FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 24, 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 Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically) Norman Sturm, Board Member (electronically)
Board Members Absent:	None
Staff in Attendance:	Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor Steven Rodriguez, JVG (electronically)
Others in Attendance:	Family, Friends, and Colleagues for employee recognition.

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 - Loyalty Oath and Badge Presentations to:

a. Firefighter / Paramedic Andrew Vidinski

Chief Savage noted FF / CEP Andrew Vidinski's successful performance over the past year including the completion of his probationary firefighter taskbook, and active engagement and support of the Technical Rescue and Wildland Teams. FF Vidinski has recently been acting up into an Engineer capacity and recently received the David Deary citation. Chief Savage administered FF Vidinski's Oath of Office and presented him with his badge and helmet shield. Aubrey Anderson pinned on his badge and he was congratulated by the members of the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on August 27, 2024.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of August 27, 2024. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for August 2024, and year to date. The non-tax revenue was over budget due to ambulance, interest revenue, and the sale of fleet. Tax revenue was a little under budget for the month. Total expenses for the month were over budget. Year to date tax revenue was within $600.00, non-tax revenue was over budget, and total expenses were over 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 August 2024 financial reports. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Operations and Staffing – Chief Savage stated our wildfire season continues. This month saw our Type 3 engine complete a 14-day extension after a crew swap in California. The engine just completed another 21-day work cycle (including a crew swap) on the West Fire in northern Arizona.

We had two employees resign recently, and we selected two new full-time candidates who will begin their initial training on October 1st.

We are continuing to make progress on our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. This month saw the first two internal workshops with employees. Chief Savage is proud of our team who provided great insight and input for the workshops. Board members also received our internal survey that

Deputy Chief Mauzy put together to augment feedback already collected from the team. The next two workshops scheduled for next week should see our continued progress.

We have been approved to participate in the FOCUS on Safety Program again. This includes a district-wide safety survey which will serve as an updated baseline for a research project we are participating in at the end of the month. The research project will see our safety team and a researcher visiting with all of our crews to collect feedback on ways we can improve our health and safety programs.

Shift personnel have completed the initial ImageTrend training. This presents significant progress in our transition from HealthEMS to ImageTrend. The platform integrates better with several of the tools used by our providers and should also streamline our ambulance billing and data analysis processes. We are planning to go live with ImageTrend on September 26th and looking forward to being able to make better use of the data we are collecting.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans is continuing to work with WSM Architects to finalize the contract terms to develop our options for Fire Stations 141 and 143. WSM will also be helping by providing input with the planning and design work for the backup generators we requested funding for through FEMA.

We are still working to coordinate matching paint for the maintenance shop but have completed the installation of air lines to supply hose reels located strategically throughout the workspace. Mr. Ayers is planning to retire early next spring, and we have begun advertising for his replacement.

Apparatus and Equipment – Our second Osco Tender should be nearing completion. We anticipate sending Captain Kean and Mr. Ayers back to Osco for a final construction review within the next month with delivery to follow. We are continuing to work on specifications for bids to update our oldest 4000-gallon Tender after we receive delivery of the new one.

We are continuing to collect repair estimates for the flooded ambulance. It was towed to Ford, and we received their estimate. The last remaining estimate is for the repair / replacement of the Stryker Auto-Load platform. Captain Kean inspected and serviced the three MSA airpacks that were on the unit. Chief Savage is happy to share that they are all in good working order and we removed them from the claim.

Grants – There is still no news from FEMA for either the Assistance to Firefighters or SAFER grant requests that we submitted. As we are nearing the end of the federal fiscal year, Chief Savage anticipates they will both be denied.

The Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety is working on our grant agreement for new extrication tools. We completed their risk-analysis and are up to date on all grant reports. As shared previously, this grant will provide approximately $38,000 to support the purchase of a new set of battery-powered 'jaws of life' to be put into service at Station 161 replacing a hydraulic set there that was purchased in 2004.

We are also continuing to work through the approval process for another fuel reduction grant from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). The tentative award will provide approximately $150,000 in funding to continue treating wildland hazardous fuels in our highest risk interface areas. Our current grant still has approximately $100,000 remaining. We are anticipating picking the seasonal fuel crew back up next month and will likely need to request an extension to spend down residual grant funding.

On a related note, we will be hosting a Ramsey Canyon Firewise meeting in our classroom tomorrow evening and we are excited to collaborate with DFFM to share methods that our community can use to reduce the risk of wildland interface fires.

We are still waiting for feedback on an EMPG request for our newest command truck (DC141). This is a 50% match grant for reallocated federal funding that could see us reimbursed for emergency management-related capital improvement dollars we already spent. If approved, we may see approximately $53,000.00 in grant funds.

Our deployment training with the Florian / 3am incident management system has been completed. This provides our incident managers the ability to track personnel working in dangerous environments in real-time. It also provides a redundant communication and data sharing platform allowing them to share images and videos seamlessly. The smartphones have been deployed for all duty positions. Initial training went well, and our personnel have offered significant feedback that may improve the functionality of the platform.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the Fire Chief's annual evaluation.*

Chief Savage requested to go into executive session to discuss his annual performance review.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0
Motion carried.

Executive Session entered at 6:28 p.m.

The Regular Session resumed at 6:56 p.m.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Fire Chief's annual performance review as written. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

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

Also discussed in Executive Session.

No action taken on this item.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. McMurtrie requested that a communication plan be placed on a future board agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

DATED THIS 25TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board