

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 25, 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 Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically) Norman Sturm, Board Member (electronically @ 1807)
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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 Billy Seamans, Deputy Chief Ben Archer Clowes, JVG (electronically) Steven Rodriguez, JVG
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Others 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. Andersen 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. Star of Life Award to: Captain / Paramedic Luis Cañez, Engineer / Paramedic Pete Chavez, and Firefighter / EMT Taha Hansbrough.

Chief Savage presented the Star of Life Award to Captain Luis Cañez, Engineer Pete Chavez, and Firefighter Taha Hansbrough. On March 26 they responded to a chest pain call in Palominas. During the transport to the hospital the patient went into cardiac arrest. Quick action by the crew identified a lethal heart rhythm and the need for immediate intervention. The early recognition of a significant cardiac event, advanced life support treatments, and rapid life saving intervention resulted in the patient's full recovery.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Board Meeting on May 28, 2024.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of May 28, 2024. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for May 2024, and fiscal year to date. May's non-tax revenue was under budget due to wildland; ambulance and interest revenue were over budget. Non-tax revenue is over budget for the fiscal year. Tax revenue was over budget for the month and under for the fiscal year. Total Expenses for March were over budget. Expenses year-to-date are under budget. A discussion followed. The board reviewed the warrants for the month and there were no questions.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the May 2024 financial reports. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.
Motion carried.

Public Hearing on the Fry Fire District Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

- a. Open the Public Hearing.

Mr. Huish opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget at 6:11 p.m.

No member of the public commented on the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget.

- b. Close the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing on the Fry Fire District Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget closed at 6:12 p.m.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Operations and Staffing – Chief Savage stated our wildfire season is off and running. We submitted another few invoices to DFFM for the Simmons, Rocky, and Bravo fire assignments. We currently have two personnel (Engineer Clark and Firefighter Yocupicio) on an IMT assignment in New Mexico near Ruidoso. Despite some intermittent thunderstorms, we are continuing to ban open burning in the Fire District through mid-July after fuel moistures are back up. This year is projected to be drier than normal, so we will be playing it by ear.

We hired Firefighter Harley Babich full-time to fill Gustavo Cantu's vacancy. We are working with another few applicants in anticipation of two upcoming retirements. Firefighter Kurt Denney and Captain Luis Cañez are expected to retire next month. Kurt Denney will continue leading the Firefighter Training program with Cochise College and Luis Cañez is going to join Air Evac as a full-time flight paramedic.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans is continuing to work with WSM Architects to explore our options for the Station 143 update. Unfortunately, AT&T has decided that they are no longer interested in pursuing a lease on the property to develop as a tower site.

We are continuing to work through the end-of-warranty process with Core and plan to continue ensuring that everything that needs to be repaired is. Chief Seamans is also continuing to work on some additional options for a Station 141 refresh.

Apparatus and Equipment – Chief Seamans received bids for both the vehicles we had listed to surplus. The listings should close in the next few days.

Grants – We have not received a response from FEMA for either the Assistance to Firefighters or SAFER grant requests that we submitted. There is also no news from the AZ Governor's Office of Highway Safety regarding our grant application for extrication tools. We may see some movement from the State side now that the legislature has approved the budget. There were some significant cuts made across the board, so grant funding may be harder to come by.

This month we received official approval and funding from the Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) for the purchase of a new Type 3 Engine. We also submitted another fuel reduction request for funding to treat additional acreage east of Ramsey Canyon adjoining a pending State Land project.

We are continuing to work with ADEM to refine our grant application for Hazard Mitigation funding to provide backup emergency generators for Stations 141 and 143, and are also working on another EMPG request for assistance with the cost of a command vehicle (DC141).

We received our first reimbursement under the Fire Incident Management grant. 3AM is continuing to work through the integration piece with Spillman prior to training and deployment.

SEACOM – Southeastern Arizona Communications is continuing to perform well and approved the FY2025 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2024-03 adopting the FY2025 Annual Budget and Pay Scale.

Mr. Ben Archer Clowes stated there were a couple of minor changes. There was a reduction in the Workers' Compensation from the tentative budget, and an increase in the medic stipend, and the funding to reserves.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept and adopt Resolution 2024-03 adopting the FY2025 Annual Budget and Pay Scale. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion carried.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the FY2025 PSPRS Pension Funding Policy.

Board members were provided copies of the FY2025 PSPRS Pension Funding Policy. Steven Rodriguez stated the Pension Funding Policy must be adopted by the Board every year according to an Arizona State Statute.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to adopt the FY2025 PSPRS Pension Funding Policy. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion carried.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Sta. 143 facilities remodel / addition.

Chief Seamans introduced Mr. John Price with Shive-Hattery, Inc. Architecture & Engineering (formerly of WSM Architects). Mr. Huish asked for the benefits of hiring Shive-Hattery. Mr. Price stated they have many years of experience designing fire stations. They worked with the District to design and rebuild Station 142 through the contractor as WSM Architects.

Civil, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineers will provide a schematic design of the systems to use for pricing a package during the initial phase. The second phase will be design development. Each phase will be brought to the Board for approval prior to moving forward.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to accept the contract from Shive-Hattery Inc. Architecture & Engineering regarding the Sta. 143 facilities remodel / addition. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion Carried.

- d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the status of outstanding legal claims.*

Chief Savage shared that our attorney filed a Motion to Dismiss last Friday. There is no timeline for the answer yet, but he will keep the Board apprised of any changes.

No action taken on this item.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Andersen made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:57 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Tucker.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

DATED THIS 26TH DAY OF JUNE 2024.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board