FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 23, 2024

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, Acting Chairman Robert McMurtrie, Board Member (electronically) Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically) Norman Sturm, Board Member (electronically until 1834)
Board Members Absent:	Joseph Huish, Board Chairman
Staff in Attendance:	Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor Kaleb Mauzy, Deputy Chief Steven Rodriguez, JVG
Others in Attendance:	Family, Friends, and Colleagues for the employee recognition

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mr. Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Andersen 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 Kurt Denney for his retirement with 20 years of service to the Fry Fire District.

Chief Savage presented Retired Firefighter / EMT Kurt Denney with his retirement axe after twenty years of dedicated service.

b. Captain / Paramedic Luis Cañez for his retirement with 24 years of service to the Fry Fire District.

Chief Savage presented Retired Captain / Paramedic Luis Cañez with his retirement axe after twenty-four years of dedicated service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on June 25, 2024.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of June 25, 2024. Mr. Sturm 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 June 2024.

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

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the June 2024 financial reports. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.
Motion carried.

b. Review, discussion and possible action on FY2024 year-end account balances.

Steven Rodriguez from JVG gave a presentation summary of our cash position and recommended a $300,000.00 cash transfer from our General Fund to our Capital Fund.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the FY2024 year-end account balances and transfer $300,000.00 from our General Fund to our Capital Fund. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.
Motion carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Operations and Staffing – Chief Savage stated our wildfire season continues. We are continuing to fill wildland orders as they come in. This month saw two brief Type 3 orders filled in-state. Our personnel and apparatus are currently back in the Fire District and available for assignment. The first few orders from California for pre-positioning did not include backfill coverage and we elected not to fill them. We are continuing to submit invoices to DFFM as they are completed.

Considering the arrival of our monsoons, we have allowed open burning to resume across the District.

We recently hired Firefighter Joshua Leffelman to fill Firefighter Denney's vacancy on B-Shift. His brother, Jonathan, has worked for us for over six years. Joshua recently finished his EMT class and should be testing in the next few weeks.

Chief Savage proudly attended the Cochise College Paramedic Program graduation last week. Our own Jennifer Widdows successfully completed the course and was the class valedictorian. We are excited to see her progress and looking forward to her taking a larger role in EMS. Taha Hansbrough is in the interview process for the next course.

Chief Seamans and Captain Hall are at an ImageTrend conference. Next week Chief Seamans will be out of town for the prebuild of the Type 3 engine.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans is continuing to work with WSM Architects to develop our options for the Station 143 update. WSM will also be working on the design work for the backup generators we requested through the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program. We recently completed a response to a request for additional information concerning the project.

We are continuing to work through the end-of-warranty process with Core. The stucco cracks have been patched and the station should get a final coat of paint to cover the repairs. We are planning to have the shop painted to match the station at the same time. We reached out to Core's vendor to request a quote and will bring that back to the Board for review and approval as soon as it is received.

Apparatus and Equipment – Our surplus shop truck and 2008 ambulance were sold. Chief Seamans received just over $20,000.00 for those.

Grants – There is no news from FEMA for either the Assistance to Firefighters or SAFER grant requests that we submitted. There is also no news from the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety regarding our grant application for extrication tools. We submitted another Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) request for our newest command truck (DC141). This is another 50% match grant for reallocated funding that could see us reimbursed for capital improvement dollars we have already spent. If approved, we may see approximately $53,000.00 in grant funds.

Despite issues with the state budget, Chief Savage believes that the IAFF may have been able to get $5,000,000.00 allocated to support fire district revenues.

Florian and 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 under Ms. Wilkins' guidance. The FY2025 budget was approved, and they may be working on a similar EMPG request to ours.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Incentive Pay Policy.

Board Members were provided copies of the draft incentive pay policy for driver operator qualification stipend, language proficiency stipend, and educational stipend.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to accept the Incentive Pay Policy. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.
Motion carried.

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

Chief Savage stated there was no progress to report.

No action taken on this item.

c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding FY25 Fee Schedule.

Board Members were provided copies of the FY25 Fee Schedule for review. There were no changes from the 2023-2024 Fee Schedule.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the FY25 Fee Schedule. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.
Motion Carried.

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

Chief Savage stated no action was needed. Mr. Matura filed our motion to dismiss a few weeks ago; State Farm has stipulated to our motion. The Thompson's have objected.

No action taken on this item.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Andersen requested to have Chief Savage's performance appraisal on next month's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:36 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Tucker.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF JULY 2024.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board