

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 25, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brofer called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance: Duane Brofer, Board Chairman
 Art Nash, Board Clerk
 James Barnett, Board Member
 Bess Banister, Board Member
 Gilbert Gil, Board Member

Board Members Absent:

Others in Attendance: William Miller, Fire Chief
 Maria Gordon, Administrative Manager

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Mr. Nash led the pledge of allegiance and Mr. Brofer gave the invocation.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Brofer opened the call to the public at 7:01 p.m.

There was no one to appear before the board at this time.

Call to the public closed at 7:01 p.m.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT/SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Chief Miller reported that he met with Steve Able, the interim Fire Chief at Palominas Fire District. They discussed getting them up to speed and renewing our working relationship.

We are continuing to work on the district budget for next fiscal year, and if any of the board members have items that they would like us to address, add or delete please get together with us as soon as possible.

We received a payment from the Arizona State Land Department for \$43,136.10. We have one remaining invoice outstanding for \$26,734.31 from last year.

We are happy to announce that we were awarded a Home Land Security Grant of \$11,490 for Hazardous Materials equipment.

At our awards banquet this past Saturday Battalion Chief Billy Seamans was recognized as our Firefighter of the Year, Danny Furnia was recognized as our EMS Provider of the Year and John Clark was recognized for Outstanding Achievement.

AFDA summer conference dates have been announced as June 28th and 29th at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort.

New Run summary reports placed in each member's box. We had 637 responses for the month of February. These calls include both the City of Sierra Vista and Fry Fire District.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Maria presented the Board with account balances as of February 28, 2013. She informed the board that at the previous meeting she stated that our 2013 assessed valuations decreased 2%, which will affect our budget by approximately \$72,000. Since that time, we have received an amended assessed valuation, with an additional decrease of \$867,000, which equates to an additional \$20,000 to the budget. The County sent amended figures to all taxing entities within the county as personal exemptions were inadvertently left out of original figures. We will be working diligently on the budget over the next few months and will be presenting progress to the fire board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nash made a motion to accept the regular board meeting minutes of February 20, 2013. Mrs. Banister seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS AGENDA

A. Review of warrants issued for January 2013

Mr. Barnett asked what was done with the air conditioning as we cut a check to Mountain View Heating and Cooling. Chief Miller explained that this was for progress on the work being done at stations 1 and 3 for the new air conditioning

systems and ductwork. Mr. Nash asked what the Knox Company is. Chief Miller explained that we had to pay to have all of our Knox boxes re-keyed, as Palominas Fire District was unable to find one of the keys we issued to them under automatic aid. Palominas has reimbursed us for the costs associated with the re-key.

There were no further questions regarding the month's warrants.

B. Arizona Fire District Association Report

The Legislative session is in full swing with over 1145 bills posted. There are several proposed bills for you to look at, but we will review the ones that may have a direct impact on fire districts. Fortunately, no new bills can be posted, as Monday was the last day to post.

SB1057 regarding AHCCCS rates by recoupling the rates or restoring authority back to ADHS rates, which were 80% for emergency 911 calls and 70% for inter-facility calls. If you recall we are now getting 68.59% of our approved rates. This bill passed out of committee 8-0. At last month's meeting, Chief Miller explained that Senator Briggs in the Senate Rules committee was holding this bill for the Governor's general budget and not through Legislation. That has now changed and passed the Senate 28-0 and is moving on with the following:

1. Requires that remuneration for ambulance services for people enrolled in AHCCCS will be 80% of the amounts approved by the Department of Health Services (re-couples rates). This is equal to the current statutory formula.
2. The floor amendment again not withstands statute and sets the remuneration in the following amounts:
 - a) Contract year October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 - 68.59% (the current rate)
 - b) Contract year October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 - 68.59% (the current rate)
 - c) Contract year October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 - 74.74%.
 - d) Thereafter, the rate reverts to the statutory rate of 80%.

SB1410 is a new bill sponsored by ABC ambulance. The bill would read, "a public necessity is not required if the applicant is requesting a certificate of necessity to provide only scheduled non-emergency ground ambulance services". This bill would allow any company the right to do non-emergency transports, including inter-facility. Arizona Ambulance Association and AFDA are opposed to this bill.

HB2124: FIRE DISTRICT REORGANIZATION ELECTIONS was brought back to life via an Ad Hoc Committee established by Speaker Tobin.

HB2200 County Fire Department Authorization, this bill would authorize the County Board of Supervisors to establish a county fire department by resolution if a fire district dissolves, but they could also enter into intergovernmental agreements with cities or towns, or private fire companies to provide services. This bill is now dead.

HB2275 Insurance Premium Tax; Reduction. This is an insurance industry effort to reduce the tax amount. This bill would reduce or decrease the aggregate funding for PSPRS and therefore increase employer costs to support the retirement system. AFDA is opposed.

HB2331: BONDING; TAXATION; EXPENDITURES; DISTRICT LIMITATIONS passed out of House Reform and Human Services Committee on a 4-3 party line vote (R's yes and D's no). This is the Goldwater Institute "Prop 13 on steroids" which is designed to further restrict local government tax levies / spending. Fire districts and fire departments have been specifically singled out for spending control. This bill is now dead.

