

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Huish called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance: Joseph Huish, Board Chairman
Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Thomas Tucker, Board Member (by video
conference call)
Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Robert McMurtrie, Board Member

Staff in Attendance: Mark Savage, Fire Chief
Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor
Steven Rodriguez, JVG (by video
conference call)
Kaleb Mauzy, Battalion Chief
Jared Haros, Engineer

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 7:01 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 7:01 p.m.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Chief Savage recognized Captain Adam Short for 10 years of service as of August 2016, Firefighter Kurtis Denney for 15 years of service as of July 2019, and Battalion Chief John Popp for 20 years of service as of April 2019.

Captain/Paramedic Jennie Allred was awarded the 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award. Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Bocook received the 2019 EMS Professional of the Year Award, and Firefighter Dennis Ferrel received the 2019 Firefighter of the Year Award.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting on July 15, 2020.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 15, 2020. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

B. Executive Session of July 15, 2020.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting minutes of July 15, 2020. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

C. Special Board Meeting on July 20, 2020.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Special Board Meeting minutes of July 20, 2020. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

D. Executive Session of July 20, 2020.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting minutes of July 20, 2020. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial report for July 2020.

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

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the July 2020 financial reports. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage stated there are no legislative issues to report.

The Cochise County Elections Director stated they have not received any write-in candidates for the open board positions. The official notification should be issued tomorrow which will likely result in the Cochise County Board of Supervisors appointing Mr. Huish and Mr. Tucker to an additional term. The County Board of Supervisors will also pass a resolution canceling our election.

We are continuing to work closely with the Cochise County Health Department and Office of Emergency Management to support the Countywide COVID-19 response.

Local COVID-19 numbers are beginning to taper off which is moving us towards the reopening of schools for in-person classes. The benchmark, unmet to date, requires two consecutive weeks with a percent positivity below 7% - we've been on a negative slope with results dropping from 12.2% for the week ending July 12, to 8.9% July 19, to 6.6% on July 26.

Our fire stations will remain closed to the public while we continue taking aggressive steps to minimize our employees' exposures both on and off duty. We are starting to gradually open them back up on a limited basis for CPR classes and to other collaborative training opportunities.

Chief Savage stated that the wildfire season has been productive this season so far with turnaround for payment running at about six weeks.

Battalion Chief Mauzy reported the wildland crews have been busy, and they really appreciate the REMS unit. The UTV allows the team's access to remote areas and our department is being requested by name because of the tools provided by the District and strong work from our wildland crews. The new light rescue truck will be picked up from Tucson tomorrow.

We're planning to deploy a Type 6 engine to California tomorrow morning as part of a strike team. Our Type 6 crew will be working directly for the California Office of Emergency Services due to their declared statewide emergency.

Engineer Jared Haros stated all our paramedics are completing training modules with the Centers for Disease Control, You Call the Shots program. When the courses are completed our paramedics will be able to provide vaccinations and participate in a mass inoculation Cochise County Health Department is planning for this fall.

Chief Seamans and our apparatus committee finalized a specification for a new Type 1 Engine that will be distributed to vendors for bids over the next month. We are planning to have a recommendation back to the board for approval by the September 16 meeting. Mr. Ayers is still working on electrical issues with E365.

We are still waiting for a site visit from the Department of Forestry and Fire Management on our hazardous fuel reduction grant. We have grant requests pending with FEMA for additional PPE for \$17,250.00, and \$700,000.00 with the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response grant program.

We have completed the initial screening and written testing for a new Administrative Assistant. We're excited about the opportunities to continue working with JVG to refine some of our payroll processes and are looking forward to putting someone with training and human resources experience in the position.

Administrative personnel are continuing to flex their schedules to minimize contact hours while continuing to provide ambulance billing services. Chief Savage reached out to Chief Horvath with Tubac Fire District this week regarding our performance and their feedback was incredibly positive.

Director, Allen Smith, of Southeast Arizona Communications Center (SEACOM) and his team are continuing to perform well catching staffing up. The ProQA Go-Live Date has been postponed due to some additional training opportunities for dispatch and fire staff. We are continuing to work with Canyon State to fix some issues with the radio links for Fire 3 from our Arabian and Thorneydale sites and are also working to determine coverage gaps in Fire West – particularly on the west end of Sierra Vista.

Cochise County has finalized our server transition and they are continuing to provide timely IT support.

Palominas Fire Chief DeWolf has been recovering from recent surgery and we have offered our support for any needs they may have.

There is no progress to report with public access to the radio tower in Huachuca City. The Huachuca City Town Manager, Philip Cushman resigned after three

months and we anticipate their Town Clerk filling in while they work out his replacement.

There is no news regarding the parcel purchase at Station 366. BLM is still working on the project; their internal review for publication in the federal register is ongoing.

We made our first payment to Core Construction for the preliminary design work for the Station 365 remodel. Chief Savage has a meeting scheduled with them tomorrow morning to review plans moving forward and hopes to gain a better idea of the timeline.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review, discussion and possible action on 2020 PDS HOA Lease Agreement.

Chief Savage provided Board Members copies of the updated 2020 PDS HOA Lease Agreement. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the 2020 PDS HOA Lease Agreement. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

B. Review, discussion and possible action on Compensation and Benefits Policies.

Chief Savage provided Board Members updated copies of our Compensation and Benefits Policies. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the updated Compensation and Benefits Policies. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review, discussion and possible action on Fire Chief's Annual Performance Review.

Chief Savage requested an executive session to discuss the Fire Chief's annual performance review.

Executive Session entered at 7:54 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 8:35 p.m.

There was no action taken on this agenda item.

REQUEST FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from the board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

DATED THIS 20th DAY OF AUGUST 2020.

Eric Andersen,
Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board