

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 28, 2023**

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
Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Robert McMurtrie, Board Member
Thomas Tucker, Board Member

Staff in Attendance: Mark Savage, Fire Chief
Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor
Steven Rodriguez, JVG
Joshua Noriega, Firefighter
Spencer Packer, Firefighter
James Wallace, Engineer

Others in Attendance: Family, Friends, and Colleagues for the employee recognition

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. Administration of Oath and Firefighter Badge presentation to:

Firefighter / Paramedic Joshua Noriega
Firefighter / Paramedic Spencer Packer

Chief Savage administered the oath of office and presented Firefighter's Joshua Noriega and Spencer Packer with their badges and helmet shields. Chief Savage also thanked Claudia Galvan and Morgan Packer for their support over the past year.

- b. Engineer Badge presentation to:
Engineer James Wallace

Chief Savage presented Engineer James Wallace with his Engineer Badge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Board Meeting on January 24, 2023.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 24, 2023. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. Review, discussion and possible action on the monthly financial report for January 2023.

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for January 2023 and fiscal year-to-date. The board reviewed the warrants for the month. A discussion followed.

Mr. Andersen asked if we heard from the assessor. Chief Savage stated we have and our net assessed value increase will generate about as much revenue as our expected PSPRS costs will increase.

Steven Rodriguez stated we received the GFOA award for financial reporting on the audit report for FY2022.

Mr. Huish asked about the PSPRS recoverable 401 funds. Chief Savage stated we have already taken care of the paperwork and are in the process of using our funds on deposit towards ongoing employer payments.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the January 2023 financial reports. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Despite the recent precipitation, we are continuing to respond to wildland and structure fires. We are still working to ensure our readiness to comply with significant changes that are coming soon to the DFFM billing process, and looking forward to what we hope will be a streamlined process with the data entry and recovery program online. They do not currently appear to be moving towards an all-inclusive rate.

Chief Seamans is continuing to recover well. He is still working on light-duty and we are hoping he will be released to full duty in March. He has been able to start picking up where Fire Marshal Shiver left off. He is currently using Engineer Clark to update our fire hydrant data and Joel Altamirano to process some of our surplus fire equipment. We are continuing to rotate some of our Captains through the on-call duty chief position which is providing them with an opportunity for professional growth and development while providing Chief Mauzy and Chief Savage with some reasonable breaks from call coverage.

Engineer Clark is also recovering well. In addition to catching up the fire hydrant information he has been working to support Fire Prevention and update our pre-incident fire plans and mapping. He is hoping to be cleared to return to full duty in another month or so.

Chief Savage reported we filled our two full-time firefighter vacancies. Firefighter Tim Davison is working through his initial onboarding training and comes to us from Rural Metro in Phoenix. Firefighter Trainee Taha Hansbrough is in the Cochise College Firefighter 1 and 2 program and has been with us as a part-time EMS employee for several months. Today is Mr. Hansbrough's first day on duty and we are excited to have them both online and are looking forward to getting them on the trucks and running calls.

Our seasonal fuel reduction team members are still performing incredibly well. They have been doing community service reducing the fire risk along Yaqui while waiting for another parcel project. We anticipate them leaving us to shift back to their wildland firefighting jobs over the next month or so. We couldn't be happier with their progress and are proud of the work they've been able to accomplish.

L4913 has shared a request to bring the Huachuca City personnel from the 4 x 14-hour shifts they are currently working onto the 48/96 schedule. We are working through some of the financials with JVG and exploring staffing models. Chief Savage anticipates bringing the Board some work-session information and thinks we can find a feasible solution for everyone.

Apparatus and Equipment – As reported last month, our new Type 1 Engine is still in Phoenix for some warranty repairs. The Type 1 Engine from Station 142 is also back in Tucson for another transmission repair. We are continuing to press Demers for an update on our new ambulances. They are about two months past due on the original delivery date. We are asking what they can do make up for their delays. They have changed refrigerator vendors and we think we will be receiving a superior product compared to their prior vehicles.

