

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance: Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Norman Sturm, Board Member
Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically)
Robert McMurtrie, Board Member (electronically)

Board Members Absent: Joseph Huish, Board Chairman

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Andersen 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. Andersen 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 Richard Yocupicio Oath and Badge presentation.

Firefighter Richard Yocupicio was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Chief Savage introduced Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Steinberg to the Fire Board and lauded his

ongoing involvement in and engagement with the Cochise County Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Cochise County Fire Association. Board members welcomed Mr. Steinberg to the Fry Fire District.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting on February 23, 2021.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of February 23, 2021. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0, Mr.
Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the February 2021 financial reports. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.
Motion Carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage provided the board members with an update of ongoing legislative actions and reviewed pending bills of relevance to fire districts including those related to worker's compensation and firefighter cancer, fire district administration and budgeting, and the Covid-related federal funding.

He advised that we are continuing to work closely with the Cochise County Health Department and Cochise College to support the Countywide COVID-19 response. Last week we passed the 4,000 mark and are on our way to hit 5,250 total vaccinations administered this weekend. Our paramedics and part-time EMS personnel are also providing blitz PODs to help some of our underserved communities such as Benson and Willcox.

Wildfire season is here and fire orders are starting to come in. With DOC Fire Crews still out of service and a continuing drought, we are expecting another busy wildfire season and are preparing accordingly.

Firefighter Dennis Ferrel submitted a request for approximately \$60,000.00 for extrication tools under the Governor's Office of Highway Safety program. The Resolution listed under New Business is in support of the request.

On the wildland fire fuel reduction side, we are making progress again using a private crew to cut and some of our personnel to run the TNC Chipper. We are continuing to meet with Department of Forestry and Fire Management to develop an agreement to amend current grant awards to help us establish our own fuels crew. They are pleased with our progress and look forward to continuing to work with us. Chief Savage has offered to serve as a Co-Vice Chair for the Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership in the coming year.

We are continuing to work through the recruitment and selection process for Mrs. Stanger's replacement. We have four qualified candidates whom we anticipate interviewing in the next week or two.

Mr. Ayers has his hands full lately with some significant repairs on our large water tender and one of our Type 1 engines. We are also looking to replace two 2007 SUVs with crew-cab trucks. This will be addressed further under New Business.

The next Southeast Arizona Communications meeting will be on March 31 in which we will continue working on the FY22 Budget and filling the Director vacancy. We are continuing to work on radio repairs for Fire West and 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 Type 6 wildland orders as soon as fire season starts.

Battalion Chief Kaleb Mauzy reported the joint fire training conducted with Sierra Vista Fire and Medical last month went well.

Chief Savage continues to correspond with Mr. Evans, Whetstone Fire Board Chair. Their application process to hire a new fire chief has been extended through the end of the month.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sta. 365 Remodel Update.

Chief Savage provided Fire Board Members an update on the timeline for CORE to start construction.

No motion was taken on this item.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of support vehicles.

Chief Savage provided Board Members with Arizona Government costs for Ford F350 and F250 crew cab trucks. The recommendation was made to replace two 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe's with F250 crew cab trucks. A discussion followed.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the purchase of two 2022 Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4x4 pickup trucks. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

B. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2021-02 in support of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant Program.

The Resolution would allow the Fire District to purchase electronic extrication tools that match the tools purchased last year. The tools have reduced our dispatch to hospital times by reducing the time required to complete patient extrications. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-02. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

C. Review, discussion and possible action regarding a Letter of Appreciation to Cochise College, Department of Allied Health.

Chief Savage provided Board Members with a draft copy of a letter to the Cochise College president expressing the Fire District's appreciation for continued support and assistance vaccinating Cochise County residents during the Public Health Emergency. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Letter of Appreciation to Cochise College, Department of Allied Health. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

D. Review, discussion and possible action regarding FFD Awards.

Chief Savage mentioned an email he received from Retired Assistant Fire Chief, Roy Lingo, regarding adding a citizen's award to our Fire District Awards. Chief Savage met with Shelly Lingo and she is supportive of the award. A discussion followed.

Chief Savage will develop a draft of the criteria for review at a future Board Meeting.

No motion was taken on this item.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chief Savage and Ben Archer Clowes asked the Board to meet at 3:00 p.m. the afternoon of the next Board Meeting on April 27, 2021, for a 1-hour budget workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:43 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. McMurtrie.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

DATED THIS 24th DAY OF MARCH 2021.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board