

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 23, 2024**

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 (electronically) Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically) Norman Sturm, Board Member |
|------------------------------|---|

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Board Members Absent: | None |
|-----------------------|------|

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Staff in Attendance: | Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor Kaleb Mauzy, Deputy Chief Ben Archer Clowes, JVG Steven Rodriguez, JVG |
|----------------------|--|

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 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. Degree Recognition

1. Deputy Chief Kaleb Mauzy – Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University.

Chief Savage recognized Deputy Chief Kaleb Mauzy for earning his Bachelor of Science degree for Fire Administration through Columbia Southern University.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Board Meeting on December 12, 2023.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of December 12, 2023. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Ben Archer Clowes from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting the financial reports for December 2023, and year to date. Total Revenue was over budget, mostly due to non-tax-based revenue. Total Expenses for December were under budget. Year-to-date tax revenue is slightly under budget, and non-tax revenue is over budget due to wildland, ambulance, ARPA funding, and interest. Expenses year-to-date are under budget. A discussion followed. The board reviewed the warrants for the month and there were no questions.

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

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Operations and Staffing – Chief Savage shared that we are losing Engineer Joe Gonzales to the City of Sierra Vista Fire Department this month. We are working to quickly fill his vacancy and keep staffing levels up. We have a few different applicants in our testing process currently.

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) updated their Wildland rates this year to include a small increase (15%) in the allowable costs for apparatus. Stu Rodeffer, formerly of Northwest Fire District has been promoted from the Area 3 Fire Management Officer position to a job in Phoenix so we will likely see someone new in the Tucson position in the next few months.

Facilities – Chief Seamans is continuing to work on some additional options for Station 141 and to develop a final plan for Station 143.

This month saw the installation of insulation in the shop's office with Mountain View working to install a mini-split Heat and AC unit earlier today.

Station 161 (HC) also saw the completion of some shower repairs and the installation of a similar mini-split Heat and AC unit for the bunkroom. Although there is some finishing work to wrap up, the station is much more accommodating for personnel.

Apparatus and Equipment – We are still waiting for lien releases from Zion Bank (COP) and will surplus a few of our aging apparatus as soon as we can transfer a clean title to the purchaser.

The new utility box is finally finished with paint and should be installed on the new Prevention truck in Tucson later this week. Once it is here, we will start working on the upfit, adding lights, radios, and other accessories.

We are expecting the tank repair on our older 4000-gallon tender to be completed in the next few weeks, well ahead of wildfire season.

We are currently training personnel on our new transport ventilators from Zoll. We received several units from Pima County Public Health Department at no cost. The free training will continue this week and we anticipate rolling the ventilators out to the field in the next few weeks.

Grants – There is still no feedback from AFG regarding our request for funding for an air trailer.

We are continuing to work with ADEM to refine our application through the Building Resilience and Infrastructure grant to provide backup emergency generators for Stations 141 and 143. Chief Savage met with their Mitigation Team yesterday during the Southern Region ADEM Workshop. They continue to provide great feedback and recommendations as well as additional recommendations for grant projects. Chief Savage anticipates this project will be funded under a Post Fire award, which may have a little quicker funding timeline.

Due to an error in a quote for data service, the Fire Incident Management Software system grant that was discussed last month was about \$30,000.00 short. We requested and were approved for an amendment to make up the deficit and are continuing to move the project forward. We already ordered four new tough tablets and signed the contract with Florian for CAD integration. Chief Seamans will be working with them in the coming weeks to make sure that data is flowing seamlessly between Spillman and Florian so that once we deploy the system it functions flawlessly.

Our Hazardous Fuels Crew is continuing to make incredible progress this month and treated a 7-acre parcel just south of the Huachuca Oaks Baptist Camp on the west side of Hwy 92. We submitted our second reimbursement request in the amount of approximately \$42,000.00 and anticipate receiving that payment within the next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding FY2023 write-offs to bad debt.

Board members were provided lists of outstanding ambulance service accounts and the administration of COVID-19 vaccination accounts for \$150,000.00 and \$65,000.00 respectively. Chief Savage stated the accounts have been through our billing process without activity for at least one year. If we receive a payment on an adjusted account, the payment goes against the write off.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the FY2023 write-offs to bad debt. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

- b. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding an application for FFD Ambulance Rate increase.

Board members were provided Arizona ground ambulance rates across the state with comparisons for the surrounding area ambulance service providers. Roughly 58% of our transports in 2023 were Fry Fire District residents. We have applied for the annual automatic rate adjustment yearly but have not completed the long-form ARCR requesting a rate increase in the past 6-7 years.

JVG did a thorough analysis of rates and shared various scenarios with the Board. Ambulance revenue increases incrementally due to our payer mix. Medicare allowable amounts will not increase with a rate increase. Mr. Sturm is concerned about residents being responsible for the full amount and Mr. McMurtrie brought up the tax-rate increase and bond requests. The Board also discussed shifting costs for services to those using the services to decrease the burden on our taxpayers.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve an FFD Application with Arizona Department of Health Services for an Ambulance Rate increase. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion Carried.

- c. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding FFD Grooming Standard.

Board members were provided copies of grooming standard policies from two other agencies, supplied by the Local 4913. Mr. Sturm stated he is not open to allowing tattoos on the face, hands, or neck. Mr. McMurtrie wants Fry Fire District to remain competitive. Mr. Huish stated permanent makeup could be considered facial tattoos. Mr. Tucker stated body art decisions are not for the Board to determine.

Mr. McMurtrie asked Chief Savage to talk with Labor about what they want prior to drafting an updated policy to review at next month's regular board meeting.

Item tabled until February's regular board meeting.

- d. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding FFD Extended Duty Pay Policy.

Chief Savage proposed adding acting supervisor pay for Firefighters and Engineers who serve as Module Unit Leaders on extended IMT / Tender assignments. Mr. Tucker would like to see a qualification process for the positions.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the updated FFD Extended Duty Pay Policy. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
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 7:04 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board