

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
November 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:       Arthur Nash, Board Chairman  
  Bess Banister, Acting Board Clerk  
  Robert McMurtrie, Board Member  
  Gilbert Gil, Board Member

Board Members Absent:               James Barnett, Board Clerk

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 informed the board that the annual awards banquet will be March 19, 2016 at the Manda Le.

We had our annual audit on October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. We weren't notified of any significant errors or omissions, but the board will receive a full report from Mr. Heidenreich, most likely in January.

Chief Miller had the opportunity to meet Governor Ducey on the 6<sup>th</sup> and they spoke about the future communication needs for the county emergency medical service and fire agencies, and how we're looking for funding.

Chief Miller will be assisting in the selection process for a new Fire Chief for the Mountain Vista Fire District on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

We are in the process of hiring one or two firefighter positions. We have one Firefighter who has applied for a medical retirement and we also had one Firefighter take a position with the City of Sierra Vista.

We had 796 responses for the month of October.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of October 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 \$356,294.81 in available operating funds as of October 31.

Mr. Gil made a motion that the board agrees to the balances presented for the month of October 2015. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0  
Motion Carried

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

There were no questions regarding the month's warrants.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular board minutes of October 21, 2015.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 21, 2015, as presented. Mr. Gil seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0  
MOTION CARRIED

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

A. Arizona Fire District Association Report

Chief Miller reported on the following:

He recently attended the legislation hearing on HB 2162 regarding the study committee on rural fire district funding. The committee heard testimony from four fire districts in the State of Arizona plus an additional speaker. The full video content of the meeting was sent by email. There will be a second hearing on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The committee will have a recommendation by December 15, 2015 for both the Senate and House.

Facts every Fire Chief and Fire District elected official should know about fire district funding:

- The fire district tax rate cap was first established in 1992 at \$3.00
- In 2005, the tax rate cap was adjusted to \$3.25 to offset the change in commercial property assessments from 25% to 20% (primarily transfers tax burden to residential / homeowners)
- Commercial property tax assessments have since been changed from 20% to 16% - further transferring tax burden to homeowners (with no additional tax rate cap adjustments)
- If the \$3.25 tax rate cap had been adjusted annually for inflation, today the fire district tax rate cap would be \$5.09
- The Fire District Assistance Tax (FDAT) levy cap was first established at \$300,000 in 1992
- If adjusted annually for inflation, the FDAT levy cap would be \$508,000 today; however, it was raised in fiscal year 2013 to \$400,000.
- 30% of all Arizona fire districts are operating at the \$3.25 tax rate cap.
- 70% of all Arizona fire districts have less than \$50,000 in available tax levy capacity under the cap.

52nd Arizona Legislature – 2nd Regular Session begins on January 11, 2016.

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

## **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 a mediation scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup> and he will update the board after it is held.

**ACTION ITEM**

There were no action items at this time.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Gil made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. McMurtrie.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

DATED THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2015.



Bess Banister  
Acting Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board