

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 27, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Andersen called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance:	Eric Andersen, Board Clerk Robert McMurtrie, Board Member Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically) Norman Sturm, Board Member
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Board Members Absent:	Joseph Huish, Board Chairman
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Staff in Attendance:	Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor Kaleb Mauzy, Deputy Chief Dennis Ferrel, L4913 President Ben Archer Clowes, JVG Steven Rodriguez, JVG
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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mr. Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Sturm gave the invocation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Andersen 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. Andersen 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. Firefighter / EMT Eric Friedenberga Oath and Badge Presentation.

Firefighter / EMT Eric Friedenberga read the oath of office. Chief Savage presented him with a badge and helmet shield. Fire Chief Levi Garner pinned on his badge.

- b. Fire Marshal Ed Shiver Retirement Axe Presentation (Postponed until July 25, 2023).

Fire Marshal, Ed Shiver, was not present at tonight's meeting due to another obligation. The presentation was postponed until next month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Board Meeting on May 23, 2023.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of May 23, 2023. Mr. McMurtrie 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 May 2023.

Ben Archer Clowes from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for May 2023 and the fiscal year-to-date. We were under budget for revenue and expenses for the month of May; however, our year-to-date non-tax revenue is over budget due to ambulance, and tax revenue is close to budget. Expenses were slightly over for the fiscal year. A discussion followed. The board reviewed the warrants for the month and there were no questions.

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

Vote: 4-0.
Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FRY FIRE DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET

- a. Open the Public Hearing.

Mr. Andersen opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget at 6:10 p.m.

No member of the public commented on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget during the Public Hearing. Chief Savage reported that he had not received any comments through the Administration Office.

- b. Close the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing on the Fry Fire District Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget closed at 6:11 p.m.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Operations and Staffing – Huachuca City Operations are continuing to run smoothly. We filled one of our full-time firefighter vacancies, we have additional candidates in the selection process and part-time recruitment and testing ongoing.

Our wildfire season is continuing with personnel responding to provide a REMS team in support of a recent fire in Sonoita as well as fires that threatened structures last Wednesday; a fire in a very large compost pile at Sierra Vista's Environmental Park on Sunday; and a fire on Ft. Huachuca earlier today.

This month we saw no local impact from border issues related to Title 42. Although street releases have started again last week, transports have been facilitated through ADEMA, efficiently moving people from Naco and Douglas to Pima County.

Chief Savage shared that our former County Emergency Manager, Gabriel Lavine has taken the helm for ADEMA in Phoenix.

We are switching to a new vendor for our annual firefighter physicals. Unfortunately, despite the promise of improved services available locally, Copper Queen has simply been unable to complete our NFPA 1582 firefighter physicals in a timely and efficient manner without having a detrimental impact on staffing and budget. Physicals have been scheduled for all of our firefighters starting the 28th of August 2023. Similar to the process last year with Lifescan, all personnel will have to complete paperwork and have labs drawn prior to physicals being conducted while on duty.

Apparatus and Equipment – Chief Seamans, Mr. Ayers, and Captain Kean completed the post-construction inspection on the first of our new ambulances early this month. It is anticipated to be delivered in the next few weeks. We are optimistic the second ambulance will be here sometime later this summer. As soon as the new ambulance arrives, the other DeMers ambulances will be rotating up to Inland Kenworth in Phoenix for repairs and replacement of the refrigerators.

Grants – As reported last month, Ms. Perry completed and submitted our request for \$209,000 from ICA which was allocated to offset the costs of Covid-19 industrial compensation coverage.

The Philips Tempus Pro modules for our new cardiac monitors are still pending however we are up to date with HRSA grant reporting.

There is no update on our Congressionally Directed allocation from Senator Kelly's Office. This request included new power gurneys and stair-chairs, as well as 50 AEDs to be distributed to deputies across Cochise County. Although this funding is still not guaranteed, we are incredibly optimistic.

We are continuing to await feedback on all our pending federal grant requests including an air trailer, funding for additional staffing, and firefighter cancer screening.

SEACOM – Southeastern Arizona Communications is continuing to work to get their new hires through the training pipeline. They have several new trainees on the floor including the four remaining Dispatch Academy Graduates who have finally completed their medical and psychological evaluations.

Interim Director, Tammi-Jo Wilkins is continuing to lead SEACOM in a positive and productive direction despite some continued hurdles.

OLD BUSINESS

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

No discussion or action was taken on this item.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Securis Worker's Compensation coverage.

Chief Savage provided board members quotes and information from Securis and 7710 for Worker's Compensation coverage. As members of a fire district pool, we are in a three-year agreement with Securis for \$260,000.00 next year plus the \$30,000.00 outstanding in capitalization. We have approximately \$48,000 in equity and they require a 90-day termination notice. The 7710 quote reflects a cost of \$110,000.00 for FY2024 for the same coverage.

Mr. McMurtrie asked what other Districts are paying. He is concerned we will be in a similar situation next year if we switch. Chief Savage stated we provided both companies all of the same salary and claims information. He does not know what other districts are paying. Mr. Sturm asked if the 7710 quote includes cancer, COVID, and valid work claims. Chief Savage stated, that question was asked specifically of 7710, which replied in the affirmative. Mr. Sturm asked if we are required to pay the \$30,000.00 if we are no longer in the pool. Chief Savage deferred the question to our attorney, Mr. Matura.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to go into executive session to speak with attorney Jeffrey Matura. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried:

Executive Session entered at 6:35 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 7:22 p.m.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion directing Chief Savage to negotiate Workers' Compensation coverage for the Fire District that is more reflective of the quote from 7710 and within budget. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2023-03 adopting the FY2024 Annual Budget and Payscale.

Chief Savage stated there are no changes to the proposed budget that was approved by the Board and posted in compliance with ARS 45-805.02, other than the workers' compensation coverage discussed in the previous item. No members of the public spoke during the public hearing.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-03 adopting the FY2024 Annual Budget and Payscale. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.
Motion Carried.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the FY2024 PSPRS Pension Funding Policy.

Board Members were provided an annual update on the pension fund policy for review. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the FY2024 PSPRS Pension Funding Policy. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.
Motion Carried.

- d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding monthly L4913 report.

Local 4913 President, Dennis Ferrel requested a standing item on the regular session board meeting agenda. Dennis Ferrel did not have anything to report this month. Mr. McMurtrie would like details on what information will be reported and what information is expected from the union. Mr. Sturm requested the information to be discussed with Chief Savage prior to being reported at a regular board meeting. Dennis Ferrel stated his plan is to discuss agenda items with Chief Savage prior to reporting to the Board. Mr. Andersen suggested to keep the chain of command. This is not a replacement for meet and confer.

No action was taken on the item.

- e. Review, discussion and possible action regarding parking lot maintenance for Sta. 142 and Sta. 143.

Board members were provided bids from KE&G and Sunland for station parking lot maintenance. Sunland did not include the curb option that would reduce the erosion on Yaqui north of the admin office. Sunland also failed to provide a maintenance option for Station 143, only providing an estimate to repave the entire parking-lot at a cost in excess of \$200,000.00. Chief Savage requested approval for KE&G to maintain parking lots at Stations 142 and 143, not to exceed \$50,000.00.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the bid from KE&G regarding parking lot maintenance for Stations 142 and 143, not to exceed \$50,000.00. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.
Motion Carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:25 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF JUNE 2023.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board