

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
October 21, 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:        Arthur Nash, Board Chairman  
   James Barnett, Board Clerk  
   Bess Banister, Board Member  
   Robert McMurtrie, 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. Gil delivered the invocation.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Nash 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 7:02 p.m.

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

Chief Miller asked Jared Haros to please stand and announced that Jared was selected by the local Elks Club as their Firefighter of the Year. His nomination will now go to the Elks state competition.

We have billed the State Forestry \$136,991.13 for the Mad River Complex Fire, \$3,470.20 for the Ojo Blanco Fire, and \$35,985.05 for the Valley Fire, which is a grand total of \$176,446.38 due to the District.

Chief Miller has been re-appointed to the Cochise County Building Code Advisory and Appeals Board as its' Vice Chairman and re-appointed as the Vice Chairman of Canyon Vista Medical Center. He has also resigned from the Arizona State Fire Training Committee due to the amount of time and travel needed to keep active on the committee.

We had to send Engine 361 back up to Tucson as it was leaning to one side, and we believe they will have to replace a back spring. We believe this will be covered by warranty.

Chief Miller reported on the de-integration as requested by Mr. McMurtrie. At this time there have been no major adjustments in response times or response procedures. Our guys are adjusting well and feel more at ease with their own supervisors, although we are still sharing some equipment at each others' stations. We aren't anticipating any additional changes in the immediate future. We also had an All Hands Meeting with our employees on September 29<sup>th</sup> to ease their concerns and to have an open question and answer session about the changes.

We had 761 responses for the month of September.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **A. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial reports for August 2015 and September 2015.**

Maria reminded the board that August financials were not presented at the last meeting as the Treasurer's Office is not mailing them out until the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of August 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 had \$5,081.95 in available operating funds as of August 31.

Maria also presented the Board with account balances as of September 30, 2015, along with a copy of the report from the Cochise County Treasurer's Office and the bank reconciliation from the District's Accounting Software. The District is in credit line and ended with a negative balance of \$93430.85 for September. October is a large property tax month for the District so we are hopeful that we will pay off the outstanding credit limit and have operating funds.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion that the board agrees to the balances presented for the months of August and September 2015. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0  
Motion Carried

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

Mr. Nash asked why there were so many checks cut to Hughes. Maria explained that we paid them as we received them, and it's based on when James needs to order parts. He also asked about a check cut to Northwest Fire District, which Chief Miller said was for training we sent an employee to.

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular board minutes of September 16, 2015.

Mr. Barnett stated that he was listed as opening the call to the public, but he was absent. Correction made. Mr. McMurtrie asked that language be added regarding the lay-off discussion. Language added.

Mr. Gil made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 16, 2015, as amended. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-1 (Mr. Barnett abstained as he was absent last meeting)  
MOTION CARRIED

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

A. Arizona Fire District Association Report

Chief Miller reported on the following:

The Property Tax Oversight Commission met last month to review fire district tax and levy limit compliance for tax year 2015 (FY 2016). Collectively, nearly seven of every ten (67.94%) fire districts statewide have less than \$50,000 in available property tax capacity under the maximum allowable limit. Additionally, a total of 70 districts (44.87%) have tax rates of \$3.00 or above, which includes 48 districts (30.77%) at the maximum allowable tax rate with no additional tax levy capacity available.

<b>Arizona Fire Districts (156)</b>	<b>Tax Year 2015</b>	<b>% of Total FD</b>	<b>Tax Year 2014</b>	<b>% of Total FD</b>
At 3.25 Tax Rate Cap or >	48	30.77%	41	26.28%
Tax Rate 3.00 – 3.24	22	14.10%	20	12.82%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>44.87%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>39.10%</b>
Tax Levy Capacity of \$50K or < Under Maximum Allowable	106	67.94%	101	64.74%

The AFDA board has also narrowed what we will focus on for the 2016 Legislative agenda down to two items:

- PSPRS reform
- \$3.25 rate cap relief

Chief Miller will be heading out tomorrow morning to attend a hearing relating to HB-2162 “Fire District Study Committee”. Senator Gail Griffin sits on that committee and he’s been in touch with her about the future needs of the fire districts.

The next AFDA conference will be held January 15-16, 2016, in Laughlin. If you’re planning on attending please get with Maria or Linda in the office.

#### B. Presentation of Retirement Plaque to Engineer Ron Huckins

Chief Miller called Engineer Ron Huckins, along with his wife Shirley, up to the front of the room. He thanked Ron for his dedicated service to the District and our citizens and presented him with a plaque for over twenty years of service. Congratulations to Ron!

### **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 asked that the board return to this agenda item after action items as we will need to go into executive session.

Mr. Barnett made a motion to adjourn to executive session. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion. Adjourned to executive session at 7:31 p.m.

Regular session resumed at 7: 47 p.m.

## **ACTION ITEM**

A. Discussion on information that was used on the Fry Fire District website.

Chief Miller explained that Mr. Barnett requested that this item be placed on the agenda. Last week, some of our board members received a phone call expressing an individual's displeasure with the District placing information on our website that was obtained from a brochure produced for the Henry F. Hauser Museum. The caller expressed a possible copyright infringement had occurred.

After closer review of the brochure, it was discovered that we had to have permission of the Henry F. Hauser Museum and Sierra Vista Historical Society prior to using any contents of the booklet. Chief Miller apologized to the board and stated that he is solely responsible for not obtaining permission prior to using excerpts of the booklet. Since the time of the board members being called, Chief Miller has contacted both Chuck Potucek, the City Manager, and Victoria Yarbrough, Director of Leisure and Library Services, regarding the oversight and to let them know that the information has been removed from our website. Ms. Yarbrough apologized that our board members were called as it should have been handled differently. Chief Miller will place some of the information back on our website once our written request for permission has been granted. Permission for the pictures was not needed per Ms. Yarbrough.

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


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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Barnett made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:49 p.m. Motion seconded by Ms. Banister.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

DATED THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2015.

  
James Barnett ~~Bess~~ BANISTER  
ACTING Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board