

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 20, 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
 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. 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 reported on the following:

Chief Miller had a meeting with Sheriff Dannels regarding the county communication center and how we, and the rest of the Fire and EMS responders, fit into the operations. Sheriff Dannels is going to address both our EMS and Fire associations next week.

Chief Miller is still working with two different vendors on our two towers sites located at Thornydale and the site at station 366. Both vendors are looking at 190' towers.

Chief Miller has submitted his resignation letters, effective July 1, 2016, to the Arizona Fire District Association, Cochise County Building Code Advisory and Appeals Board, the Cochise College Allied Health Advisory Board, the Southeast Regional Trauma Committee and the Southeast Arizona Emergency Medical Services Council.

The AFDA summer conference will be held in conjunction with the AZ Fire Chief's on July 14-16 in Glendale.

We had 847 responses for the month of March.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Maria explained to the board that the report from the Cochise County Treasurer's Office had not yet been received prior to last month's meeting; therefore, both February and March are being presented tonight. She presented the Board with account balances as of February 29, 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. There was a question to the board chairperson regarding the decrease in the Capital Reserve Account, so Maria also gave each board member a packet regarding the SCBA purchase in January. The total cost of \$315,018.70 was taken from the Capital Reserve Fund and the \$285,380 grant reimbursement was direct deposited into the M&O. The funds will remain in the M&O until the end of the fiscal year when all transfers are made. The District had \$1,095,519.28 in available operating funds as of February 29.

Maria also informed the board that there was a charge to the District's Leave Reserve Account that was miscoded and should not have been charged to our account. The March report shows where the correction by the county treasurer's office was made to refund the miscoded charges.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion that the board agrees to the balances presented for the month of February 2016. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
Motion Carried

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of March 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 \$876,798.83 in available operating funds as of March 31.

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

VOTE: 5-0
Motion Carried

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

There were no questions regarding the warrants for March 2016.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular board minutes of March 16, 2016.

Mr. Gil made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 16, 2016, as presented. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-1 abstention (Mr. McMurtrie was absent for the March meeting)
Motion Carried

B. Work session minutes of April 4, 2016

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the work session minutes of April 4, 2016. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
Motion Carried

BUSINESS AGENDA

A. Arizona Fire District Association Report

Chief Miller reported on the following:

Tuesday was the one hundredth (100th) day of the 52nd Arizona Legislature Session and so far they have:

- o 1,219 bills posted
- o 109 resolutions posted
- o 106 bills passed
- o 105 bills signed by Governor / 1 vetoed

The 100th Day is the final day of the Legislative Session by Rule. The Session is extended by concurrence of the Senate and House until the business of the Legislature is complete. Since there are excess revenues, members are working to ensure funding for their specific areas of interest ahead of the November elections. Unless there continues to be an impasse with the budget, anticipate the close of session within the next 7-10 days.

SB1244: FIRE DISTRICTS; WILDLAND FIRES; BUDGETS. Addresses wildland fire prompt pay and fire district merger/consolidation. We added the \$3.50 tax cap rate on the floor during the week of April 4th.

S1209: FIRE DISTRICTS; VEHICLES; SALES TAX. Dead bill

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. In committee on HOLD

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. It is currently working its way through the House, with a new amendment of a start date of July 1, 2014.

HB2198: FIRE DISTRICTS; VACANCIES; BOARD OPERATIONS. Signed by the Governor

HB2517 Business Professionals; Regulation Restrictions. Creates the Right to Earn a Living Act that requires municipalities, counties and agencies to limit entry regulations (regulations and public service restrictions) that apply to businesses and professions as necessary to ensure the public health, safety and welfare.

This bill establishes the Right to Earn a Living Act and declares the Legislature's finding that all individuals are entitled to pursue a business or profession free from government intrusion and excessive regulations. CON bill that will allow private providers to compete for interfacility transfers. Will most likely be voted down in the Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of pending or contemplated litigation with the Copper Queen Hospital regarding patient transports. Executive session if needed. No action will be taken during the executive session.

Chief Miller told the board that the process is moving along quickly at this point. Depositions will be May 3rd. At this point in time there will be 5 employees and Chief Miller being deposed.

ACTION ITEM

- A. Discussion and possible action to publish the proposed 2016-2017 budget for a public hearing June 15, 2016.

Chief Miller explained to the board that the proposed budget is presented at the \$3.25 maximum tax rate, along with all outside revenue sources. The budget can be decreased once posted, but cannot be increased.

Mr. Gil made a motion that the board approves the proposed 2016-17 budget for a public hearing. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
Motion Carried

- B. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2016-002 adopting the Automatic Aid agreement between the City of Sierra Vista and the Fry Fire District.

Chief Miller explained that the new agreement is basically just language clean-up. We had the training section amended as we each take care of our own training and we amended the IT section as we provide most of the IT support for Spillman.

Mr. Barnett made a motion that the board approves the automatic aid agreement as presented. Mr. Gil seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
Motion Carried

- C. Discussion and possible action to proceed with merger study with the Palominas Fire District. Item requested by Mr. McMurtrie

Chief Miller stated that we discussed some of the pros and cons at the work session, but neither board could take any type of action at that meeting. Each board member discussed their desire to move forward with gathering data and

getting true costs and benefits. The board wants to move forward with our chief hiring and allow the new chief to be a part of the process. If the board decides to move forward with a merger in the future, we could look at two chiefs and then losing one through attrition. The board would also like to possibly consult with Chief Miller throughout the process if he is willing to do so.

Mr. Nash made a motion for the board to move forward looking into the possibility of a merger with Palominas Fire District. Ms. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
Motion Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Barnett made a motion that the board adjourn to executive session at 8:07 p.m. Mr. Nash seconded the motion.

The board adjourned regular session at 8:23 p.m.

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 8:24 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. McMurtrie.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF APRIL 2016.



James Barnett
Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board