

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
September 17, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members in Attendance:      Duane Brofer, Board Chairman  
   Art Nash, Board Clerk  
   James Barnett, Board Member  
   Bess Banister, Board Member  
   Gilbert Gil, Board Member

Board Members Absent:

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

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE**

Mr. Nash led the pledge of allegiance and Mr. Brofer gave the invocation.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

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

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

Call to the public closed at 7:01 p.m.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT/SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS**

Chief Miller reported that we are on high alert for the entire fire district for flash flooding until Friday. The county's EOC is up and running until Friday also, and we're in a supporting role with them.

The bay door at station 365 should be replaced by the end of next week.

Our Type 3 engine has developed another hydraulic leak. James will continue to work with the company in Phoenix on getting this matter resolved.

Chief Miller was contacted by Landmark Dividend, which is a company that purchases tower leases. They would like the board to consider an offer of \$612,521.80 to purchase our lease agreements with Sprint. We currently lease space out to Sprint on two of our towers for \$2,875.00 monthly with a 3% yearly increase. Landmark Dividend would assume the lease agreements for the next 600 months and they will also assume all the risks in exchange for the purchase. Chief stated that he would not recommend this because we would receive less than half that amount up front, and lose more than double the offer in the course of the next fifty years. If the board so wishes we could negotiate the offer and bring it up next month for discussion and possible vote. No board member asked that we discuss it further.

Our outstanding invoices for wild land assignments total approximately \$125,118.24. Of that amount we made \$44,531.50 off of the apparatus, minus costs (fuel, tires and/or repairs) and our employee costs were \$79,162.50. Chief Miller did a cost analysis and we net about 64% or .64 cent for each dollar earned off the apparatus, pending no mechanical breakdowns or repairs.

This afternoon, we sent our 2000 gallon water tender out to California to serve as a tactical tender. Firefighters Bernal and Kean are manning that vehicle.

We had 703 responses for the month of August.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **A. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial reports for July 2014 and August 2014**

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of July 31, 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 \$184,244.18 in available operating funds as of July 31. These funds are a result of the carryover to lower the levy rate. This item was not voted on during last month's meeting as Maria was out on medical leave.

Mr. Barnett made a motion that the board agree with balances and accept the financial report as presented. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

Motion Carried

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of August 30, 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

is \$65,223.26 in credit line. The District will continue to draw on the credit line until taxes come in during the months of October and November.

Mr. Gil made a motion that the board agree with balances and accept the financial report as presented. Mr. Nash seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

Motion Carried

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

Mr. Barnett asked what the District purchases from Color West. The purchase is for envelopes for ambulance billing.

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular board minutes of August 20, 2014.

Mr. Nash made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of August 20, 2014, as written. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION CARRIED

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

A. Arizona Fire District Association Report

Chief Miller reported on the following:

The top legislative priorities for the upcoming year are as follows, but the group plans to take it to no more than three at our next meeting

- \$3.25 tax rate cap adjustment
- FDAT cap adjustment
- Merger/consolidation incentives
- PSPRS reforms
- HURF funding
- Fuel Tax surcharges

The Property Tax Oversight Commission (PTOC) met on September 11, 2014 to review fire district tax levies and rates for compliance with the state's levy limit law. There were a minimal number of districts that went over their maximum

levies last fiscal year and most issues will be resolved without penalty. A summary was provided to the board members, which includes levy limits, tax rates and property values for all the state's fire districts for 2014. It should be noted that 42 (26.92%) of the state's 156 fire districts have tax rates at or exceeding the \$3.25 tax rate cap, and an additional 18 of the state's fire districts have tax rates that exceed \$3.00 (34.86% of fire districts statewide have tax rates which exceed \$3.00); therefore, only 38.22% are less than \$3.00 and our district is one of them.

The new Vice President of AFDA is Bryan Savage who was the Lakeside Fire Chief, but is now the Interim Chief of the newly formed Timber Mesa Fire & Medical District. The newly formed district combined three fire districts; Show Low, Lakeside and Linden into one fire district with the help of ESCI, which is doing the consultation for Fry and Sierra Vista.

The annual AFDA conference will be January 15-17 in Laughlin. As a reminder, all newly or re-elected board members must complete 6 hours of training within 12 months in order to meet SB1387 requirements.

## **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 stated that he did not feel a need to enter into executive session.

## **ACTION ITEM**

- A. Review, discuss and possible action to add employees who are not participating in Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) to the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) or increase the amount currently being paid into the deferred compensation plan. Item requested by Mr. Nash.

Chief Miller informed the board that after researching ASRS, what other districts are doing for their administrative staff, and speaking with the ladies in the office, the consensus is that we do not join ASRS, but rather ask that the board consider contributing 8% to the deferred compensation plan. This figure represents a 3% increase to what the District is currently paying for the non-PSPRS participating personnel's 457 plans. The increase will cost approximately \$13,000 this year.

Mr. Nash made a motion for the board to approve an increase from 5% to 8% to the 457 plan for non-PSPRS participating members. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0  
MOTION CARRIED

B. Review, discuss and possible action to amend Fire Chief's employment contract.

Mr. Barnett made a motion for the board to adjourn to executive session at 7:55 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Banister.

VOTE: 5-0  
Motion Carried

The board returned to regular session at 8:22 p.m.

Mr. Nash made a motion that the board approves the amended contract presented for Chief Bill Miller for an additional four years. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0  
Motion Carried

#### **REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

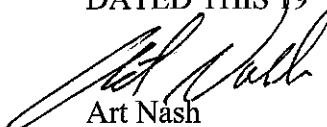
There were no requests from the board for future agenda items.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Nash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Gil.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

DATED THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2014.



Art Nash  
Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board