

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
October 25, 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  
  Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically)  
  Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent:             None

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

**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.

**BOND FUNDING PRESENTATION**

a. Capital Improvement Plan Progress.

Chief Savage provided board members information on bond expenditures and a list of where we are with apparatus and fleet replacement. The list shows our remarkable progress in updating our apparatus with the bond funds. Mr. Andersen asked if we have seen any change in maintenance costs. Chief Savage states the repair costs for our older

vehicles are significant; however, the routine maintenance on the new gas engines is significantly reduced.

No action taken on this item.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Regular Board Meeting on September 27, 2022.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of September 27, 2022. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for September 2022 and FY2023 year-to-date. The board reviewed the warrants for the month. A discussion followed.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the September 2022 financial reports. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

## **COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**

Chief Savage congratulated the Board for being recognized by the GFOA for “excellence in Financial Reporting.”

Proposition 310 Update - Early ballots are out. Chief Savage stated he has received a few calls with questions about Proposition 310. He is continuing to share the facts about the potential revenue stream and how it can help rural fire districts across the state, especially Fry Fire District. Our current year's Net Assessed Value – the value that our tax levy is calculated on - is roughly 3% lower than it was ten years ago without any correction for inflation. The only way we have been able to maintain services thus far is through the aggressive pursuit of non-tax revenue sources and some limited increases in our property tax levy. Our non-tax revenue has climbed from 28% of our annual budget to 35% of our annual budget, reducing the burden on our taxpayers significantly. Proposition 310 can further reinforce our financial stability and reduce our reliance on property taxes, setting us up financially for the next few decades.

L4913 President, Captain Haros and Chief Savage were able to share some facts regarding our current revenue limitations due to the current system and answer questions

regarding the operational and logistical needs of fire districts with Arizona Public Media's reporter Summer Hom. The link to the NPR story was shared with Board Members. The article mentioned difficulty in reaching those opposing Proposition 310 for comment.

Operations – Huachuca City operations are continuing to run smoothly. We provided feedback for their wildfire and flooding risk to update the Cochise County Hazard Mitigation Plan which was previously updated in 2017. Three of our paramedics will be supporting a vaccination clinic in Huachuca City tomorrow with the Cochise County Health and Social Services Department.

Our staffing redeployment is continuing to go well. Chief Savage reported that the new Captains are continuing to perform well-above standard with the direct input and guidance of the Deputy Chiefs. We anticipate rotating the new officers out to other stations and bringing some of the other officers to this station with the goal of improving consistency and performance at the mid-supervisory level. Although it is a significant change, we continue to see positive results with the Company Officers and Deputy Chiefs.

District Staffing – We are continuing to work through some turnover. Chief Savage thanked Mr. Tucker for a referral from Tucson Airport Authority; we hired Steven Finley to fill the vacancy created by Firefighter Steinberg's retirement. Mr. Finley comes to us with significant and diverse experience and began his initial training this week. We are still looking to recruit one additional full-time firefighter to fill the vacancy that will result from Captain Allred's anticipated retirement.

We have hired, trained, and deployed three seasonal fuel reduction crew members. All have completed chainsaw and chipper training and have been performing grant-funded fuel reduction work for the past few weeks. Our personnel are working in conjunction with the Tucson Fuels crew and on separate private parcels. In the event we receive a late season wildfire deployment, all three are red-carded and fully qualified to deploy on our wildland engines which will reduce the impact on district staffing.

Apparatus and Equipment – Our Type 6 Engine should be coming back from turbo repairs at Ford today or tomorrow, fortunately the repair is covered under warranty.

The new Tender from Osco has finally arrived. Chief Seamans and Captain Kean did an excellent job developing the specification for it and Chief Savage is optimistic it will improve our water supply operations on most fires. The tender enhances our ability to provide water to support fire suppression in much of our remote areas and will ultimately allow us to surplus our current 2000-gallon tender which is over 20 years old.

