

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
September 28, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Huish called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 6:03 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members in Attendance:      Joseph Huish, Board Chairman  
Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Thomas Tucker, Board Member, (electronically)  
Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent:                Robert McMurtrie, Board Member

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

Guests:                                  Michael LaVallee, Stifel, (electronically)  
Claude Lockhart, Stifel, (electronically)  
Jim Giel, Gust Rosenfeld, (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 6:04 p.m.

## **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Chief Savage recognized 5 of our personnel who recently graduated from the Cochise College Paramedic Program. Part-Time EMT Syble Griffin and Firefighters Eric Bailey, Hannah Struse and James Wallace also successfully passing the NREMT examination and are currently certified Paramedics. All will be participating in our Field Training Program to build confidence and competence practicing in our expanded scope. 27 of our line personnel are Paramedics (75%).

## **AMENDMENT TO AGENDA:**

Recommendation to move Unfinished Business, Item 10(b) up on the agenda to ensure Mr. Jim Giel of Gust Rosenfeld has enough time to respond to any questions.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to amend the agenda and move Unfinished Business Item 10(b) up on the agenda. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- b. To consider, and if deemed advisable, to adopt Resolution 2021-005 approving the sale, execution and delivery of certificates of participation in a lease-purchase agreement to provide the necessary financing of the district.

Michael LaVallee, and Claude Lockhart from Stifel gave a PowerPoint Presentation review of the proposed refinancing structure for unfunded PSPRS liabilities to Board Members. Pricing is scheduled for the week of October 18 and closing on November 9, 2021. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-005 approving the sale, execution, and delivery of certificates of participation in a lease-purchase agreement to provide the necessary financing of the district. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Regular Board Meeting on August 24, 2021.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of August 24, 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 August 2021.

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

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the August 2021 financial reports. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

## **COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**

Chief Savage reported Battalion Chief Seamans and Mr. Jim Ayers are scheduled to review the new Type 1 Spartan Engine the week of October 3-5. If it passes their post-construction review it should be here for acceptance testing next month. This is another example of the progress our taxpayers supported with the general obligation bond election passed in 2018. 2 staff vehicles approved by the Board have arrived and will be put into service after having lights and radios, etc. installed.

We are still working closely with the Cochise County Health Department regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. With recommendations continuing to grow for boosters, we are continuing to prepare for a few large PODs later this fall. Although we continue to see an increase in COVID patients across the county, the majority of hospitalized cases continue to occur in unvaccinated individuals. All of our personnel are continuing to wear regular N95 masks on all EMS calls.

Although our local wildfire season has slowed down, we are continuing to support large fires along the west coast. Our Type 6 Engine experienced a breakdown on the return trip from California – the truck has since been repaired and the crew is back on their way home. Our Incident Medical Team has requested a 7-day extension. Chief Savage spoke with their Medical Unit Leader earlier this afternoon and he advised that they were doing great work.

We still have not received word on the Tribal Gaming Grant or Assistance to Firefighters Grants. We are working through the hiring and onboarding for fuels crew under the 2021 HVR Grant agreement. We are also continuing to work with the USFS and DFFM to finalize the 2021 HFI grant budget and detailed project plan.

Chief Savage continues to serve on the Southeast Arizona Communications JPA Board and with the committee working to update the IGA and Bylaws. Chief Seamans is performing well as the Operations Committee Chair and we are optimistic that any updates will reflect some of the recent changes between principals and partners. It may also result in an improved funding model and address infrastructure concerns.

Whetstone Fire District has completed contract negotiations with Robert Jarvis and brought him on as their new Fire Chief.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (CONT.)**

- a. Sta. 365 Remodel Update. Review, discussion and possible action regarding funding for built-in, lockable closets and desks for sleeping quarters.

Chief Savage provided Fire Board Members an estimate from Sierra Woodworks LLC to provide built-in lockers and desks for the new bunk rooms. We have also requested an estimate from King's Fine Cabinetry.

Item tabled.

- c. To consider, and if deemed advisable, to adopt Resolution 2021-006 approving the reassignment of sufficient funds budgeted to PSPRS to pay for the principal and interest payments, per the closing debt service payment schedule authorized in Resolution 2021-005.

Chief Savage explained the need to account for reallocation of budgeted funds from PSPRS (reflected in total Personnel Costs) to the debt service. The recommended Paying Agent / Trustee with the lowest of 4 bids is U.S. Bank. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-006 approving the reassignment of sufficient funds budgeted to PSPRS to pay for the principal and interest payments, per the closing debt service payment schedule authorized in Resolution 2021-005. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Covid-19 Vaccinations.

The Board Members were previously provided a press release from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Chief Savage anticipates a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care workers as soon as next month. Medicare and Medicaid payments account for almost half of our ambulance revenues, in excess of \$550k per year.

About 90% of our employees are fully vaccinated; although, there may be some resistance from a few employees who oppose vaccinations. This job comes with some predictable trade-offs for the benefit of our community, this likely being one. We anticipate complying with the new rule in a timely fashion. A discussion followed.

Mr. Tucker asked Chief Savage how we are going to deconflict any issues with state law. Chief Savage stated he had forwarded the question to our attorney, Jeff Matura and will share his opinion as soon as it is received. Mr. Sturm requested Chief Savage to contact Gail Griffin regarding the situation so we don't have to choose between State and Federal funds. Mr. Tucker requested a meeting if CMS mandates COVID-19 vaccinations for healthcare workers prior to making any decisions.

No action was taken on this item.

### **REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members reviewed Chief Savage's annual self-evaluation and asked to ensure it was included on next month's agenda.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:21 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

DATED THIS 29th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2021.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board