

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
May 18, 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  
   Robert McMurtrie, Board Member

Board Members Absent:                Bess Banister, Board Member  
   Gilbert Gil, 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. McMurtrie delivered the invocation.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

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

Robert Montgomery, Chairman of the Palominas Fire Board, re-introduced himself to the board and explained he was attending by invitation by Mr. Nash and is available for question and answer during the possible merger talks under the action items.

There was no one else 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:

We renewed our Mutual Aid Agreement with Fort Huachuca.

Chief Miller co-emceed the Relay of Life with Sheriff Dannels on April 30<sup>th</sup>, which raised over \$100,000 for cancer research.

We submitted a grant to the Legacy Foundation of Southern Arizona for \$15,000 to help start a fall and balance prevention and educational program. Most of the funding will go towards registration fees, travel, hotel cost and personnel costs for training our personnel. We'll be working with SEAGO and get a couple of our guys trained as coaches/instructors who will train other care providers. We'll also host about 3 classes a year here. We see this being beneficial to our citizens as last year we had approximately 1,600 calls related to falls.

We'll also be donating 28 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, along with spare air bottles and masks to Mexico. We were unable to sell them to anyone due to their age and not being NFPA compliant.

Chief completed a Kiwanians presentation on May 12<sup>th</sup> on the fire department operations, and he has one more community function on July 16<sup>th</sup> where he'll be the Emcee for a fundraising event for the Real Wishes Foundation.

We have received full reimbursement from the State on our remaining wildland bills totaling \$17,792.37. We currently have no outstanding bills with them.

We had a motor go out on one of our 2008 ambulances. The cost to replace the motor is going to be just over \$20,000. Once the new motor is in place, we will be able to get another 4 to 5 years of service on that truck.

We were also notified by the City of Sierra Vista that they are in the process of annexing 8 properties off 5<sup>th</sup> Street, most of which are businesses.

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

We had 796 responses for the month of April.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of April 30, 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 \$1,099,669.93 in available operating funds as of April 30. Chief Miller reminded the board that \$286,000 from the SCBA grant is still in the M&O and Maria told

the board that our property taxes for the month of April were nearly half of what they were the past two years, so we are anticipating May receivables to be higher.

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

VOTE: 3-0  
Motion Carried

During the financial report, Maria also briefly discussed the upcoming 16/17 budget. The District had a 3% loss in assessed valuation, which equates to a loss of \$72,100 to the budget. We are facing a potential increase of 13% to our health insurance, but are negotiating the increase down at this point. The District does currently allot enough funds to continue to cover 100% of employee costs, without increasing the budget; however, the employees will still see an increase in dependent coverage unless the board is willing to allocate more funds. We are also able to include up to a 5% pay for performance increase for all employees not topped-out with removing a topped-out firefighter position from the budget. Maria asked that board member get any suggestions/recommendations to her as soon as possible. Mr. Barnett asked that the budget figures include a 1% cost of living adjustment so the board can see if it's feasible as well. Maria would like to hold a budget session sometime the week of June 6-10 to review. We will shoot for June 8<sup>th</sup> if able to obtain a quorum.

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

Mr. McMurtrie asked what the checks to Physio Control and Boundtree Medical were for (EMS supplies), as well as the check to Seton (tags to identify District property) and Sidney Lex Felker, PC (District's attorney Donna Aversa).

There were no further questions regarding the warrants for April 2016.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular board minutes of April 20, 2016.

Mr. Barnett made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 20, 2016, as presented. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3-0  
Motion Carried

B. Special board minutes of April 28, 2016

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the special board minutes of April 28, 2016. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3-0

Motion Carried

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **A. Arizona Fire District Association Report**

Chief Miller reported on the following:

The 52nd Arizona Legislature Session ended on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

- 1,247 bills posted
- 388 bills passed
- 247 bills signed by the Governor and 2 were vetoed

Prop 124 is likely to pass with the Arizona Voters.

AHCCCS is looking into “treat and refer” payments through 911 systems later this year. This would help us recoup or receive payments to treat a patient at their home and then refer them to their PCP without transporting the patient to the hospital.

SB1244: FIRE DISTRICTS; WILDLAND FIRES; BUDGETS. This bill 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 4<sup>th</sup>. It has passed the Senate 28-0 and was signed by the Governor on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Chief Miller would suggest that the board consider putting this on the ballot for 2017 just in case the District needs to go above the \$3.25 cap. The increase is only good to take to the voters this year and next. This increase is temporary and the maximum will go back to \$3.25.

HB2197: FIRE DISTRICTS; MERGER; CONSOLIDATION. Beginning with FY2016-17, a consolidated fire district may continue to receive money in an amount not to exceed the allowable amount that each district received at the time of the merger or consolidation. The Governor signed this bill.

## **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.

\*This item was moved to the end of the meeting following the action items. See "Executive Session"

### **ACTION ITEM**

- A. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2016-003 adopting the Intergovernmental agreement with Cochise County and the Fry Fire District for the purpose of providing mutual aid and assistance.

Chief Miller explained to the board that the agreement is for Fry to provide SWAT medics for the Sheriff's Office. This agreement would allow for us to provide certified Swat Medics at the expense of the Sheriff's Office as opposed to the District's taxpayers having to pick up the expense. We will continue to pick up costs associated with in-district responses, but the out-of-district, which has been volunteered time for our personnel, and the District's liability through workers compensation, will now be reimbursed. The County will also cover the costs off all necessary equipment.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion that the board approves Resolution 2016-003 with Cochise County. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3-0

Motion Carried

- B. Discussion and possible action to continue exploring and working on a possible merger agreement/study with the Palominas Fire District.

Chief Miller told the board that after speaking with Chief Matthews from Palominas Fire District; his understanding is that the Palominas board may have some reservations pursuing this option if we move forward with our chief process. Mr. Montgomery stated that the Palominas Fire Board would like to see Fry Fire District consider allowing Chief Matthews to be the chief of both organizations. If this were to take place, Chief Mirabelli would voluntarily step down from the assistant chief position so that a Fry member could serve in that capacity and Chief Mirabelli would essentially swap with that battalion chief. PFD's probable levy rate for the upcoming fiscal year is \$2.98. They are set to have \$1.2 million in their capital account at the end of this year. Mr. McMurtrie sees a merger in the future, but doesn't want Chief Miller's retirement to be the catalyst for merging. There will be a lot of structure change and he doesn't want to see us rush into anything, much as we did in the recent past. Mr. McMurtrie asked Mr. Montgomery if he and his board would still move forward with merger information gathering if we decide to move forward with our chief process. Mr. Montgomery said yes, that his board was just hoping that we would be willing to look at that option.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion that the board adjourn to executive session at 8:21 p.m. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3-0  
Motion Carried

The board resumed regular session at 8:37 p.m.

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

Mr. Barnett informed the board that he will be out of country for work from May 23<sup>rd</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 8:39 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. McMurtrie.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

DATED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2016.



~~James Barnett~~  
Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board

BESS BANISTER  
FOR MR. BARNETT