

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 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
Robert McMurtrie, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Thomas Tucker, Board Member

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on February 28, 2023.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of February 28, 2023. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Mr. McMurtrie abstained.
Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the February 2023 financial reports. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage recognized our 2022 award winners: Part-time EMS Provider of the Year Taha Hansbrough, Outstanding Achievement Award Eric Friedenber, EMS Professional of the Year Austin Nash, and Firefighter of the Year Hannah Struse.

Operations and Staffing – As shared last month, L4913 requested that we look at ways to get the Huachuca City staff onto the 48/96 schedule. We worked closely to develop a staffing and deployment model and will be starting an initial 3-month trial period within the next few weeks. The major question with the feasibility of the deployment model will depend on our staffing limitations. There is no significant change in our response plans other than the additional coverage during non-peak hours, which should shorten response times into Huachuca City during non-peak hours.

We are still working to ensure our readiness to comply with the significant changes that are coming soon to the DFFM billing process. We completed their online training modules and are finalizing our employee rate schedule to get our personnel entered into the online platform. The DFFM go-live date will take place in mid-April.

Chief Seamans and Engineer Clark have both been released back to full duty. Two of our newer employees submitted their resignations. Ron Orona left us to join a department closer to his home in Tucson and Steven Finley will be stepping back from his full-time position to pursue a contract position in Tucson.

Firefighter Tim Davison and Firefighter Trainee Taha Hansbrough are both continuing to work through their initial onboarding training with Firefighter Trainee Hansbrough also continuing to work through the Cochise College Firefighter 1 and 2 program.

This is the last week our seasonal fuel reduction team members will be working until after the fire season. We anticipate kicking the program off again in the September, October timeframe. Any large parcels that we are able to identify and include in the interim will require support from the Tucson or Douglas Fuels Crews.

Our new Type 1 Engine is still in Phoenix for some warranty repairs. We are continuing to press Demers for an update on the construction of our new ambulances. At this point, they are well past their advertised delivery date. T143 was delivered to Freightliner in Tucson yesterday for what we are hoping will be a quick transmission repair and reprogram.

We are continuing to work within the HFI grant and will continue doing the same work we have been doing over the past few years until funds run out. As shared previously, our seasonal hires will be off until after the fire season and Chief Savage anticipates submitting a reimbursement request for their work the past quarter next week.

Mr. Ayers is continuing to work to install the Cradlepoints we were awarded under last year's AFG grant. This month we received grant reimbursement for the hardware purchases, which will be reflected in next month's financial report.

The Philips Tempus Pro modules for our new cardiac monitors are still pending, also well-past our original anticipated delivery date.

We submitted a SAFER Grant request for roughly \$1.3 million to fund 6 full-time positions for three years. If approved, this will provide support for additional personnel at Stations 161 and 141 to improve initial response staffing for structure fires.

The Southeastern Arizona Communications Center is continuing to work though some staffing shortages. They have five new trainees on the floor and are working to get the rest of the Dispatch Academy Graduates through their initial background, VSA and psychological evaluation prior to training.

The Interim Director, Tammi-Jo Wilkins has hit the ground running and is leading SEACOM in a positive and productive direction despite some HR hurdles. Both Cochise County Sheriff's Office and the Office of Emergency Management are continuing to provide extensive support and we are excited about the opportunities we expect to see from 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.

No action was taken on the item.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding purchase of a utility box for the new Fire Prevention truck.

Board Members were provided a quote Chief Seamans received from Maddock Machinery. The quote total is \$33,214.88 including tax. Chief Seamans was not able to get quotes from any other builders. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the purchase of a utility box for the new Fire Prevention truck from Maddock Machinery for \$33,214.88. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding purchase of three new mobile radios for one fire engine and two new ambulances.

Chief Savage provided a quote for three new multi-band mobile radios that will let us talk on the current UHF and VHF bands. This quote was from a competitively bid state contract through Motorola and is consistent with prior purchases.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the purchase of three new mobile radios. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:21 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

DATED THIS 29TH DAY OF MARCH 2023.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board