

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
August 24, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Huish called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 6:02 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members in Attendance:      Joseph Huish, Board Chairman  
   Thomas Tucker, Board Member, Acting Clerk  
   Robert McMurtrie, Board Member (electronically)  
   Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent:                Eric Andersen, Board Clerk

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

**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 6:03 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 6:03 p.m.

**Employee Recognition**

A. Firefighter Hannah Struse – completion of Firefighter probation.

Chief Savage recognized Firefighter/EMT Hannah Struse for successful completion of her one-year Firefighter probation. Chief Savage administered the loyalty oath and presented Struse with a new helmet shield and badge.

B. Engineer John Saylor – completion of Engineer probation

Engineer/Paramedic Jon Saylor was recognized for completing one year of probation since his promotion to Engineer and was presented with a new helmet shield.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Board Meeting on July 27, 2021.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 27, 2021. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

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

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the July 2021 financial reports. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

**COMMAND STAFF’S REPORT**

Chief Savage reported the legislature adjourned and there is no significant legislative action to report. Several legislators have recently or will be resigning from their seats to run for other public offices this fall.

We have recently run into a few reliability issues with our aging apparatus. Mr. Ayers just finished replacing the head gasket on E365 and was working this morning to diagnose the cause of E361 going into “Limp Mode”. Battalion Chief Seamans reported the new Type 1 Spartan Engine is nearing completion and should be here before October.

We are still working closely with the Cochise County Health Department regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. With the formal FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine and recommendations growing for boosters we are starting to plan for a few large PODS later this fall in the event there is a significant surge in demand. Although we are seeing a slight increase in COVID patients across the county, the vast majority of hospitalized cases continue to involve unvaccinated individuals. All our personnel are continuing to wear N95 masks and other appropriate PPE on all EMS calls.

Although the monsoons have shifted our local focus to more swift water rescues than wildfires, the fire season continues along the west Coast. Our Type 6 engine and Incident Medical Team are back from Montana and Oregon. Our Type 3 engine is back in California, currently assigned to the French Fire near Kernville.

Unfortunately, our Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) grant for extrication tools was denied, but our FEMA grant application for mobile repeaters is still in the running. We anticipate hearing back from some other grants for funding for cardiac monitors as soon as next month.

We are continuing to use the Douglas ADCRR Fire Crew regularly and seeing some strong progress at the mouth of Ramsey Canyon. The Department of Forestry and Fire Management 2021 HVR Grant agreement has been finalized and we are working to recruit, select, and train some part-time fuel reduction personnel. We'll be ordering some new equipment that they will be able to use so we can continue fuel reduction work when we do not have access to the fire crews. We also received tentative approval for funding under the 2021 HFI grant to hire full-time fuel reduction personnel for work on federal, state, and private property.

Chief Savage continues to serve on the Southeast Arizona Communications JPA Board. They will have a committee looking to update the IGA and Bylaws over the next few months.

## **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 Phase 1, which includes the classroom and administrative offices. Crews have almost finished the taping and texture on the interior and there was a crane on site to set the new HVAC units on the roof this afternoon. SSVEC should be running the power upgrades next week with CORE planning to finish the interior flooring and ceiling in time to move personnel over around the middle of September. There will be some electrical work in the apparatus bays and then crews will move to the demolition for Phase 2, which will remodel the existing crew quarters.

No action was taken on this item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Review, discussion and possible action regarding PSPRS UAAL.**

Clark Partridge, Senior Executive Consultant with the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) provided Board Members a presentation overview of the past, present, and future of the PSPRS, recent pension reform, the current unfunded liability situation, and steps taken to reduce the unfunded liability. Mr. Partridge also reviewed the current status and possible future of the Fry Fire District's unfunded liability.

Michael LaVallee, Managing Director, and Claude Lockhart, Vice President, from Stifel Nicolaus presented statistics on the unfunded pension liability and how they helped cities, fire districts, and other organizations across the state refinance their pension liabilities. They reviewed Fry Fire District's unfunded liability, options to fully fund the liability, savings over the term of the loan, and risks involved. A discussion followed. JVG shared projections for the Fry Fire District under the various models to demonstrate the short and long-term financial impacts.

Mr. Sturm made a motion directing staff to move ahead with the work necessary for the Board to acquire financing to pay off our current unfunded actuarial liability with PRPRS using Stifel as the underwriter, following a model with a cap on the debt service increase of 3.5% or less per year, without a contingency reserve fund. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

B. Review, discussion and possible action regarding rescue box for R3651.

Chief Savage provided Board Members with quotes for a replacement box that will replace the box on R3651, our backup rescue truck to match what is on the new rescue truck. This would streamline our equipment loadout plans and facilitate truck rotations during REMS assignments. The addition of a heavy-duty hitch will also allow the truck to serve as a tow vehicle for our Hazardous Materials trailer. A discussion followed.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the purchase of the rescue box for R3651 as quoted by Maddock Machinery. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

C. Review, discussion and possible action regarding purchase of new ambulance.

The proposed ambulance purchase is for a 2022 DeMers ambulance to match the last two units that were recently purchased. It will phase out a 2008 Ford Ambulance that we currently have in reserve status. Approval of up to \$278,000 is requested for the purchase of this ambulance in line with our capital improvement plan with the intent of avoiding a 5% cost increase and taking delivery in July 2022 (FY2023). A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the purchase of the new ambulance as quoted by DeMers. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

## **REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no requests from Board Members.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

DATED THIS 25th DAY OF AUGUST 2021.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board