

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 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 (Acting Chairman)  
Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically)  
Robert McMurtrie, Board Member (electronically)

Board Members Absent: Joseph Huish, Board Chairman  
Norman Sturm, Board Member

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

Guests: Lydia Hunter, Beach Fleischman (electronically)  
Friends, Family, and co-workers for award recipients  
Jeffrey Matura, Attorney (electronically)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION**

Mr. Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance and 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 – Annual Awards Recognition for 2020**

Chief Savage recognized Battalion Chief Mauzy and Captain Furnia for their 15 years of service with the Fry Fire District.

a. Part-Time EMT of the Year

Battalion Chief Kaleb Mauzy presented EMT Andrew Vidinski with the Part-Time EMT of the Year Award for 2020.

b. Outstanding Achievement Award

Battalion Chief Billy Seamans presented Captain Adam Short with the Outstanding Achievement Award for 2020.

c. EMS Professional of the Year

The 2020 EMS Professional of the Year, Firefighter Joseph McKearney, was not present.

d. Firefighter of the Year

Chief Savage presented Engineer Michael Kean the Firefighter of the Year Award for 2020.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Andersen congratulated the award winners and thanked their families for their continued support.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

a. Review, discussion and possible action on the annual audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Board members were provided a copy of the audit results and this evening's PowerPoint Presentation. Lydia Hunter, CPA with Beach Fleischman, provided Board Members with an overview of the results from the annual audit for Fiscal Year 2021. Lydia Hunter congratulated the District on receiving an unmodified opinion on the financial statements, the highest opinion issued. Although the audit is complete and the numbers are final, we are still waiting for the GFOA certificate from last year.

Lydia Hunter recommended the Board approve the audit, results, and clean opinion, and wait for the GFOA certificate before the audit statements are issued.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the annual audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, with issuance delayed pending receipt of the GFOA certification. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial report for October 2021.

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for October 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 October 2021 financial reports. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on October 26, 2021.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of October 26, 2021. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

- b. Approval of Minutes for the Board Executive Session on October 26, 2021.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Board Executive Session minutes of October 26, 2021. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

- c. Review of monthly response data provided in packet (no action required).

No action was taken on this item.

### **COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**

Chief Savage reported we currently have 2 type 1 engines out of service. E366 is in Tucson currently waiting on parts from Cummins, E365 is awaiting delivery to Phoenix for the diagnosis and repair of some ongoing transmission issues. E361 was out of service but Mr. Ayers was able to replace the fuel pump and get it back in service today. Fortunately, SVFMD was kind enough to loan us one of their reserve engines this past week while we were getting ours repaired. We continue to look forward to the delivery of our new Type 1 engine.

We supported a COVID-19 Booster Outreach Event with the Cochise County Health Department and the Cochise College Allied Health Program on November 13<sup>th</sup>. We were

able to provide Moderna Booster shots to approximately 582 people whom we previously vaccinated. The next Outreach Event will be on December 11, by invitation only for the remaining patients we originally vaccinated last April and May. We have approximately 200 appointments scheduled so far with more signing up each day.

Yesterday evening, Copper Queen Hospital (CQHC) went into crisis status. While they aren't overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients, due to the limited number of ICU beds available statewide at hospitals treating COVID patients, they are having difficulty transferring patients to a higher level of care. The Arizona COVID-19 Surge Line, which was established to help facilitate the movement of high-acuity COVID patients is unavailable for non-COVID patients, which seems to be frustrating the situation. Their med-surge floor has been largely populated by non-COVID ICU patients and they are out of ventilators. We offered to share our transport ventilators if necessary and we have temporarily stopped transporting patients to their facility. Ms. Lynn with Cochise County OEM is aware and working with the state and other local hospitals to develop some solutions.

Chief Savage had a similar discussion with Canyon Vista Medical Center (CVMC) last week regarding transport refusals for low-acuity patients in the event they experience a similar increase in patients.

We had little wildfire activity the past month, most of our calls have been related to warming fires or smoke checks. Daniel Sanchez, the wildfire fuel reduction hire has resigned due to competing demands.

Chief Savage emailed Senator Kelly's Office this morning to follow up on the budget appropriations. We are still optimistic the funds we have requested to support the purchase of new cardiac monitors will be approved in December. We are planning to submit a letter of support to their office. Cardiac monitor evaluations are continuing with some additional training on the Phillips Tempest pending.

Chief Savage continues to serve on the Southeast Arizona Communications JPA Board and with the committee working to update the IGA and Bylaws. We forwarded a draft MOU to the County Attorney's Office for review that outlines the individual agency requirements for the Fire Station Alerting project as requested by the Cochise County BOS. Individual agencies will be expected to pick up the ongoing maintenance costs within 2 years of installation. Battalion Chiefs Seamans and Meeker are continuing to refine the proposal to match specific agency needs and we are still hopeful that the county will use American Rescue Plan funding to support the project.

Our unfunded pension liability has been refinanced with funds deposited in our account with PSPRS. More details to come once we receive their annual report.

Chief Savage continues to meet with Ms. Harvey, Huachuca City Town Manager, to discuss their RFP. Ms. Harvey mentioned that she expects the RFP to be advertised soon with the deadline in the next few months. She has also raised an issue regarding questionable billing practices for non-transport by another agency.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding purchase of a breathing air compressor.

Chief Savage stated Engineer Kean found a breathing air compressor with GSA pricing that is nearly \$20,000 less than the original estimate reflected on the capital replacement plan.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the purchase of a new breathing air compressor. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Standard of Conduct policy update.

Reporting police involvement was added as a requirement to the Standard of Conduct policy. A discussion followed.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Standard of Conduct policy update. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Holiday and Differential Pay policy updates.

Board Members were provided updated Holiday and Differential Pay policies. The Holiday Pay policy was amended to reflect exempt and part-time EMS employees working holidays.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Holiday and Differential Pay policy updates. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding CMS / OSHA Covid-19 Plan and policy.

Chief Savage requested to go into executive session to discuss the CMS / OSHA COVID-19 Plan and policy with attorney, Jeff Matura.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

Executive Session entered at 6:51 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 7:44 p.m.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the COVID-19 Policy as required under the CMS Omnibus Covid-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination rule pending final legal review by Jeffrey Matura. Motion seconded by Mr. McMurtrie.

Vote: 3-0

Motion Carried.

### **REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Andersen requested to fully resolve the Chief's pay at next month's meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:47 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Tucker.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

DATED THIS 24th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board