

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Huish called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 6:04 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members in Attendance:	Joseph Huish, Board Chairman Eric Andersen, Board Clerk Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically) Norman Sturm, Board Member
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Board Members Absent:	Robert McMurtrie, Board Member
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Staff in Attendance:	Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor Deputy Chief, Billy Seamans Deputy Chief, Kaleb Mauzy Ben Archer Clowes, JVG
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Other in Attendance:	Award Recipients, Friends, and Family.
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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 6:04 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 6:05 p.m.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

- a. David Deary Unit Commendation Awarded to: Captain Adam Short, Paramedics Michelle Robbins and Andrew Vidinski and Firefighters Kurtis Denney and Tim Davison.

Chief Savage presented the David R Deary Citation to Captain Adam Short, Paramedic Michelle Robbins and Paramedic Andrew Vidinski (Firefighters Kurtis Denney and Tim Davison were not present). On February 16 personnel responded to a suicidal person who had ingested rat poison and alcohol. Full respiratory protection was recommended for the crew due to the possibility of toxic gases being released from the ingested rat poison. The crew wore self-contained breathing apparatus throughout the transport and patient care. The patient's level of consciousness declined, and the patient became belligerent and combative. Due to the rapid response and commitment to providing professional medical care despite the personal risk, the patient recovered without adverse impact.

b. Firefighter Oath / Badge Presentation to: Taha Hansbrough

Chief Savage administered the oath of office and presented Firefighter Taha Hansbrough with his Firefighter badge.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Regular Board Meeting on March 26, 2024.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of March 26, 2024. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

a. Review, discussion, and possible action on the monthly financial report for March 2024.

Ben Archer Clowes from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for March 2024, and fiscal year to date. Total revenue and tax revenue were over budget. Total Expenses for March were slightly 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 March 2024 financial reports. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

### **COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**

Operations and Staffing – Chief Savage shared that Deputy Chief Mauzy and Captain Short were able to attend this year's Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis. This marks our third year in a row sending officers to this important training event. This was grant-funded through the Cochise County Office of Emergency Management.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans did a great job with our Open House at Station 142 on April 6, 2024. Several families and neighbors showed up and enjoyed touring the fire station, the smoke house, and some food. We will be conducting an end-of-warranty walk-through with Core Construction next week and plan to make sure that everything that needs to be repaired is on their list. Deputy Chief Seamans is also continuing to work on some additional options for Station 141 and to develop a comprehensive renovation / expansion plan and estimate for Station 143.

AT&T suggested that they are moving forward again with our lease contract at Station 143. Since this has been an ongoing discussion for a few years now we left any potential non-tax revenue off the budget.

Apparatus and Equipment – We finally received the lien releases from Zion Bank (COP) and will be selling an aging ambulance, the white GMC dually that has served as the shop truck for several years, and a 2000-gallon tender.

The new prevention truck is here, and Mr. Ayers has been working to get the emergency lighting package installed. If all goes well, Chief Seamans will be taking it to Phoenix for striping in the next few weeks, perhaps in conjunction with picking M141 up from Red Sky (M143 will follow after M141 is finished). Red Sky has been helpful with addressing continuing warranty issues on these ambulances.

Grants – We submitted a SAFER Grant request for funding to support additional staffing. There has been no feedback yet from the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant on our request for funding extrication tools or from the Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) for support with the purchase of a new Type 3 engine.

We are working with FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to refine our application for a Building Resilience and Infrastructure grant to provide backup emergency generators for Stations 141 and 143. The request for support this evening should reflect a cost-share match of up to 25%. Some documents reflect a lower 10% match of the approximately \$118,000.00 total.

We are continuing to work with Florian and SEACOM on the Fire Incident Management Software System Grant. The hardware has been received and the integration work is continuing to move forward. We expect to conduct training in the next few months with the system deployed as early as late May.

SEACOM – Despite some issues with HR, Southeastern Arizona Communications is continuing to perform well with recent progress made on the tentative FY2025 budget. Mr. Tucker shared that he was aware of an applicant who waited 5 months after applying to make any progress in the hiring process.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion and possible action on the FY2025 annual budget.

Mr. Huish stated two board members who were unable to attend the workshop would like the chance to review the presentation prior to voting.

Mr. Ben Archer Clowes shared the PowerPoint presentation given at the Budget Workshop summarizing the budget timeline, goals, increase in assessed value, increases in non-tax revenues, proposed personnel stipends, and other operational expense updates.

Item tabled.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of a Type 1/3 engine to replace E143.

Deputy Chief Seamans stated personnel gathered all the information from previous vehicles, organized a committee, and took their recommendations to a few vendors to build an engine to our specifications. Board members were provided copies of the bid from Velocity, the only bid returned.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the purchase of a Type 3 engine from Velocity to replace E143, not to exceed \$900,000.00. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of Image Trend Elite Rescue and Billing Bridge software.

Board members were provided a copy of the ImageTrend contract. Chief Savage shared this is an electronic patient care reporting software along with station log and reporting software that will replace several of the programs we currently use, integrating fire and EMS reporting systems. Chief Savage would like to start the process of getting the software installed and deployed this fiscal year. Chief Savage is asking for a non-budgeted variance of \$15,000.00 for the one-time setup costs from this fiscal year to start the contract.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the purchase of Image Trend Elite Rescue and Billing Bridge software, including setup costs not to exceed \$15,000.00. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

- d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project Sub-application for the purchase and installation of emergency backup generators for Fire Stations 141 and 143.

Chief Savage requested board approval to continue with the Hazard Mitigation Grant application through ADEM for the purchase backup emergency generators for Fire Stations 141 and 143. The total grant request is expected to be just under \$120,000.00 with a match that may be as high as 25%.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project Sub-application for the purchase and installation of emergency backup generators for Fire Stations 141 and 143. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

- e. Review, discussion and possible action regarding an IGA with Cochise County for the November Election to fill two board vacancies due to expiring terms.

Chief Savage is requesting board approval for the Cochise County Election Support IGA. We have two Board Members whose terms will expire in December. In the event that more than two candidates submit packets, we will need to pay for the election. If not, the County BOS will cancel the election and appoint the candidates.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the IGA with Cochise County for the November Election to fill two anticipated board vacancies due to expiring terms. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

- f. Review, discussion and possible action regarding IGA with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM).

Chief Savage stated Mr. Matura has reviewed and approved the IGA that allows us to continue working with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the IGA with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.  
Motion Carried.

- g. Review, discussion and possible action regarding status of outstanding legal claims.\*

Chief Savage summarized a message from Mr. Matura, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Matura will be accepting service from counsel on behalf of the fire district for claims resulting from fires in the Palominas Fire District that we responded to assist with last year. Following his acceptance, we will have 60 days to file an answer with the court.

Mr. Matura will also be drafting a demand letter to the Palominas Fire District for indemnification of the claim as included in our current automatic aid agreement.

No action taken on this item.

## **REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no requests from Board Members.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF APRIL 2024.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board