81) for a total billing of \$36,431.16. We received high praise from the Ft. Huachuca Fire Department and the USFS for our assistance.

The City of Sierra Vista Council will most likely be approving the Cooperative Efforts Feasibility Study Proposal with ESCI for their share of the 50% cost this month. We will be responsible for the other 50% at the completion of the study.

We have renewed our FCC license for our call sign WQAS329 and it will expire on 07/28/2024. This license is for our breathing apparatus radio signal.

We received a special recognition axe from the US Forest Service for our support and dedication to the Sierra Vista Ranger District.

Run summary reports were placed in each board members box. We had 758 responses for the month of April.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial reports for April 2014

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of April 2014, along with a copy of the report from the Cochise County Treasurer's Office and the bank reconciliation from the District's Cyma Accounting Software. The District has \$719,675.34 in available operating funds as of April 30.

Mr. Gil made a motion that the board accept the monthly financial report and agree to the balances as presented. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3-0

MOTION CARRIED

B. Review and discussion for the warrants issued for the month of March 2014

Mr. Nash asked who the vendor "Merch" was on the check register. Maria explained that it was likely a one-time vendor for an ambulance refund.

There were no further questions regarding the month's warrants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular board minutes of April 16, 2014.

Mr. Gil made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 16, 2014 as written. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3-0

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS AGENDA

A. Arizona Fire District Association Report

Chief Miller reported on the following:

Our 51st Arizona Legislature adjourned on April 24. Session scorecard: 1,205 bills were been posted; the Governor has signed 278 of the 303 total bills passed by both bodies, and she has vetoed 24 bills.

SB 1387: SPECIAL DISTRICTS; AUDITS; BUDGETS; BOARDS SIZE; DIRECTORS REQUIREMENTS; MODIFICATIONS. Signed by the Governor (handouts given to board members) effective immediately.

HB 2152: FIRE DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGE Changes to the boundaries of a fire district, community park maintenance district or sanitary district, the information that must be included in the boundary change impact statement is expanded to include a description of the planning areas and boundaries of each

potentially affected municipality and whether any property proposed to be added to the district is within the planning areas of any municipality. Third read and passed. Failed

SB1276: HIV TESTING; CONSENT; CONFIDENTIALITY; EXCEPTIONS (AFDA position: SUPPORT) concerns medical testing for emergency responders based upon exposures. Signed by the Governor.

SB1480 S/E: SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES (AFDA Position: SUPPORT) failed Senate Final Read by a vote of 14-14. DEAD

SB 1348 dealing with changes to the CON process also died in committee, but AFDA says we will see this bill again next year.

HB 2688 regarding the use of fireworks was signed by the Governor. It allows counties of a population of 500,000 or less may regulate the use and sale of fireworks when necessary due to dry weather conditions. Signed by the Governor

HB 2693 is a bill designed to save the City of Prescott from having to pay the entire pension costs of the crew lost in last year's fire and will save them about \$5 million. HB2693 will distribute the cost of death and serious injury benefits amongst all members of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System, instead of keeping it within the city or town for which those killed worked.

Another piece of legislation related to the firefighters, House Bill 2624, creates a memorial site honoring the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots who perished in a wildfire. A \$500,000 appropriation was previously included in the state budget. It creates a committee to oversee the memorial and administer the fund and any donations for the purchase.

The lawsuit pertaining to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (for retirees) will cost the system approximately \$335 million.

The summer conference will be held on June 26-28 at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, so please mark your calendars and let us know if you would like to attend. The deadline to do so is May 28.

B. Presentation on Fry Fire District budgeting 101

Chief Miller explained to the board that he and Maria presented the same Power Point Presentation to staff to go over the budget process in more detail. Chief Miller and Maria also presented the proposed 2014/15 budget to the board and explained that the tax levy rate is still an unknown, as we don't know what the rollover funds will be until we are closer to year end on June 30. The retirement costs increased just under \$100,000; however, the overall budget increased just

over \$54,000 with other cuts made to the budget. The assessed values dropped 4.2% for the upcoming budget and the current levy rate is \$2.76.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Executive session. Discussion of pending or contemplated litigation with the Copper Queen Hospital regarding patient transports. No action will be taken during the executive session.

Chief Miller told the board that there is no reason to adjourn to executive session as nothing has taken place.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Review, discuss and possible action to purchase firefighting hose with funds coming out of the capital account. Three bids were received; L.N. Curtis & Sons, MES Fire, and All American Hose.

Chief Miller explained to the board that we have a lot of hose that is past its expiration and we need to replace it. L.N. Curtis & Sons is actually \$3372.08 higher than the low bid; however, staff has recommended purchasing from them as their hose has a lifetime of 20 years, versus 15 with the low bid of MES. The total for the hose is \$28,740.66.

Ms. Banister made a motion for the board to approve the purchase of hose through L.N. Curtis & Sons for \$28,740.66. Mr. Gil seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3-0

MOTION CARRIED

- B. Adoption of Resolution 2014-003; Call for Elections according to A.R.S. §38-431.02 (H).

Chief Miller informed the board that statutes require the District to publish a call for elections in the local newspaper for two consecutive Mondays. We will be publishing in July.

Mr. Gil made a motion that the board accept resolution 2014-003 allowing staff to publish the call for elections in the Sierra Vista Herald. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3-0

MOTION CARRIED

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests from the board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gil made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion seconded by Ms. Banister.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

DATED THIS 23rd DAY OF MAY 2014.



Bess Banister
Acting Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board