

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 22, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Huish called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 6:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance: Joseph Huish, Board Chairman
Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Robert McMurtrie, Board Member
Norman Sturm, Board Member
Thomas Tucker, 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 6:05 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 6:05 p.m.

Employee Recognition

Agenda Correction:

A. Engineer Brent Madden Badge presentation.

Badge presentation postponed until next month in order for family to attend.

Firefighter Dennis Ferrel and Paramedic Michael Bocook received National Awards from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). VFW District 7 Commander Glenn Hohman presented Firefighter/EMT Dennis Ferrel with his award. Paramedic Michael Bocook was on assignment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting on May 25, 2021.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of May 25, 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 May 2021.

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

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

Vote: 5-0.
Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FRY FIRE DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET

A. Open the Public Hearing

Mr. Huish opened the Public Hearing for discussion on Fry Fire District's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget at 6:16 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

B. Close the Public Hearing

Mr. Huish closed the Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage reported the legislature is still working to finalize the state budget, the hold harmless language related to fire district levy limits remains to be included in the budget reconciliation bills.

We have a tentative phone appointment on July 15, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. with Stifel regarding the PSPRS financing to look at models they are putting together. Recently passed legislation may allow us to refinance our accrued actuarial unfunded liability with PSPRS.

We are continuing to attend virtual meetings with Cochise County regarding vaccinations however Chief Savage does not anticipate any further need for our support. Our stance regarding personal protective equipment and station access will be discussed at our Officer's Meeting this Thursday morning.

Wildland fire season continues; our Type 3 engine was released from the Telegraph fire this morning. It arrived here this afternoon, picked up a fresh crew, and is on the way to the Walnut Fire north of Benson to join our Tender.

There is no update on our applications for new extrication tools under the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) program or communication funding from FEMA. The state legislature is still working on the funding support for the GOHS grant program. We requested assistance for new cardiac monitors through multiple avenues, including Cochise County under the American Rescue Plan. Although the funding meets the program criteria, we anticipate the County using the bulk of their allocation for infrastructure development.

On the fuel reduction side, our progress with the Florence crew was short lived since we lost them to the Telegraph fire a week after they arrived. We are still working to finalize our detailed plan and budget for part-time fuel reduction personnel with Department of Forestry and Fire Management for the already approved 2020 grant. We submitted a 2021 Grant Application which requests funding for 3 full-time staff who will be assigned to fuel reduction projects. We have strong support for this grant from the USFS, Ft. Huachuca, The Nature Conservancy, and the Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership Steering Committee.

Firefighter Joseph McKearney recently completed the Health Leadership course through the U of A Cooperative Extension and submitted a grant to help the Cochise County CPR Coalition to purchase mannequins and provide compression-only CPR training across the county. Yesterday we learned that he was awarded \$5,000 from the Arizona Community Foundation. He also has an application pending with the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona that we are cautiously optimistic about.

The JPA for Southeast Arizona Communications met a few times last week to finalize the selection of a new director. Michael Cline, who recently worked with the City of Sierra Vista and retired as a commander from SVPD, was selected, and officially started yesterday. Battalion Chief Kaleb Mauzy is providing wildland fire training to dispatchers.

We worked with Palominas Fire District on a few interface fires recently including support on a brush fire in Palominas this morning.

Chief Savage spoke with Ms. Harvey, town manager of Huachuca City, last week. She anticipates another six-month extension with Whetstone Fire District. Mr. Evans, Fire Board Chair for Whetstone Fire District states their chief selection will be next week; we have offered our support.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sta. 365 Remodel Update.

Chief Savage provided Fire Board Members an update on the remodel, CORE is continuing to make progress on the classroom and administrative side. The new concrete footers and pad should be poured early tomorrow morning. The backup power generator is on the agenda this evening under new business.

No motion was taken on this item.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2021-04 adopting the FY2022 Budget and Pay Scale.

Board Members were provided with Resolution 2021-04, the tentative FY2022 Budget and Pay Scale. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-04, the FY2022 Budget and Pay Scale. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

B. Review, discussion and possible action regarding selection of an independent auditor.

Board Members were provided with three bids from auditors. Beach Fleischman presented good experience with fire districts our size and larger and has experience working with JVG. A discussion followed.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to select Beach Fleischman as the independent auditor for next fiscal year. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

C. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Employee Physicals.

Fire Board Members were provided with pricing and coverage for three providers to

perform annual employee physicals as recommended by NFPA 1582. Chief Savage's recommendation is Lifescan out of Florida which was the lowest-cost provider who could provide services in our facilities and include extensive cancer screening. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to engage Lifescan as the Employee Physical's provider and to pay for next year's physicals out of this year's budget, not to exceed \$30,000.00. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

D. Review, discussion and possible action regarding purchase of Backup Generator.

Board Members were provided with three bids for a backup generator. Chief Savage's recommendation is Global Power which provided the lowest-cost complete bid and included a generator powerplant serviceable by our mechanic. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the bid from Global Power for the backup generator at Station 365 not to exceed \$35,000.00. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

E. Review, discussion and possible action regarding FY21 budget performance and year-end fund balances.

Steven Rodriguez with JVG requested Board Members direct staff to transfer the year-end balance of the general fund with Cochise County to the operating account with Chase. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion directing staff to take appropriate action to transfer the year-end balance of the county general fund to the operating fund (payroll account). Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

F. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Holiday policy.

Chief Savage provided Board Members with information regarding the current holidays observed by the Fire District in light of the recent federal addition of Juneteenth. A discussion followed. Mr. Sturm requested personnel decide which holidays would be preferred, not to include an additional paid holiday. Chief Savage will survey Fire District personnel and bring it back to the Board.

No motion was taken on this item.

G. Review, discussion and possible action regarding USFS proposal.

Chief Savage stated US Forest Service Ranger Celeste Kinsey has requested support from the Fire District during the public comment period regarding a permanent restriction to shooting within ¼ mile of any forest service road on the eastern half of the Huachuca Mountains in the Coronado National Forest. A discussion followed.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to empower Chief Savage to share Fire District support for the USFS restriction based strictly on our concerns regarding fire safety and life safety. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-1.

Motion Carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from the board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Andersen made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:07 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. McMurtrie.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

DATED THIS 23rd DAY OF JUNE 2021.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board