

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 23, 2021**

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
 Thomas Tucker, Board Member
 Norman Sturm, Board Member
 Robert McMurtrie, Board Member (electronically)

Board Members Absent: None

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

There were no comments from the public.

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

Employee Recognition

A. Firefighter Joshua Steinberg

Chief Savage stated Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Steinberg has been hired full time. He was not available to attend tonight's meeting due to training. Chief Savage shared a brief overview of Steinberg's experience in the fire and EMS service.

B. Chief Mark Savage – CFO Designation.

Mr. Tucker recognized Fire Chief Mark Savage for his designation as a Chief Fire Officer through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Chief Savage earned the professional designation by demonstrating through education, leadership, and management skills the requisite, knowledge, skills, and abilities in the fire and emergency service profession.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting on January 26, 2021.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 26, 2021. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0, Mr. McMurtrie abstained.
Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Review, discussion, and possible action on the monthly financial report for January 2021.

Ben Archer Clowes from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for January 2021. A discussion followed. The board reviewed the warrants for the month and there were no questions.

Mr. Archer Clowes and Chief Savage provided insight to the .54% increase in assessed value of the Fire District. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the January 2021 financial reports. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion Carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

The 55th Arizona Legislature session is open and running. A few bills are still of particular interest for fire districts:

1. S1451 was discussed regarding workers' compensation rates and firefighter cancer.
2. H2455i was discussed regarding additional options for fire districts to finance their pension liability.

3. Finally, H2440 (Rep. Griffin) was discussed which provides for extensive support for wildland fire hazardous fuel reduction programs.

We are continuing to work closely with the Cochise County Health Department and the Office of Emergency Management to support the Countywide COVID-19 response. Engineer Jared Haros and our vaccination team have pushed vaccines out to more than 1300 healthcare and high-priority patients, including more than 250 booster doses. Last Saturday's POD was rescheduled because the vaccines didn't arrive. We have a POD scheduled at Buena High School for this Saturday and plan to vaccinate more than 800 people with assistance from Cochise College, Cochise County Health and Social Services Department, and the Sierra Vista Fire and Medical Department.

Our Wildland Team just completed their annual wildland refresher training and pack test. Engineer Jon Saylor gave a basic chainsaw class which included students from other agencies. UTV operator training is scheduled for early next month and, the UTV, with a new roll cage, was recently used to support the rescue of an injured hiker in Miller Canyon.

We submitted a grant request through Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program for mobile radio repeaters for our front-line engines and command vehicles. We also submitted a request for funding through the International Association of Fire Chiefs for their Ready, Set, Go! chipper program. Firefighter Dennis Ferrel will be submitting a request for extrication tools under the Governor's Office of Highway Safety program.

Chief Savage met with Department of Forestry and Fire Management representatives this morning about the Healthy Forests Initiative and our funding for fuels crew. They were incredibly pleased with our progress so far and are looking forward to continuing to work with us.

Mrs. Stanger's husband has been offered a position out of state, and she is likely to be leaving us within the next few months. We have the vacancy advertised and are hopeful that we will be able to find someone who is as competent and capable as she has been.

Battalion Chief Billy Seamans sold the second ambulance that we had listed and has gotten strong interest in the Type 6 Engine we are selling. Chief Seamans is also doing strong work with the Operations Committee at Southeast Arizona Communications (SEACOM). The next JPA meeting will be on March 11 in which we will continue working on the FY21 Budget and filling the Director vacancy. We are continuing to work on radio repairs for Fire 3 with Cochise County.

Chief Buonnacorsi, the interim Palominas Fire Chief, and Chief Savage reviewed our existing Engine Boss IGA and he is supportive. Chief Savage is optimistic that we will be able to help them fill some wildland orders as soon as fire season starts.

Engineer Michael Kean has completed the annual service for Douglas Fire Department's MSA airpacks. We anticipate offering the same service to Palominas FD and Bisbee FD, who also use the MSA G1 airpacks.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sta. 365 Remodel Update.

Chief Savage provided Fire Board Members a packet with options for color and interior finishes, and provided an update on CORE construction issues and a tentative start date. A discussion followed.

No motion was taken on this item.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review, discussion, and possible action on a Commercial Lease for Office Space during Fire Station 365 remodel.

Chief Savage shared information on a lease agreement of offices at the Hereford Clinic. It has a common space for future board meetings and will cost the same as the office space we were looking at in Sierra Vista. A discussion followed.

No motion was taken on this item.

B. Review, discussion, and possible action on Vaccination Policy.

Chief Savage provided an Employee Vaccination Policy to the Board Members. The policy recommends common vaccinations for diseases our employees may be exposed to but does not mandate them. It also includes an assumption of risk for employees opting not to receive vaccines. A discussion followed.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the Employee Vaccination Policy. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from the board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:11 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

DATED THIS 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board