Chief Seamans is still waiting on a virtual pre-construction visit with Demers for the new 4x2 ambulance. They may have finally received our 4x4 chassis from Ford to build the ambulance we ordered last year.

Grants – We requested a bid for communications hardware supported by the FEMA AFG grant and anticipate making purchases in the next few months. Chief Savage is proud to share that Firefighter Friedenbergl also submitted a successful grant request for a new set

of extrication tools. Firefighter Friedenberg was planning to be here to answer any questions about the grant; however, he is currently at Station 143 for live fire LPG training. Chief Savage is also grateful to DC Mauzy and AmeriGas for supporting another round of district-wide live fire training.

We are still waiting for a shipping date from Philips for the new cardiac monitors. We are getting closer to their expected 6-month delivery date.

There is nothing new to report from ADEM regarding the funding allocations for our radio request. The funds are anticipated to be distributed within the next few months with some additional radio purchases to follow.

Dan Duchon, the Cochise County EM successfully submitted a grant request for federal funding to update the county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. We were able to help obtain letters of support from both the Ft. Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Steering Committee and the Cochise County Fire Association. Chief Savage and Jennifer Kaplan will be stepping down as Co-Chairs of the SLRP Working Group at the end of the year. Chief Savage is proud to share that Mark Apel and Kim McReynolds will be serving as Co-Chairs next year. Both bring incredible experience and knowledge to the position and will continue to push the mission of the Ft. Huachuca Sentinel Landscape forward.

SEACOM – SEACOM is continuing to wrestle with significant staffing shortages. We are continuing to work to explore opportunities that will provide them with support and have a special meeting on Thursday morning to discuss critical issues.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Sta. 365 Remodel / Fire Station Alerting update.**

Chief Savage reported, Core is continuing to make progress with our punch list and warranty issues. They were out last Thursday to photograph the building. King's Cabinets has finally begun installing lockers and desks in the individual bunk rooms which should come close to finishing up the fire station side. Staff have been getting the station ready to host the Cochise County Fire Association and EMS Group tomorrow. Chief Seamans is working with the fire station alerting system. He is also working on an open house date to share the station with our community, probably early next month.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Copper Queen Hospital provided our personnel with grilled hot dogs and hamburgers to share their appreciation for First Responders. They also recently celebrated the grand opening of their Hereford Clinic.

No action taken on this item.

### **b. Automatic Aid Agreement with Whetstone Fire District.**

Chief Savage reported the Whetstone Fire District Board approved and signed the Automatic Aid Agreement and forwarded it to their attorney for final approval.

No action taken on this item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion and possible acceptance of Cochise County Board of Supervisors Resolution 22-24 canceling the regular election for the Fry Fire District for uncontested positions.

Chief Savage stated the resolution will cancel the election for Fry Fire District and accept the Board of Supervisors appointment of Mr. Sturm and Mr. Andersen to new terms beginning January 1, 2023. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the Cochise County Board of Supervisors Resolution 22-24 canceling the regular election for the Fry Fire District for uncontested positions. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Grant Agreement with the Ak-Chin Indian Community and Cochise County.

The grant has been reviewed by Mr. Matura. The grant for up to \$50,000.00 was submitted for TNT rescue tools or Holmatro rescue tools. We will be evaluating the tools prior to any spending on the grant. Cochise County will serve as the fiscal agent.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the Grant Agreement with the Ak-Chin Indian Community and Cochise County. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding a new communications tower.

Chief Savage stated we are still working with AT&T on a new Tower Lease Agreement.

No action taken on this item.

- d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the Fire Chief's annual evaluation.

Chief Savage requested to go into executive session to discuss the Fire Chief's annual evaluation.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

Executive Session entered at 6:51 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 7:31 p.m.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the evaluation for Chief Savage from fiscal year 2022. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

### **REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Members would like to discuss possible implementation of a policy to compensate performance.

Board Members agree with the dates for the board meetings in November and December 2022.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

DATED THIS 26TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2022.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board