

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 27, 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
Robert McMurtrie, Board Member
Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Thomas Tucker, Board Member

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. Engineer / Paramedic Brent Madden Badge presentation.

Engineer/Paramedic Brent Madden was recognized for his promotion to Engineer and was presented with a badge in front of his family, friends, and peers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting on June 22, 2021.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of June 22, 2021. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the June 2021 financial reports. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage reported the legislature adjourned after passing the state budget and the tax omnibus bill that includes an increase in the tax levy cap from \$3.25 to \$3.37 next year, and \$3.50 the following year.

We are continuing to attend virtual meetings with Cochise County regarding vaccinations progress. Although we are seeing a slight increase in Covid patients across the county, over 98% of the cases since February are in unvaccinated individuals. Chief Savage does not anticipate a request for additional vaccination support from the county. All of our personnel are continuing to wear regular N95 masks on all EMS calls to reduce exposure.

Our Type 3 engine is back from California and is currently in Tucson for maintenance on some emission system sensors. We currently have an incident medical team deployed to the Bootleg Fire in Oregon and a Type 6 Engine on a fire assignment in Montana. We anticipate an extension request for the crew in Oregon.

There is no news on either of our applications for extrication tools or mobile repeaters under the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) program and FEMA.

On the fuel reduction side, we've had some issues with access to the DCRR crews but are using Tucson and Douglas Crews now and starting to see some more progress in Ramsey Canyon.

We are still working to finalize our detailed project plan and budget for part-time fuel reduction personnel with funding from the 2020 DFFM grant. We received tentative approval for partial funding on the 2021 grant application we submitted, which was for approximately half of what we requested for three full-time staff for three years.

The FY2022 Southeast Arizona Communications budget was approved. The city and county are currently working to evaluate and implement an amendment to the bylaws that may also develop alternative funding models.

Last month we provided some support to the Whetstone Fire District with their Fire Chief selection process. We haven't received any formal response from their Fire Board or Fire Chief, yet.

Mr. Andersen and Chief Savage attended a virtual meeting with Stifel two weeks ago to review a few proposals to help us evaluate the feasibility of refinancing our unfunded liability with PSPRS. We currently owe approximately \$17M in unfunded liability (Accrued Actuarial Liability – Current Funding). We are paying for the unfunded liability over the next 26 years at 7.3% interest, which is the assumed rate of return on PSPRS investments. The proposals offer to refinance the debt by issuing Certificates of Participation at a much lower interest rate which has the potential to result in approximately \$11M in present value savings. The original proposal package was forwarded to the Board earlier today, as well as two additional options that capture savings as soon as next fiscal year with different caps on the annual increase in debt service payments.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sta. 365 Remodel Update.

Chief Savage provided Fire Board Members an update on the remodel, CORE is continuing to make solid progress on the classroom / admin side. Pictures of the progress will be emailed to Board Members. We are moving forward with the backup power generator and will be replacing the 500-gallon propane tank built in the 1940's with a new 1000-gallon tank.

No motion was taken on this item.

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

Chief Savage provided Board Members with an updated Holiday Policy Draft reflecting the feedback from employees on selection of eleven holidays. A discussion followed. Board Members requested information on holidays observed by other fire districts.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to table the item while Chief Savage obtains more information. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Ben Archer Clowes and Steven Rodriguez with JVG presented Board Members with the FY2021 year-end review. Year over year performance was reviewed with recommendations made to maintain the general fund balance near 32% of the annual operating budget, transfer approximately \$75K into the Leave Reserve account, and transfer \$550K into the Capital Reserve account. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the recommendations from JVG to make the noted transfers between funds. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

B. Review, discussion and possible action regarding renewal of IGA with Cochise County for Paramedic Support.

Chief Savage provided Board Members with a renewal IGA with Cochise County to provide medic support to the SWAT team. The IGA is good for five years with additional renewals. A discussion followed.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the renewal IGA with Cochise County for Paramedic Support. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Members would like a presentation from Stifel regarding the options, risks, and benefits of refinancing with best case and worse case scenarios for us. Chief Savage will also contact PSPRS to see if we can include a representative during the presentation to answer questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:17 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

DATED THIS 28th DAY OF JULY 2021.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board