

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 14, 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 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 (electronically) Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor Kaleb Mauzy, Deputy Chief Steven Rodriguez, JVG (electronically)
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Others in Attendance:	Family, Friends, and Colleagues for the employee recognition.
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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 6:00 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 6:01 p.m.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

a. Engineer / Paramedic Chris Bernal Retirement Axe and Helmet Presentation.

Deputy Chief Mauzy presented Retired Engineer / Paramedic Christopher Bernal with his retirement axe and helmet after many years of dedicated service.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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

Vote: 5-0.  
Motion Carried.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for October 2023, and year to date. Tax Revenue and non-tax revenue were over budget for the month. Year-to-date tax revenue is over budget. Non-tax revenue is over budget due to wildland, ambulance, grant reimbursements, and ARPA funding. Expenses for the month and year-to-date are mostly inline. A discussion followed. The board reviewed the warrants for the month and there were no questions.

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

Vote: 5-0.  
Motion Carried.

## **COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**

Operations and Staffing – On behalf of Chief Savage, Chief Mauzy reported we are continuing to make progress with recruitment and have reached full staffing. Firefighter / Paramedic Gustavo Cantu began his training this month; he is performing well and is expected to be on line operationally on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

A copy of the initial proposal for a feasibility study from ESCI with two of our automatic aid partners was provided to Board Members. This is a combined effort to collect information about how we may be able to do a better job of collaborating beyond our current automatic aid agreements. The proposal was forwarded to the Whetstone and Palominas Fire Chiefs for their review, and we are awaiting their feedback prior to adding it as an agenda item. The cost is anticipated to be divided between the three Districts proportionally based on each District's budget.

Ms. Jones, Ms. Perry, and JVG successfully completed our annual audit. BeachFleischman is wrapping up things on their end and will have a presentation reviewing their findings at the December board meeting.

The amendment request to our DFFM grant was approved and our fuels crew is continuing to make significant progress in the Wildhorse burn scar primarily located in the Oaks subdivision. Our total expected acreage is still slightly over 150 total acres.

All of our personnel have completed their annual firefighter physicals with 1582.

We are continuing to work closely with the Cochise County Superintendent's Office to support their Emergency Crisis Response Team.

Apparatus and Equipment – We are still waiting for lien releases from Zion Bank (COP) to surplus a few of our aging vehicles.

Grants – We are still working on an application for a Resilience and Infrastructure grant to provide backup emergency generators for Stations 141 and 143. We anticipate submitting it this week. These grants have a 25% match requirement, which may equal roughly \$25,000.00 for the total project. ADEM has been incredibly supportive and is helping us negotiate a few different grant application processes.

We were awarded approximately \$234,000.00 from the Arizona Department of Administration for Fire Incident System Management software. This grant has no match requirement and will provide additional tablets, software, and mobile devices that provide additional situational awareness for incident managers along with real-time personnel tracking during emergency incidents. All of the hardware and the next three years of service are included in the grant. The grant is an action item on tonight's agenda.

We received five loaner modules from Philips earlier today. Their most recent timeline still has the modules we ordered arriving in early 2024, however we anticipate receiving training soon and putting the loaner modules into operations on our units.

We are still waiting for the federal budget to be finalized and haven't received any feedback on our other pending federal grant requests including the air trailer and SAFER funding for additional staffing.

SEACOM – Southeastern Arizona Communications is continuing to develop. Ms. Wilkins is continuing to push SEACOM forward and has opened discussions with Benson regarding joining the center. Deputy Chief Seamans continues to provide support with the development and deployment of a 911 diversion policy, the expansion of Fire Station Alerting onto Ft. Huachuca, and mapping response areas across the county.

AZ State Treasurer – We are continuing to fund our accounts with the State Treasury LGIP Pool 7. We recently added a sub-account for Leave Reserve. To date, we have transferred \$1.5 million to our new capital improvement account.

CIS Contract Pending – As shared previously, Clark Information Systems (CIS) recently changed owners. Chief Savage is continuing to meet with the new owner, Adam Sekora, to discuss updates to our contract which is up for renewal. One of the things we are exploring is moving back onto their network for internet service, which may reduce some of our tower revenues but offers faster and more resilient data service.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding 2024 Arizona Mutual Aid Compact.

Board Members reviewed and discussed the updated contract.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the 2024 Arizona Mutual Aid Compact. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

- b. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding acceptance of the AZ Dept. of Administration Fire Incident Management System Support Grant.

Chief Mauzy stated the State of Arizona set aside 13-18 million dollars for the accountability / tracking of firefighters, and firefighter safety. There are two pre-approved companies, Adashi and Florian. Neither are compatible with our radios and air-packs; however, Florian offers smartphones that provide access to track firefighters with the incident management software on a command tablet. Florian would provide smartphones to cover personnel for the day, four additional command tablets, three years of service, and they integrate with Spillman. There is no required match and no commitment beyond the initial grant period.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve acceptance of the AZ Dept. of Administration Fire Incident Management System Support Grant. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

- c. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Notices of Claim.

Chief Mauzy stated Mr. Matura is working on a draft denial and requesting Board guidance. If a denial is not provided, the claim is presumed denied upon the passage of 60-days.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to authorize Mr. Matura to draft a denial to the Notices of Claim. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

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 6:28 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Sturm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

DATED THIS 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board