

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 23, 2022**

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
Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Robert McMurtrie, Board Member

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

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 6:03 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

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

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

a. Captain Badge Presentations – Jared Haros, Michael Kean, Jon Sayler.

Chief Savage presented badges to Captain Jared Haros, Captain Michael Kean, and Captain Jon Sayler. Each Captain had their badge pinned to their uniform by a loved-one.

b. Engineer Badge Presentations – Austin Nash, James Wallace.

Chief Savage presented a badge to Engineer Austin Nash. The badge was pinned to his uniform by a loved-one. Engineer James Wallace was not present due to a wildfire assignment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Board Meeting on July 26, 2022.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 26, 2022. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0, Mr. McMurtrie abstained.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Ben Archer Clowes from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for July 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 July 2022 financial reports. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage provided an update on Proposition 310. In a special meeting earlier this month, the AFDA Board voted to transfer \$25,000 to the Professional Fire Fighters Association in support of Proposition 310. With less than 50 days to go before early voting, you can expect to see signs and other advertising in support of Proposition 310 going up. We are happy to share facts regarding the current revenue limitations, operational and logistical needs of Arizona's fire districts. The Fire District Assistance Fund would generate revenue through a 1/10th of 1% sales tax which has the potential to generate significant revenue for us and 143 other fire districts spread across Arizona.

We are still working with PSPRS to resolve exactly what our current unfunded liability looks like. We refinanced at market value not the actuarial value. There has been significant discussion about the timing and calculations of our rates.

Our type 3 engine was in California last month and has been back for a few weeks. All appropriate invoices have been submitted to DFFM. We currently have a type 6 engine and crew assigned to the Sierra National Forest. The crew has been there just over a week with a 7-day extension approved this morning.

Huachuca City operations are continuing to run smoothly. We are working to help them update their piece of the Cochise County Hazard Mitigation Plan which was last updated in 2017.

We met with the Cochise County OEM to recommend that they submit a grant request for federal funding to update the county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The current version was created under Mr. Sturm's oversight in 2014. An update now would likely finish in late 2023, maintaining local eligibility for several grants over the next decade.

We recently hired Firefighter / Paramedic Ron Orona, who is here this evening. We also hired another full-time Paramedic Austin Krebs, and Firefighter / EMT Emilio Martinez. All have extensive experience prior to joining Fry, and we are looking forward to the strengths they will bring to our organization. Although we anticipate another retirement this fiscal year, we are currently fully-staffed.

Construction on the new water tender continues with delivery expected this fall. Demers is still waiting for our 4x4 chassis from Ford to build the ambulance we ordered almost a year ago, but they are working to schedule a pre-construction visit for the 4x2 ambulance that you approved last month.

We received approval from FEMA for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant that will support the purchase of vehicle-mounted Wi-Fi antennas. We are currently running a demo unit on M143 from the Arabian Road station with positive results. The units should significantly improve the connectivity for our computers, tablets, and Lucas devices. We anticipate the need for greater reliability and bandwidth once our new cardiac monitors are in. We are still waiting for a shipping date for the monitors from Philips. The HRSA funding still seems solid.

ADEM shared that there was a delay in funding allocations so the application we have with them to fund new radios is still pending.

SEACOM is still wrestling with staffing. We are continuing to work to explore opportunities to provide them with additional staffing support.

The Board Members who returned packets to the County Elections Department will be appointed to new terms by the County Board of Supervisors, which will also cancel our election.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Station 142 (365) Remodel / Fire Station Alerting Update.

Chief Savage stated the station renumbering has been completed to put us back on the Cochise County Fire Station numbering system; 141 is our Second Street Station, 143 is our Arabian Drive Station, the Apache Street Station is 142, and 161 is Huachuca City. The number 14 was originally assigned to us from the County during a numbering project several years ago; the 36 designation was assigned to us during our integration with Sierra Vista.

CORE is continuing to make progress with our punch list issues. The roofing caps are almost complete with some bathroom flooring and door repairs pending. U.S. Digital equipment is now installed in all our fire stations. Although we expect some continued growing pains, the overall improvements are remarkable. 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.

No action taken on this item.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Capital Improvement Plan purchases.

- i. Station 141

Chief Seamans is looking into options to replace the existing mobile home on 2nd Street, possibly between \$250,000.00 and \$275,000.00 to improve living conditions at the station. The current mobile home was purchased in the late 1990's. A discussion followed. Mr. McMurtrie stated a mobile unit is probably the best route considering the City's continued efforts to annex properties around the station. Mr. McMurtrie would like to have another meeting or work session with the City Council, possibly annually, so we can work on a good relationship for the benefit of residents in and around Sierra Vista. Chief Savage recommended a work or information sharing session. Mr. Andersen stated there is a 2008 strategic planning document quoted for the annexation on highway 92; he would like to see if we can obtain a copy.

- ii. Station 143

We did a walk through with CORE to look at options for adding individual living quarters and upgrade fire facilities. We will confer with Cochise College prior to updating our training facilities to avoid duplication of efforts. Chief Savage would like our training facility to complement the college's if at all possible.

- iii. Type 3 Engine

Chief Savage recommends replacing the type 6 engine on the capital improvement plan with a type 3 engine.

No action taken on this item.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from the Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:02 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF AUGUST 2022.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board