

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
October 20, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Huish called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members in Attendance:      Joseph Huish, Board Chairman  
Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Robert McMurtrie, Board Member (by phone - 1914 hrs)  
Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent:                Thomas Tucker, Board Member

Staff in Attendance:                  Mark Savage, Fire Chief  
Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor  
Billy Seamans, Battalion Chief  
Steven Rodriguez, JVG  
Ben Archer Clowes, 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 6:01 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 6:01 p.m.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

The Board and Fire Chief welcomed Ms. Jones back to work and shared their appreciation for all she does. Chief Savage also recognized Reymundo (Andres) Chavez, Alexander Denney, and Jonathan Leffelman for successful completion of the Cochise College Paramedic Program and obtaining their Arizona Paramedic Certification.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Board Meeting on September 16, 2020.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of September 16, 2020. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0, Mr. McMurtrie abstained.  
Motion Carried.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

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

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

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

## **COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**

Chief Savage stated there is a training meeting Thursday to continue developing the OEM plan to provide support across Cochise County during the General Election.

He received Resolution 20-12 from the Cochise County Board of Supervisors and congratulated Mr. Huish and Mr. Tucker for their pending reappointment to the Board in December. Board Members have been provided information on statutory training available in Tucson December 10 and Phoenix December 11. Recordings of the sessions will be available in January 2021 in the event that individuals would prefer to avoid in-person training.

We are continuing to work closely with the Cochise County Health Department and Office of Emergency Management to support the Countywide COVID-19 response and have begun discussions regarding the potential for vaccine distribution. The full-scale Point of Dispersal scheduled at Cochise College this month was cancelled; instead, we hosted a drive-through flu shot clinic at Sta. 365 last Friday. The clinic provided several more of our paramedics with the opportunity to get signed off on vaccinations and immunizations.

Our fire stations continue to remain closed to the general public although we are continuing to invite individuals in for CPR classes and other collaborative training

opportunities that can be conducted safely. We will be co-hosting three weeks of a Hazmat Technician class as well as a Technical Rescue class in November.

Our local wildland fire activity remains manageable. We are continuing to deploy our personnel and equipment to fire assignments throughout Arizona, Oregon and California. Engineer Michael Kean and Firefighter Brent Madden are on their way back from California today; and will be rotated out with a new crew to be assigned to the Horse Fire near Prescott as soon as the truck is serviced.

Our site visit with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management this month went well. We are evaluating the cost and feasibility of adding additional part-time employees to provide fuel reduction work with our approved grant funds. The fire crews are still unavailable for fire fuel reduction work. Our COVID-19 PPE grant from FEMA was denied, however we did receive a \$3,000 grant for PPE from the Southeastern Arizona Emergency Medical Services Association. Our 2021 Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response grant application for \$700,000.00 is still pending.

We are close to completing our annual audit with Kegan Linscott and Associates and are continuing to work with JVG to refine some of our payroll processes and streamline the CrewSense / Paychex interface.

Chief Seamans completed delivery of our two new ambulances from Demers. Apart from a few minor repairs and some fine-tuning, they are in-service and running calls. Upon further review and follow up on the Type 1 Engine bids that were received last month, the committee recommendation has changed and will be discussed under tonight's Old Business. The new Type 6 Engine is scheduled for delivery within the next three weeks.

Chief Savage shared that Seacom Director, Allen Smith, has elected not to renew his employment agreement in December and will be moving back to Phoenix to be closer to family. ProQA is live and we are seeing some incredible results from dispatch. Dispatchers are truly filling the role of first responders by walking callers through everything from initial patient assessment and treatment to CPR compressions.

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 continuing to pursue filling in coverage gaps in Fire West – particularly on the west end of Sierra Vista.

There is no news or updated on the timeline for the SVFMD EMS station on Seventh and Buffalo Soldier Trail.

Chief Savage met Ms. Harvey, the Interim Town Manager of Huachuca City, earlier today to discuss the West End Repeater project as well as public safety access to their cellular tower for a possible receiver site.

The article in the Herald regarding the town of Huachuca City annexing into the Whetstone Fire District and a potential CON challenge was shared with the Board.

The purchase of the parcel at station 366 has passed the state review and been forwarded to BLM headquarters in Washington D.C. for review. There is no timeline or projected completion date.

There is no progress report for the station 365 remodel.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Review, discussion and possible action on new meeting time and dates.

Chief Savage shared that having the regular board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month would help to avoid conflicts for our partners. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to move the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to the Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

B. Review, discussion and possible action on the purchase of a Type 1 Engine.

Battalion Chief Seamans stated the proposal for the Type 1 Engine from Pierce was missing several items and the bid increased by approximately \$31,000 with the additions. A discussion followed.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to purchase the Type 1 Engine as proposed by Emergency Vehicle Group and rescind the motion to make the purchase from Pierce. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Review, discussion and possible action on the Fire West Upgrade.

Chief Savage explained the gap in coverage from Fire West repeater near the hospital and the need for better signal coverage that would be available by adding a VHF repeater to the system at the West End tower site. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to fund the Fire West Repeater project with limitations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

B. Review, discussion and possible action on Financial Audit.

Chief Savage requested to go into Executive Session to allow the Board Members to discuss the Financial Audit with Mr. Matura.

Executive Session entered at 7:24 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 7:57 p.m.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to direct Mr. Matura to proceed with correspondence to a former employee. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

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 8:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF OCTOBER 2020.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board