

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 28, 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)

Board Members Absent: Thomas Tucker, Board Member
Norman Sturm, Board Member

Staff in Attendance: Mark Savage, Fire Chief
Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor
Ben Archer Clowes, JVG (electronically)
Steven Rodriguez, JVG
Jared Haros, Engineer
Eric Bailey, Firefighter/CEP
Jennifer Widdows, EMT

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mr. Huish led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Andersen 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 6:00 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

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

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

a. David R. Deary Unit Citation for Paramedic Eric Bailey / EMT Jennifer Widdows

Chief Savage presented Paramedic Eric Bailey and EMT Jennifer Widdows with the David R. Deary Unit Citation for their life saving actions while working on Medic 365 on May 6, 2022. The patient, Mr. Wheatley, was also present to recognize the crew and share his appreciation for their efforts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Board Meeting on May 24, 2022.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of May 24, 2022. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Ben Archer Clowes from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for May 2022 and year-to-date. A discussion followed. The board reviewed the warrants for the month and there were no questions.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the May 2022 financial reports. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

Public Hearing on the Fry Fire District Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget

- a. Open the Public Hearing.

Mr. Huish opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget at 6:13 p.m.

No members of the public commented on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget. Chief Savage reported that the tentatively adopted budget was posted last month in compliance with statute.

- b. Close the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing on the Fry Fire District Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget closed at 6:13 p.m.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage stated SCR1049 was passed by the Arizona Legislature as part of their final budget reconciliation efforts. As a result of this legislation, there will be a question about

the Fire District Assistance Fund on the November ballot. This has the potential to add 1/10th of 1% to the sales tax across the state to generate funds to support fire districts. The tax has a 20-year sunset provision as well as limits in place to ensure that the funding is spread across all 144 of Arizona's fire districts. Initial poll results about the likely support is incredibly encouraging. We expect to begin sharing information with voters in the next few months. Chief Savage shared his appreciation for the efforts of IAFF Local #4913 and everyone else who reached out to our local representatives to support this critical project!

A related budgetary item is that the City of Sierra Vista is actively working to annex approximately 19 commercial properties along the east side of Hwy 92, roughly from U-Haul just north of Golden Acres Drive through AutoZone just south of Glenn Road. Chief Savage is researching the future financial impact with the County Assessor and will report to the Board.

Monsoon season has begun a little early, slowing our local wildfire season appreciably. We are continuing to support wildfire firefighting efforts throughout the state. Our large water tender returned Sunday after almost two weeks at the Haywire Fire near Flagstaff. Payment for invoices this season seems to be coming in relatively quickly, between 10 days and 2 weeks after invoices are submitted.

The transition with Huachuca City is continuing to run smoothly. A few people were out this month due to sick and paternity leave, but they are back on duty now. We would like to congratulate Lieutenant Yanez on the birth of his son. Last month we changed Casey Anders to full-time status; he completed his initial training and is now covering shifts. Yesterday we interviewed another few candidates for full and part-time positions and hired Joel Altamirano to full-time status.

The promotional process for Captains and Engineers was completed last week. We will be meeting with the candidates later this week to share the feedback and results and are looking forward to the new opportunities they will bring. Chief Savage cannot share enough positive feedback about Ms. Hilton who oversaw and certified the entire process. It also would not have been successful without help from our partners at SVFMD (Deputy Chief, Brad Dever and Fire Marshal, Don Foster) and Douglas Fire (Assistant Chief, Oscar Elias) who helped evaluate the In-Basket and Oral Interview components.

We are still working on a few issues with the new Type 1 Engine; the transmission has been leaking but the repair should be covered under warranty. The PTO also seems to have a hard shift when engaging; Spartan's engineers are working on a solution. Mr. Ayers is continuing to work to diagnose the issues with the transmission on E365 to get it back into service. The new rescue box should be finished with paint; installation is pending in the next few weeks. The new Command truck is in service and Fire Marshal Shiver has moved into the older BC truck. We will be selling his Tahoe on public surplus in the near future.

Construction on our new water tender is continuing with delivery still expected sometime this fall. Demers is also continuing to work to get a chassis from Ford for our new ambulance. At this point we may move into a 2023 model year from the original 2022 model. Delivery is still projected for this winter.

Grants – The Tucson Forestry Fuels crew is continuing to make headway with chipping work in Ramsey Canyon. As shared previously, these crews are able to work despite ongoing fire season; their only limitation is during Red Flag conditions.

We have received word that our HRSA funding request was formally approved in the amount of \$105,000.00 in federal appropriations for the purchase of cardiac monitors. Captain Furnia placed the order a few weeks ago, so now we are just waiting on delivery and setup. No news from our application through ADEM for border security-related radios in an amount close to \$74,000.00.

Lieutenant Alba received 100 smoke detectors from the Arizona Burn Foundation. These will reinforce Fire Marshal Shiver's local work with smoke detectors provided by the Red Cross and provide support for Huachuca City residents to ensure people at risk for fire will be better protected in their homes.

SEACOM also submitted a significant border security grant for radio maintenance and upgrades.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Station 365 Remodel Update.

Chief Savage stated CORE is continuing to make progress with the punch list issues we have identified. King's Fine Cabinetry is still working on the lockers and desks for the bunkrooms with an anticipated delivery and install date within the next few months. Thanks to Chief Seamans, we are at the top of the list for the Fire Station Alerting installation which may begin as soon as July 11, 2022.

No action taken on this item.

b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Securis Workers' Compensation.

As of their June 22 meeting, the Securis Board continued the presumption regarding Workers' Compensation claims for Covid 19. However, as we continue to move towards the endemic stage, Chief Savage would like to remove the "Up to Date" requirement for our personnel who wish to participate in out-of-district wildland deployments and training.

In addition to moving the TPT referendum ahead, the Arizona Legislature also approved ARPA funding to support fire district Workers' Compensation costs. The funded amount may range from \$13M to \$20M depending on the source. Securis believes our anticipated reimbursement for FY23 coverage will be just under \$40,000.00. Chief Savage requested approval to sign the Coverage Acceptance Form from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. A discussion followed.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve Chief Savage signing the Coverage Acceptance Form and updating the wildland deployment requirements. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2022-02 adopting the FY2023 Budget and Pay Scale.

Ben Archer Clowes offered to review the Power Point Presentation from last month's budget presentation. As nothing changed from the previously presented budget, adopted for posting, the Board elected to skip the review. A discussion followed.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept Resolution 2022-02 adopting the FY2023 Budget and Pay Scale including parity adjustments and a cost-of-living increase. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion Carried.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding FY22 budget performance and year-end fund balances.

Ben Archer Clowes stated that the final year-end numbers are not expected to change much from the May year-to-date report. JVG is not ready to provide final year-end recommendations.

Item tabled until next month's Fire Board Meeting.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the FY23 PSPRS Pension Funding Policy.

Ben Archer Clowes provided Board Members an updated FY23 Pension Funding Policy with the most recent actuarial, which did not reflect the District's refinancing of the unfunded liability late in 2021. A discussion followed.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the FY23 PSPRS Pension Funding Policy. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion Carried.

No action taken on this item.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

L4913 representative, Jared Haros provided results from the poll requested by Board Members the prior month. Jared Haros stated the overall disapproval rating regarding how labor felt about the COVID-19 booster requirements for wildland deployments and out of district training was 84%. A discussion followed.

There were no requests from the Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Andersen made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. McMurtrie.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

DATED THIS 29TH DAY OF JUNE 2022.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board