HB2483 Public Notices; Publishing; Public Medium. This bill is being introduced by Representative Stevens. He would like to eliminate the use of printed media if you have other means to inform the public such as webpages. AFDA does not believe this bill will go anywhere due to the newspapers powerful lobbyists. We are not opposed to this bill. We could save several thousand dollars if all advertising could be done via the web.

HB2572: FIRE DISTRICTS; FINANCIAL STANDARDS: AFDA request to address calls for various financial reforms by legislators. In summary, HB2572 requires fire districts to reconcile all fund accounts for each calendar month within 30 days after the end of the month and the fire district board must review the accounts monthly. Fire districts are required to produce monthly financial reports in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles to include cash flow projections for each fiscal year, and the fire district board must review the updated cash flow projections each month. Any financial report or cash flow projection that indicates an adverse impact on ongoing operations or liquidity must be reported to the county treasurer and the county board of supervisors within 10 days after the discovery. AFDA is supporting and sponsoring this bill. Our fire district is already meeting the intent of this bill. Passed the house 59-0, will now move to the Senate.

SB1282 Countywide Fire Districts. This bill would establish a single countywide fire district that is governed by the County Board of Supervisors and authorizing a secondary property tax. This was a dead bill; however, it has now passed the Senate 20-8 and is now assigned to a committee study in the House.

SB1291 Fire Districts; Board Meetings; Attendance is sponsored by Senator Gail Griffin. This bill would require that a board member must be present in person for the purpose of determining a quorum. This bill was introduced after the problems that exist in the Palominas Fire District. The problem here is that the bill only addresses fire boards and no other boards or councils. AFDA is opposed. This bill is now dead as written and will now read to show abuse.

SB1340 Municipal Fire Districts. The bill was introduced by Senator Driggs along with several sponsors. It is designed to allow cities to form a fire district if approved by citizens during an election if placed on a ballot. This bill is now dead.

SB1383 Property Tax Limits; Local Districts. This bill would limit the taxing authority of fire district to 2% of the levy from the previous taxing year starting in 2014. This bill is now dead.

C. Badge Presentation

Chief Miller called up Captain Mauzy and presented him to the board, as well as the audience, as the newly promoted Captain of Fry Fire District. Chief Miller spoke of one's pride in the organization as well as one's self and how Captain Mauzy displays both. Chief Miller called his son up to pin his badge.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Table item from February 20, 2013; Review, discuss and possible action to add a Finance Policy and a DUI Policy to the Fry Fire Policy Manual

Mr. Brofer asked that all board members pick up their board packets prior to the board meetings and come to the meetings prepared. He asked that staff have all information in the board member boxes at least two days in advance.

Chief Miller presented each board member with a copy of the Financial Policy with Mr. Barnett's comments/suggestions in red. The board agreed with the suggestions, with the exception of the monetary value in which our employee may accept gifts, such as calendars, etc. from vendors. The board agreed to a \$50 limit with absolutely no personal cash accepted. Any cash donations must be donated to the District only.

Mr. Barnett made a motion that the Financial Policy be accepted as amended and discussed during the meeting. Mr. Nash seconded the motion.

VOTE:5-0

Motion Carried

Chief Miller presented the DUI Policy with Mr. Barnett's comments/suggestions in red. Mr. Barnett would like "cited" changed to "convicted" throughout the document. He has been witness to many times where the police wrongly cite people for crimes they have not committed and does not want the same to happen to our personnel. We explained that there are also instances where the opposite has happened. The District has a responsibility to act if we are aware that an employee has broken the law, regardless of whether or not they are convicted. We will not discipline our employees without proof of the incident, i.e. a police report with no real evidence will not constitute automatic discipline; however, if said employee was tested and blew over the legal limit, they have still brought discredit upon the District, which is a violation of our Standards of Conduct. We allow employees to call any station for a ride home if they have been drinking, no questions asked, so there is no reason for a DUI to occur. The policy is to serve as a guideline so personnel know what the ramifications of their actions may be. Mr. Brofer feels that the board has given ultimate decision-making ability to the Fire Chief and should support what the Chief would like to do.

Mrs. Banister made a motion that the DUI Policy be accepted as originally presented, without any changes made. Mr. Gil seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-1 abstention by Mr. Barnett
Motion Carried

ACTION ITEM

A. Possible action and possible vote on litigation with the Copper Queen Hospital regarding patient transports.

Mr. Nash made a motion that the board adjourn to executive session to discuss this matter. Mrs. Gil seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
MOTION CARRIED (adjourned at 8:19 pm)

Regular session resumed at 8:48 pm.

Mr. Nash made a motion that the board allow Chief Miller to continue discussions with our attorney, listen to advice she makes and report any updates to the board. Mr. Gil seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0
MOTION CARRIED

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments/requests from board members for future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Banister made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Barnett.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

DATED THIS 27th DAY OF MARCH 2013.

Art Nash
Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board