

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 17, 2016**

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
 Gilbert Gil, Board Member via telephone
 @7:19 pm
 Robert McMurtrie, 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. McMurtrie delivered the invocation.

*Note: Business agenda, item A, badge presentation, was moved and done immediately after the invocation.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Nash opened the call to the public at 7:05 p.m.

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

Call to the public closed at 7:05 p.m.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT/SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Chief Miller was sad to report to the board that Mr. George Hooper, past Chairman of the Board for the fire district, passed away January 30th. He had served on the board for over 16 years.

We are currently in the promotional process for the engineer positions. We will have a pinning ceremony for them at our next board meeting.

We also conducted our annual driver license reviews and we had no suspensions and only had a couple of speeding tickets.

Chief Miller is currently working with a consulting firm, who is working with a cell phone provider, and they would like to put up a new tower at station 366 and remove the existing one. The company would in turn pay the fire district a monthly fee of approximately \$1,100 for a land lease and would allow us and our internet provider to have our equipment placed on the new tower at no cost. If the site in fact works out for them, the board will be presented with a contract for possible approval.

We are going to have one of our medic units rear box re-painted. There are numerous scratches and the unit was looking poorly.

Our annual awards banquet will be March 19th at Manda Le.

We had 796 responses for the month of January.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial reports for January 2016.

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of January 31, 2016, 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 \$1,101,163.85 in available operating funds as of January 31.

Mr. Barnett made a motion that the board agrees to the balances presented for the month of January 2016. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0

Motion Carried

B. Review and discussion for the warrants issued for the month of January 2016.

Mr. Nash inquired to a check cut to the vendor "Merch". Maria explained that those are for ambulance refunds, and rather than adding every patient that gets refunded, they are assigned to the Merch vendor. Mr. Nash also asked what was paid to Entenmann-Rovin Company and Chief Miller explained that they are our vendor for badges. Mr. McMurtrie asked about the Bank of America Visa and

Purchase Power. The Visa is for miscellaneous purchases and Purchase Power is for our postage machine.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular board minutes of January 20, 2016.

Ms. Banister made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2016, as presented. Mr. Nash seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2-2 (Mr. Barnett and Mr. McMurtrie abstained as they were absent from the last meeting)
Motion Carried

BUSINESS AGENDA

A. Presentation of captain badge to Ladd Hall

Chief Miller told the board and audience that promotions to the captain position don't happen too often and he is proud to present a new badge to Captain Ladd Hall. Congratulations Ladd!

B. Arizona Fire District Association Report

Chief Miller reported on the following bills:

HB2531: FIRE DISTRICTS; DISTRICT ASSISTANCE TAX (tax rate cap removal bill) has been assigned to the House Ways & Means Committee and has had two readings.

SB1244: FIRE DISTRICTS; WILDLAND FIRES; BUDGETS. Addresses wildland fire prompt pay and fire district merger/consolidation. If a federal agency does not pay a claim within 30 days after the State Forester forwards the claim, the State Forester is required to pay the claim from available monies in the Fire Suppression Revolving Fund. Also, beginning with FY2016-17, a consolidated fire district may receive fire district assistance tax monies as otherwise prescribed by statute, without regard to whether the district is located in more than one county.

SB 1428 PSPRS, SB 1429 PSPRS, SCR 1019 PSPRS have passed the Senate and House. Police and firefighters hired beginning July 1, 2016 will enter a pension system differently from those who came before. Governor Doug Ducey signed legislation on Tuesday which sets up a different system of contributions and benefits for new employees than exist for those already working as well as those who have already retired. In essence, these new workers will have to pay a larger

portion of their salary into the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System. They also will have to work longer than current workers before they can get a full pension. New employees also will have the option of a "defined benefit" pension system, similar to a 401(k) plan offered by private companies, where the worker and employer each contribute a set amount. The amount of the pension is based on the earnings rather than a formula which computes the years of service and age.

We'll also see a proposition on May 17th to change part of the Arizona Constitution, which prohibits the Legislature from impairing pension benefits, including contribution rates. Another provision of the legislation is designed to make more immediate changes, capping future cost of living increases for both current workers and retirees, at no more than 2 percent.

S1209: FIRE DISTRICTS; VEHICLES; SALES TAX. The list of exemptions from the retail classification of transaction privilege and use taxes is expanded to include the sale of emergency motor vehicles and emergency equipment to a fire district. Referred to Senate Finance.

H2076: ANNEXATION; SINGLE PROPERTY OWNER; EXCEPTION. For the purposes of municipal annexation, a territory is considered contiguous if the territory adjoins the exterior boundary of the annexing municipality for at least 300 feet, if all of the real property in the territory is owned by one person, and the municipality and the property owner agree to the annexation.

HB2197: FIRE DISTRICTS; MERGER; CONSOLIDATION. Beginning with FY2016-17, a consolidated fire district may continue to receive monies in an amount not to exceed the allowable amount that each district received at the time of the merger or consolidation. HB2197 is an AFDA proposed measure to eliminate the current financial disincentive associated with FDAT funding caps when fire districts merge or consolidate. Is currently working its way through the House, with a new amendment of a start date of July 1, 2016.

HB2198: FIRE DISTRICTS; VACANCIES; BOARD OPERATIONS. If a vacancy occurs on a fire district board, a quorum of the remaining board members is required in order to fill the vacancy by appointment of an interim member. If the board lacks sufficient members to constitute a quorum, the board of supervisors is required to appoint an administrator to administer the district and serve until the board members take office after the next general election or until a special election is called to fill vacancies on the board.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. 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 nothing new to report at this time.

ACTION ITEM

- A. Discussion and possible action to approve "Resolution 2016-001" allowing the Fry Fire District to submit application to the Arizona Highway Safety Plan for a reimbursable grant for car seats.

Chief Miller explained to the board that the resolution is required prior to us submitting a grant request for car seats.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion that the board approves Resolution 2016-001 for the 2016 Governor's Office of Highway Safety grant submission. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

Motion Carried

- B. Review, discuss and possible action regarding future Fire Chief replacement/recruitment.

Chief Miller informed the board that he will be retiring July 22, 2016 and he has provided them with four possible options in replacing his position. The options are hire an external chief, hire an internal chief, open the position to both internal and external candidates or contract with a neighboring agency for chief services.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion that the board adjourn to executive session to discuss the options. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

Adjourned to executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Regular session resumed at 8:08 p.m.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion that the board go with option 1, which is to hire with an external candidate and hire Brenda Tranchina for the recruitment process. There was no second; therefore, the motion failed.

Mr. Barnett made a motion that the board go with option 3, which is to open the position to both internal and external candidates and hire Brenda Tranchina for the recruitment process. Mr. McMurtrie stated that was the option he thought he was motioning for and that he agrees with option 3. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
Motion Carried

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The board asked that Chief Miller make contact with Brenda Tranchina as soon as possible as they would like to have the final interview by the end of May. The board would like to bring the new chief on as soon as possible in June so that he or she may work with Chief Miller during the transition period.


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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barnett made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:13 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. McMurtrie.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

DATED THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2016.


James Barnett
Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board