

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 18, 2015**

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, Board Chairman
James Barnett, Board Clerk via Skype
Gilbert Gil, Board Member
Robert McMurtrie, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Bess Banister, 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 Mr. Gil gave the invocation.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

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

Mr. Dennis Ferrel, employee of Fry Fire District, and President of the Local 4913, read a letter to the board and Chief Miller asking that Robert Tracey's resignation be reconsidered. He stated that Mr. Tracey has been an asset to his crew, his shift and the organization. He feels that Mr. Tracey was let down by a failure in our current system and by a failure of his chain of command. A copy of Mr. Ferrel's letter is in the administration office.

Mr. Robert Tracey, former firefighter with Fry Fire District, introduced himself and let the board know that he was in attendance to ask for a reconsideration of his resignation. He told the board that he understands and takes full responsibility for what happened, his task book was his responsibility and it was his responsibility to make sure that every task was complete. A copy of Mr. Tracey's letter is in the administration office.

Mr. Scott Price, firefighter with Fry Fire District, and Local 4913 member, stated that Mr. Tracey didn't fail, but his fellow employees failed him. They all told him to get as much of his book as he could finished, and that he would be ok.

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

Call to the public closed at 7:10 p.m.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT/SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Chief Miller informed the board that Copper Point, who is our current insurance company for workers compensation, are dropping several fire departments throughout Arizona or increasing their insurance rate by 40% or more. The District's most recent increase was roughly 11%.

We'll be burning off the greenbelt area for the Pueblo Del Sol Homeowners Association on February 23rd beginning around 0900 hours.

We've hired John Bianculli to replace Kirby Overstreet who went to Tucson Fire Department.

Chief Miller has accepted the resignation of Probationary Firefighter Robert Tracey as of February 4th.

The Town of Buckeye has requested a hearing on their application for a CON (Certificate of Necessity). The current holder of the CON is Buckeye Valley Fire District. We currently do their ambulance billing so this could have a potentially negative effect on our budget and office personnel in the future.

We had 761 responses for the month of January.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial reports for January 2015.

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of January 31, 2015, 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 \$639,346.51 in available operating funds as of January 31.

Chief Miller and Maria gave a presentation on the 2015/16 budget projections. The District has suffered over 21.5% loss in valuation over the past four budgets, along with a substantial increase to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System, which the District participates in for the suppression staff. The board and

staff discussed revenue sources and Mr. McMurtrie asked if the District makes money off of wildland responses. Chief Miller stated that we make approximately .60 for every \$1.00 billed out, if there is not any major damage done to the vehicle. It is hard to budget for as it is not guaranteed, and based solely on how many fires we are called out to assist on. Mr. McMurtrie also asked that we look at developing a fact sheet to give residents information regarding the increase to taxes so they aren't completely unprepared. Chief Miller and Maria stated that as we are closer to knowing what our roll-over funds will be, and what our tax rate may be, we will look at doing a fact sheet for the board and our residents.

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

VOTE: 4-0
Motion Carried

B. Review and discussion for the warrants issued for the month of January 2015.

There were no questions regarding the month's warrants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular board minutes of January 21, 2015.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 21, 2015, as written. Mr. Gil seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0
MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS AGENDA

A. Arizona Fire District Association Report

Chief Miller reported on the following:

1086 bills have been introduced this year.

The Governor has released his proposed budget, recommending that the ambulance rate of reimbursement for AHCCCS be dropped back to 68.59%. We are currently at 74.74%. We would see a potential loss of revenue of \$17,050. Currently our billing of AHCCCS patients is about 16.3% of our overall insurance billings.

Our legislators are not going to refer the PSPRS pension reform as a proposition to the Arizona voters. The word is that no one is willing to sponsor a bill on the reform measures thus forcing the PFFA and others to spend over a million dollars in order to get it on the ballot.

HB 2406: FIRE DISTRICT ASSISTANCE TAX: OVERRIDE was heard on Monday the 9th in House Ways & Means. That bill is being held by the Chairman. We are hoping to get Speaker Gowan involved. We did make an amendment to the bill to read that the override is only good for 6 years and no more than a 20%, which would increase the rate up to \$3.90.

HB 2441: TAXING DISTRICTS; BOUNDARY CHANGES; PROCEDURES. Passed in House Government & Higher Ed 7-1-1. Next hearing will be in the Rules Committee. Spoke with Representative Stevens to hold this bill.

HB 2366: FIRE SUPPRESSION; FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT: Passed House Agriculture, Water & Lands 9-0. Next: Appropriations Committee. This is the bill where if the Federal Government doesn't pay us within 30 days the bill will be paid by the Arizona State Land Department.

