

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
February 19, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Huish called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 7:01 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members in Attendance:        Joseph Huish, Board Chairman  
Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Thomas Tucker, Board Member  
Robert McMurtrie, Board Member (by phone)  
Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent:                None

Staff in Attendance:                 Mark Savage, Fire Chief  
Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor  
Steven Rodriguez, JVG

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION**

Mr. Huish led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Sturm gave the invocation.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Mr. Huish reminded board members that they shall declare any conflict of interest. No board member declared a conflict at this time.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Huish opened the call to the public at 7:02 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 7:02 p.m.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

- a. Firefighter Johnathan Leffelman – for successful completion of Firefighter Probation.

Chief Savage recognized Firefighter Jonathan Leffleman for successfully completing his probation. Chief Savage administered the oath of office and presented FF Leffelman a new helmet shield and badge.

- b. BC Mauzy, Cpt. Lacaillade, Engineers Allred and Haros, and Firefighters Ferrel and Gonzales - David Deary Unit Citation for successful cardiac arrest save.

Chief Savage recognized Battalion Chief Kaleb Mauzy, Captain Bronson Lacaillade, Engineers Phillip Allred and Jared Haros, and Firefighters Dennis Ferrel and Joseph Gonzales with the David R Deary Unit Citation for life saving procedures during a cardiac arrest call. Chief Savage also recognized the patient's son Everill Johnston for his life saving CPR performance, Stryker for manufacturing the LUCAS CPR device used during the call and Stryker representatives present Matt Knee and Joseph Weston.

Mr. Everill Johnston addressed the Board Members, Fry Fire District Staff, and Members of the Public stating he spent less than a week in the hospital and two weeks in recovery with no loss of abilities or brain damage after death from a sudden cardiac arrest. He gave an emotional speech thanking his son Everill Johnston, Fry Fire District and Stryker.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Regular Board Meeting on January 15, 2020.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 15, 2020. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

- a. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial report for January 2020.

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for January 2020. A discussion followed. The board reviewed the warrants for the month with no questions.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the January 2020 financial reports. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

#### **COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**

Chief Savage reported we have seen some limited attrition with our Part-Time EMS and Fire personnel. Overall the program is continuing to help us make tremendous strides improving staffing and overall Fire District coverage, especially at Station 361. January's staffing was only at a minimum for 1.5 shifts.

Chief Savage provided copies of AFDA bills in process to Board Members and statistics on several that could impact the Fire District.

H2794 would allow a permanent tax override up to \$4.25 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

S1116 proposes exempting Fire Districts from the Transaction Privilege Tax for Public Safety Equipment.

H2145 modifies the definition of "killed in the line of duty" to include suicide.

S1332 appropriates \$45 million from the general fund to Public Safety Personnel Retirement System for the Department of Public Safety's unfunded pension liability and an additional \$5 million to the Elected Officials Retirement Plan.

S1160 passed last week, increasing the cancer presumption for firefighters to include any cancer. Our worker's compensation carrier, CopperPoint, has already notified us they will no longer provide coverage to any Fire District in Arizona.

The 2015 Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels grant has been closed and reimbursement received. The 2018 Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels grant was being worked with crews in Ramsey and Dead Bear Draw last month. There is a Firewise Assessor's class scheduled here at the end of the month through the DFFM.

The new TNT extrication tools are here and will be mounted on Engine 365 as soon as Mr. Ayers is available.

We were not selected to provide ambulance billing services to the City of Bisbee, and we are now out of contract with the City of Nogales and billing them on a month to month basis. We are continuing to explore new potential billing clients.

The Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Health Insurance Subsidy Policy for our retirees has been updated and is on tonight's agenda. Minor changes include coverage for Medicare replacement and supplemental plans. There is no cost to the Fire District other than some limited administrative time.

The Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) documents were delivered and we are projected to begin participating March 1, 2020.

The new Southeast Arizona Communications Center (SECOM) director, Allen Smith, is performing well and their budget is in good shape. Last week the JPA Board approved our quarter one and two expenditures with a credit against our annual dispatching costs. We anticipate additional infrastructure options for County-wide fire dispatching upgrades. Chief Seamans was elected to the Vice Chair position on the Operations Committee.

Cochise County IT is still working to migrate our servers over, and they obtained additional licenses for our new hires. We anticipate replacing 6-7 outdated workstations scheduled on our regular replacement plan.

Chief Savage had a meeting with the interim Huachuca City Town Manager, Eric Duthie, and discussed public safety access to their cellular tower. Mr. Duthie may not be here through April and referred Chief Savage to the Police Chief James Thies.

There has been no response from the Palominas Fire District regarding field testing of the Fire 3 upgrades.

Chief Savage met with Sierra Vista Fire and Medical's Fire Chief, Brian Jones, last week and states our automatic aid is working well. Chief Jones has not received any feedback from Whetstone Fire or Palominas Fire regarding the Joint Operations Committee. Brad Dever was promoted to Deputy Chief and we anticipate some progress with the Joint Operations Committee.

The concrete pad for the mailboxes at Thorneydale is completed. The mailboxes will be installed by the Postal Service.

Bathroom repairs are ongoing at Station 361 and should be completed next week.

Health Currents, the Health Information Exchange, allows us to share electronic patient data with other healthcare professionals and is up and running. It also provides the Department of Health Services data for reports and gives us access to patient insurance information.

An updated strategic plan reflecting progress since September 2019 was provided to Board Members.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion and possible action on Sta. 365 remodel / renovation.

Chief Savage stated Core performed a 3D scan of station 365 to develop a current drawing, and there is a follow-up conference call scheduled for Friday.

No action was taken.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action on FFD Board Bylaws.

Fire Board Members were previously provided an updated copy of the Board Bylaws. A discussion followed.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the Updated Board Bylaws. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion and possible action on Health Insurance Subsidy Policy for Retirees.

Chief Savage stated the Policy has been updated, reviewed by PSPRS and Mr. Matura and replaces the policy from 2003. A discussion followed.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the Health Insurance Subsidy Policy for Retirees. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0

Motion Carried

- b. Review, discussion and possible action on SEACOM support.

Chief Savage requested approval to spend up to \$30,000.00 out of the capital budget to support the development of radio infrastructure with SEACOM. Chief Savage stated the plan is to replace twelve controllers on the west half of the County, rolling them back from digital to an analog system, and reassigning unused frequencies from the Sherriff's Office to SEACOM for use as true regional dispatch channels. The hardware replacement estimate is \$27,000.00. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve funding up to \$30,000.00 to support a regional dispatch frequency for SEACOM. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action on fire district auditor.

Chief Savage requested to go into Executive Session and call our attorney.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Executive Session entered at 7:55 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 8:26 p.m.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to hire Heinfeld Meech. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0  
Motion Carried.

### **REQUEST FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no requests from the board members.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Tucker.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

DATED THIS 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2019.

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Eric Andersen,  
Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board