

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
September 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 Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically) Norman Sturm, Board Member
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Board Members Absent:	None
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Staff in Attendance:	Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor Ben Archer Clowes, JVG
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**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.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

a. New Paramedics – Joseph Gonzales, Andrew Vidinski, Elissa Williams.

Chief Savage recognized Joseph Gonzales, Andrew Vidinski, and Elissa Williams for successfully completing the paramedic program at Cochise College, passing the national registry exams and obtaining certification as Arizona Paramedics.

## **PARS Presentation**

- a. Section 115 Pension Trust Presentation from Maureen Toal.

Maureen Toal and Charlie Francis from PARS gave a presentation on the Arizona Employer's Pension Pre-Funding Plan. PARS is the administrator of the Trust established in 2020 under Arizona legislation and sponsored by PSPRS that allows fire districts to set aside funds in the Trust for PSPRS costs. Trustee options are US Bank or Vanguard. A discussion followed. Mr. Sturm asked for current projections. Mr. McMurtrie requested hypothetical results with different investment choices, and management strategies. Mr. Tucker asked who will be making the future investment decisions. Mr. Francis stated PARS will provide all-around consulting services. Ben Archer Clowes requested historical rates of return for various strategies, and Vanguard projections.

Item tabled for receipt and review of requested information.

No action taken on this item.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Regular Board Meeting on August 23, 2022.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of August 23, 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 August 2022.

Ben Archer Clowes from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for August 2022 and year-to-date. A discussion followed. Mr. Andersen asked if we are seeing an impact from the new City Ambulance Station on Buffalo Soldier Trail. Chief Savage stated, yes; we've seen a slight decrease in our call load due to the new response plans and additional ambulance at that station. August was the first full month the station was open full-time and our calls are trending down. We expect to have a better picture moving forward. The board reviewed the warrants for the month and there were no questions.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the August 2022 financial reports. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

## **COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**

Chief Savage thanked the Local 4913 for their support of Proposition 310. Signs to vote yes on the ballot are up across the community. President Jared Haros and Chief Savage were able to share some facts regarding the revenue limitations with the current system as well as some operational and logistical needs of fire districts during an interview with Arizona Public Media last week. As soon as they finish the story it will be shared with board members.

We are still working with PSPRS to resolve exactly what our current unfunded liability looks like and should know more when we get their updated actuarial report in a few months. Ms. Toal with PARS shared an option for additional funding vehicles earlier this evening in her presentation. As noted by JVG, so far we are managing to take the increase in stride this year despite issues with the timing and calculations of our rates by PSPRS.

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

We are continuing to work through the redeployment process. Although it is a significant change to the District, Chief Savage thinks it has been productive overall as our Deputies are getting more time to focus on their areas of responsibility, which is helping us support and develop our new Captains. Next month should see the rollout of our updated areas of responsibility and some clearer expectations for personnel moving forward.

All of our wildland apparatus and personnel are back from deployments and all of our outstanding invoices have been submitted to and approved by DFFM with payment to follow.

District Staffing – We are continuing to work through some turnover. Firefighter Steinberg just shared that he will be retiring next month. Captain Allred has also submitted a terminal leave request for this November with an anticipated retirement date in January 2023. We have a few potential new hires in the pipeline, one thanks to Chief Tucker, and we will be interviewing applicants tomorrow for the seasonal fuels reduction crew.

Apparatus and Equipment – Our type 3 engine developed a small plumbing leak and was recently repaired under warranty. A type 6 engine and ambulance are both expected to be back in service today or tomorrow, both required some turbo repairs.

Construction and badging should be all but completed with our new water tender with delivery still expected sometime within the next month.

Chief Seamans is working with Demers to schedule a virtual pre-construction visit for the new 4x2 ambulance. They are also still waiting for our 4x4 chassis from Ford to build the ambulance we ordered last year.

Grants – We completed the demo on the AT&T vehicle mounted cradle point unit on M143 from the Arabian Road station with positive results. It was also tested briefly at the Second Street station with a few service drops. As shared previously, these units should significantly improve the reliability of our computer and monitor connectivity in anticipation of the need for greater reliability and bandwidth once our new cardiac monitors are in.

We are still waiting for a shipping date from Philips for the new cardiac monitors. We received five AED's that were included in this order; they have been put into service and deployed.

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 additional radio purchases to follow. The City of Sierra Vista shared an updated request for this FY that included additional radios across the county, which should include some multi-band mobile radios as well.

Dan Duchon, the new Cochise County Emergency Manager is working on 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 reviewed the draft today and is optimistic that it will be competitive.

SEACOM is continuing to wrestle with staffing shortages. We are continuing to work to explore opportunities to provide them with support.

## **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. The roofing repairs have been finished and Chief Seamans is working on an open house date for next month.

No action taken on this item.

- b. Capital Improvement Plan purchases.

We ordered several computers from the capital improvement plan and are working to develop an updated specification for another type 3 engine. We don't have a hard timeline for the bid process yet, but we anticipate bringing something back before the board in the next few months.

No action taken on this item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Automatic Aid Agreement with Whetstone Fire District.

Chief Savage met with Chief Foster a few times to discuss our responses north of Sierra Vista. With the exception of an ambulance transport paragraph and updates to reflect SEACOM, this mirrors our current response plans. It has been reviewed by Mr. Matura. A discussion followed.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Automatic Aid Agreement with Whetstone Fire District. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

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

Board members were provided a draft of the AT&T Tower Lease agreement for review. We're working on some issues with the location of their lease on our site as well as the terms and conditions. The draft is still pending review by Mr. Matura. A discussion followed.

No action taken on this item.

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

Board members were provided a draft copy of the Chief's Annual Self-Evaluation for review. A discussion followed. Board members will complete and submit their evaluations by the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

No action taken on this item.

## **REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. McMurtrie wants to establish a connection with the new mayor after the election.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:27 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2022.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board