H2542: LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; UNION DUES; DEDUCTIONS: By December 31, 2015, each city or town council, county board of supervisors, and fire district board is required to vote on whether to authorize payroll deductions from their employees for the payment of union dues. If the council or board fails to vote by that date, union dues may not be withheld. No Hearing date set.

B. Information on Fire District parcels-request made by Mr. McMurtrie

Chief Miller explained to the board that he proposed the following three questions to the Cochise County Assessor's Office and the Cochise County Treasurer's Office:

1. How does the county track tax properties within the fire district to make sure that everyone is paying their share?
2. Does the county have a way of making sure those property owners that build/add-on to existing properties get added on to the tax rolls promptly?
3. How many taxing parcels are within the Fry Fire District?

All parcels of property located within the county are identified with a tax area code, which identifies the taxing jurisdictions the property is located within, and an Assessor Parcel Number is also assigned. Fry Fire codes are 6870 and 6879. Property is assessed based on the full cash value of the property, and the legal class of property is determined based on the actual use of the property.

New construction is identified through the building construction permit system. The assessor's office receives all building/construction permits processed by the County Planning & Zoning Department and the individual cities/towns Planning & Zoning Departments. Discovery of new construction is also made by assessor staff in the field while working. They also use aerial photography in search of escaped assessments. There is always a chance of an escaped assessment if property owners choose to build without proper permitting. All construction permits received are inventoried, classified and worked on a priority basis, identifying all major new construction for prompt assessment versus miscellaneous construction, which may or may not impact the assessment.

For 2014 Fry Fire's parcel count was 8,963.

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 was served with a subpoena this morning. Aside from that, there is nothing new going on with the case. The attorney's assigned by our insurance company are still in charge of the case.

ACTION ITEM

- A. Discussion and possible action to direct Chief Miller to look further into an agreement with Verizon on a tower deal at fire station 366 (5019 Arabian Street)

Chief Miller explained to the board that Verizon did a structural analysis of the current tower and is proposing that they put up a new tower for approximately \$170,000 and defer monthly payments for twenty years. They would have rights and say so on tower use. Chief Miller doesn't think it's a good idea, but it is a board decision. The board discussed and agrees that it wouldn't be beneficial to the District at this time.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion that the board not enter into an agreement with Verizon for a tower at station 366. Mr. Gil seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0

Motion Carried

- B. Discussion and possible action to purchase 11 sets of emergency fire protection gear (bunker coats and pants) that are no longer in compliance with

the new safety standards. Purchase amount requesting is \$24,995.71 from United Fire. Funding would come out of the capital fund.

Chief Miller informed the board that we currently have eleven sets of bunker gear that have expired as per NFPA standards, which states that gear is good for up to ten years. We will also be getting quotes for brown gear as we have heard mention that the black is approximately \$300 more per set and want to look at the options in an effort to save money.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion that the board approves the purchase of 11 new sets of gear from United Fire for \$24,995.71, to be expended from the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0

Motion Carried

C. Discussion and possible action to authorize Chief Miller the authority to implement fiscal measures to curtail current budget spending to include temporary appointment pay excluding current temporary position.

Chief Miller explained to the board that we currently pay acting pay after 30 days and wanted to know what the board's thoughts were on us stopping the acting pay and just doing the move-ups into the open positions. All board members discussed the idea and feel that if the employees are doing the functions of the position, and are going to be held accountable, then they should be compensated as such. They do feel that if the task books are not completed, they are not technically qualified, but understand that someone must step into the position so we will continue paying the acting pay after 30 days. No action was taken as this is already our practice.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. McMurtrie asked that the board hold a meeting, prior to the next regular board meeting, to address the Robert Tracey matter. Chief Miller explained that we can hold a special meeting any time the board would like, as long as we meet the 24 hour posting requirement as per law. The board agreed to hold a special meeting Friday, February 20, 2015 at 1800 hours (6:00pm).

NOTE after the fact: The meeting was changed to Monday, February 23, 2015, to accommodate legal counsel's calendar to advise board.

Mr. McMurtrie asked if board members could be set up with District email accounts. Maria will contact IT and have them set up as soon as possible.

Mr. McMurtrie asked what the total amount spent on repairing the medic unit with the fuel mix-up was. Neither Chief Miller nor Maria could remember off the top of their head.

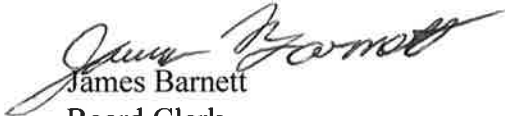
There were no additional requests from the board for future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:23 p.m.
Motion seconded by Mr. Gil.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

DATED THIS 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2015.


James Barnett
Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board