

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 27, 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
 Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Thomas Tucker, Board Member

Staff in Attendance: Mark Savage, Fire Chief
 Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor
 Steven Rodriguez, JVG (electronically)
 Kaleb Mauzy, Deputy Chief
 Jon Sayler, Captain
 Hannah Struse, Firefighter
 Steven Finley, Firefighter

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on November 22, 2022.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of November 22, 2022. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2022-003 and an appointment to fill the current Board vacancy for the 2023-2026 term.

Chief Savage discussed the process under Arizona law in which Fire Boards are able to fill vacancies post-election. He shared that fire districts start their elective terms on December 1st, unlike most districts, and that if the Fire Board does not select a replacement within 90 days that the vacancy may be filled by an appointment by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept Resolution 2022-003 and appoint Mr. Robert McMurtrie to fill the current Board vacancy for the 2023-2026 term. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

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

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage introduced Firefighter Steven Finley to the Board.

Operations and Staffing – Over the past month, we have had a few wildland interface and structure fires over the past month. With those came the opportunity to work with the US Forest Service, Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM), Sierra Vista Fire and Medical Services, Whetstone, and Palominas Fire Districts. Chief Savage shared his appreciation for our partner agencies for running relatively seamless incidents with strong support from all involved agencies.

Huachuca City operations are continuing to run smoothly. Thanks to Fire Marshal Shiver, Lieutenants Alba and Yanez and Firefighters Altamirano and Anders – the Town's Christmas parade and Food and Toy Drive went incredibly well.

Chief Savage stated he is happy to share that our redeployment is continuing to go well with newly promoted Captains taking strong leadership roles at Station 142 setting the pace for crew training and employee development.

Chief Seamans is recovering well and is anticipated to start picking up some light-duty shifts next month. His time off is allowing us to rotate some of our Captains through the on-call position and provide them with an opportunity for professional growth.

Engineer Clark is also recovering well and is anticipated to start picking up some light-duty shifts later this week.

Firefighter Emilio Martinez, who started a few months ago, has been hired by Tucson Fire; his academy will be starting next month. Fire Marshal Paul "Ed" Shiver has also requested terminal leave starting next month. He will be working with Mesa Fire Department in their Fire Prevention Division in the very near future.

We are actively working to fill two full-time vacancies.

Our seasonal fuel reduction team members are continuing to perform incredibly well.

Apparatus and Equipment – The Type 1 Engine that was repaired by W.W. Williams has been repaired and is back in service at Station 141. The new 4000-gallon Tender is in service at Station 142. The older 4000-gallon Tender has been moved to Station 143 and the 2000-gallon Tender is now housed in Huachuca City.

Captain Michael Kean is working through a few minor details to get a similar Tender specification out to bid soon in anticipation of starting another 4000-gallon Tender. Given the recent construction and delivery delays, we don't anticipate the second Tender being completed until late 2024.

There are no updates from Demers on our new ambulances. They experienced a slight construction delay due to their refrigerator vendor. We are optimistic that a new vendor will provide units that don't require the repair and maintenance work their old units did. We expect the new ambulances to arrive within the next few months.

Grants – This month wrapped up our Hazardous Vegetation Removal (HVR) Grant with DFFM. We have shifted onto the Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) Grant and will continue doing similar work to what we have been over the past few years with a different funding stream and match requirement.

The FirstNet Cradlepoints we ordered under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant arrived and will be installed in our units over the next few months.

The radios we ordered under the Arizona Department of Emergency Management Grant have also arrived. Six handhelds have been programmed and placed in service. The mobile radio is waiting for programming and installation in one of our vehicles.

We believe that Philips has shipped the therapy modules (defibrillators) for the new cardiac monitors. They support 3-lead EKGs and manual defibrillation and will go on our apparatus after they arrive; however, we are still waiting for the patient assessment modules that will support the 12-lead EKGs, telemetry, and the rest of our patient assessment package.

SEACOM – Southeastern Arizona Communications is continuing to wrestle with staffing shortages. We are continuing to work to explore opportunities that will provide them with timely support. Cochise County Sheriff's Office and the Office of Emergency Management are providing extensive support on the HR side, helping contact and screen applicants for testing as well as setting up a Dispatch Academy through Cochise College to provide trainees with fundamental dispatch skills prior to their arrival in SEACOM.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Chief Savage reported there is no progress to share regarding the communications tower lease. AT&T requested more documentation. Chief Savage's response to AT&T was that we need a contract in place before we continue supporting their requests.

No action was taken on the item.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding adjusting the minimum hourly wage for EMT and the addition of a Firefighter Trainee (non-certified) position to the FY2023 Wage Scale.

Board members were provided a draft copy of the modified Wage Scale. Chief Savage stated one adjustment is to change the EMT minimum hourly wage to reflect the new state minimum wage that goes into effect January 1, 2023. The second change is the addition of a Firefighter Trainee position with three steps. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt the amended FY2023 Wage Scale. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Vote: 4-0.

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 6:23 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2022.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board