Last month we submitted the final report for the Hazardous Vegetation Removal grant with DFFM. We received our final reimbursement under that grant last week. We have shifted funding onto the Healthy Forest Initiative grant and will continue doing the same work we have been over the past few years until those funds are exhausted.

As reported last month, First Net sent us the incorrect antennas for the Cradlepoints we were awarded under last year's AFG grant. The correct antennas have arrived and are in the process of being installed in our front-line units. As they are installed, they will be programmed to support several devices such as our iPad tablets, mobile data terminals, cardiac monitors and Lucas CPR devices.

Our personnel successfully deployed one of the new Philips LS therapy modules (the new cardiac monitors). Board members were provided a report in their packets that shows the Lucas device CPR waveform as well as several attempts to defibrillate a patient in cardiac arrest with the LS defibrillator – the crew was able to defibrillate without discontinuing CPR.

We are still waiting for the patient assessment modules from Philips that will support 12-lead EKGs, telemetry, and the rest of our patient assessment package. As soon as we receive the additional equipment we will submit for the congressionally appropriated reimbursement.

Under this evening's new business Resolution 2023-001 deals with our AFG submissions. We are requesting federal funding to support the replacement of our antiquated air trailer with a larger trailer that includes a breathing air compressor and cascade system. This would be similar to the trailer in Douglas, effectively allowing us to share coverage of the entire county. We are also included in a state-wide regional request that supports extensive firefighter cancer screening and are optimistic about both.

We are currently working on a SAFER Grant Application to support some additional firefighters.

Rio Rico offered to share some of their training grant funds to support attendance at the FDIC conference again this year. Chief Seamans and Chief Savage are registered. Chief Savage would like to request moving the April Board Meeting from the 25th to Wednesday the 19th.

Southeastern Arizona Communications is finally starting to work through staffing shortages. They have five new trainees on the floor and this morning Chief Savage attended the first ever Dispatch Academy graduation at Cochise College. The graduation was incredibly well-attended with emergency response representatives from across the county.

As previously shared, Chief Savage is optimistic that the interim Director, Tammi-Jo Wilkins will continue to build relationships across the county and lead SEACOM in a positive and productive direction. Both Cochise County Sheriff's Office and the Office of Emergency Management are continuing to provide extensive support on the HR and Training side, and we are excited about the opportunity for the Dispatch Academy to provide trainees with some fundamental dispatch skills prior to arrival in SEACOM.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Chief Savage reported there is no news regarding the communications tower lease contract from AT&T and believes they are still working on gathering construction bids to develop a final cost estimate.

No action was taken on the item.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2023-001 regarding support for Assistance to Firefighters Grants for a replacement air trailer with breathing air compressor and cascade system, and for Firefighter cancer screening.

Chief Savage submitted a grant for apparatus and equipment and provided Board Members with a bid for an air trailer with another breathing air compressor and cascade system at just over \$180,000.00, and a regional request for \$110,000.00 cancer screening grant for all personnel. Our current trailer is over 20 years old and only has a cascade system. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-001 regarding support for Assistance to Firefighters Grants for a replacement air trailer with breathing air compressor and cascade system, and for Firefighter cancer screening. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2023-002 regarding the adoption of the Arizona State Retirement System Supplemental Retirement Plan through Nationwide Retirement Systems.

Nationwide Retirement started a plan under PSPRS and a plan under ASRS. Our current plan is between Fry Fire District and Nationwide Retirement. We will be moving employees from the current plan to the new plan at a discounted rate. A discussion followed.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-002 regarding the adoption of the Arizona State Retirement System Supplemental Retirement Plan through Nationwide Retirement Systems. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Vote: 3-0

Motion Carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:36 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

DATED THIS 1ST DAY OF MARCH 2023.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board