

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 22, 2022**

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 (electronically)
Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically)
Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent: None

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

Guests in Attendance: Jeffrey Matura, Attorney (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 6:01 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 6:01 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial report for January 2022.

Ben Archer Clowes from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for January 2022. The board reviewed the warrants for the month and there were no questions.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the January 2022 financial reports. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on January 25, 2022.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 25, 2022. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

b. Approval of Minutes for the Special Board Meeting on February 15, 2022.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the Special Board Meeting minutes of February 15, 2022. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

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

Chief Seamans was unavailable to provide data for the month prior to the meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage reported our three new Firefighters – Joseph Rivera, Joshua Noriega and Spencer Packer – have completed their initial training and are assigned to shift work. Both Firefighter's Noriega and Packer are certified Paramedics and will be working through our FTO program in addition to their regular firefighter probationary requirements. Firefighter Joshua Steinberg also recently completed his first year with us.

We received two employee resignations since our last meeting. Firefighter Andres Chavez has taken a job with Golder Ranch Fire District in Tucson and Firefighter Michael Bocoock is leaving the fire service to pursue a career as a flight medic with Guardian Air. Both shared their appreciation for the training and experience they received during their tenure here. Ms. Hilton will coordinate their exit interviews and Chief Savage looks forward to her feedback.

Mr. Ayers is continuing to work to diagnose the issues with E365 but has the rest of our apparatus up and running. He is continuing to install emergency lights and radios on our Support and Battalion Chief trucks. Chief Seamans is expecting to take delivery of the new Type 1 engine tomorrow. We will complete a very thorough acceptance test.

CORE has been working through some weather delays with the foam roofing for the remodel of Station 365. They were able to install the wiring and supports for the Fire Station Alerting project and are making quick progress with the rest of the electrical wiring and ductwork prior to interior sheeting in Phase 2. The update Chief Savage received this morning still has us moving back in sometime in March, although a delay with the backup generator may delay the issuance of our final Certificate of Occupancy.

Canyon Vista Medical Center (CVMC) and Copper Queen Community Hospital (CQCH) continue to move into and out of divert status. CVMC currently has a FEMA team on-site providing some additional staffing support.

Employee physicals were completed last month with some potential issues identified with some of our employees. The feedback was very positive; employees seemed to appreciate the extra time and attention they received from the providers as well as the comprehensive ultrasound scans.

Grants – Chief Savage reported that we are continuing to struggle to find and hire fuel reduction personnel. The Douglas crew is continuing to make progress under our 2021 HVR grant, and we anticipate some additional progress with the 2021 HFI grant soon. We are happy to share that the USFS has been working to treat a 10-acre parcel in between the Nature Conservancy and private parcels on the north side of Ramsey Canyon. We are also exploring the feasibility of a joint DFFM-DOT project along Hwy 92 from Hereford Rd. to Stoneridge Rd.

Chiefs Seamans and Chief Meeker received support from the SEACOM Operations Committee for the county-wide Fire Station Alerting project. We are hoping to get it on the next JPA agenda to forward to the Cochise County BOS in the next few weeks. Chief Savage shared his appreciation to Chief Seamans for serving as the Operations Committee Chair for the past year.

Chiefs Mauzy, Seamans and Savage presented our proposals to the Town of Huachuca City last week. Chief Seamans and Mr. Ayers looked over their apparatus this afternoon and we should have some additional information for them prior to their meeting on Thursday evening. Regardless of the outcome, Chief Savage remains optimistic that we will be able to continue working collaboratively together.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Postponed until after new business for a phone call with Jeffrey Matura the Fry Fire District Attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Huachuca City Proposal.

Chief Savage provided a description of the three proposals presented to the Huachuca City Town Council. Mr. Sturm asked if anyone else responded to the request and Chief Savage described the proposals presented by Whetstone Fire District. A discussion followed.

No action taken on this item.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding District Staffing and Deployment.

Chief Savage suggested that our ideal staffing, without funding restriction, would include an Assistant Chief, three stand-alone Battalion Chiefs, full-time constant staffing of three at our corner (cross-staffed) stations and six at Station 365 for ambulances and fire engines. This would raise daily staffing to 13 with an additional administrative position and significantly increase overtime expenditures.

In light of our actual financial constraints however, we are continuing to look at moving the BCs onto days and changing them to exempt status with on-call time after hours for large incidents. We are also looking at rolling the Fire Marshal duties into one of the positions in the next year when Fire Marshal Shiver is planning to retire.

As discussed previously, the daytime schedule should provide them with additional time to complete their administrative duties getting them 'off-the-truck' and out to our other stations with an opportunity to improve leadership and communications with our personnel. Promoting three additional Captains would also limit the dual role our Engineers have, often acting up into the Engine Captain role when staffing permits a stand-alone BC.

Chief Savage asked for approval to continue laying the groundwork from the budget end with JVG as well as running a promotional process with Ms. Hilton to support the proposed redeployment. Other changes could potentially see the Engineers at Station 361 assigned to Station 365 and being replaced by a Driver / Operator qualified Firefighter due to the low frequency of Engine calls at that station. A discussion followed.

The Board supported Chief Savage continuing to work on a proposed redeployment of staff within our budget.

No action was taken on this item.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding an Amendment to our Annual Pension Funding Policy.

Chief Savage explained the minor changes to the Annual Pension Funding Policy that the Board approved last year resulting from our pension refinance. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Amendment to our Annual Pension Funding Policy. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Vote: 5-0

Motion Carried.

d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding T-Mobile tower lease.

T-Mobile requested additional space at Station 361 for an emergency backup generator. A discussion followed.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the T-Mobile tower lease amendment after Chief Savage works out the terms of the lease and payment amount. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Vote: 5-0

Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Covid-19 Vaccination Policy.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion with attorney, Jeff Matura to review the Covid-19 Vaccination Policy and exemptions. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Executive Session entered at 6:52 p.m.

Regular Session entered at 8:54 p.m.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Covid-19 Vaccination Policy. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0

Motion Carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from the Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

DATED THIS 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY 2022.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board