

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 19, 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)
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Board Members Absent:	Norman Sturm, Board Member
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Staff in Attendance:	Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor Steven Rodriguez, JVG (electronically)
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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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Regular Board Meeting on October 22, 2024.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of October 22, 2024. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion carried.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for October 2024, and year to date. The non-tax revenue was over budget due to wildland billing and interest. Tax revenue was under budget for the month and year to date. Total expenses for the month were in line with the budget. Year to date 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. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the October 2024 financial reports. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion carried.

## **COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**

Operations and Staffing – Chief Savage stated our wildfire season is picking back up. Deputy Chief Seamans ran a wildfire last Saturday on Highway 92 just east of Carr Canyon Road that burned approximately 60 acres of US Forest Service property. Assistance from the Sierra Vista Fire and Medical Department, Palominas Fire Departments, Ft. Huachuca Fire Department, and the U.S. Forest Service helped wrap things up before it threatened the nearby neighborhoods. We sent a Type 3 Engine with four personnel to California to help with their wildfires. Almost all our invoices have been forwarded to the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) for payment. DFFM is processing payments in a timely manner.

We hired two new full-time employees last month. We also picked up our first-ever Firefighter Intern. Roberto Iniguez comes to us as an active-duty intern who will be paid by the U.S. Army to train as a Firefighter with us as part of a transition program while he prepares to leave the military. We also extended a job offer to a new mechanic, Aaron Kaiser, with a tentative start date of December 9, 2024. Jimmy Ayers plans to retire in February 2025.

Deputy Chief Mauzy ran personnel through live fire evolutions on the LPG props. Thanks to AmeriGas for continued support.

We are continuing to make progress on the development of our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. This month we saw our last workshop rescheduled due to the illness of one of the facilitators. We should have one additional internal workshop left to put the final touches on the plan prior to Fire Board review.

Deputy Chief Mauzy, L4913 President Ferrel, and Chief Savage continued to work with the University of Utah as part of the Fire Station Safety Leadership Program. The highlights of the safety feedback have been shared with personnel, many of the themes mentioned are in alignment with our strategic plan.

Deputy Chief Seamans and Captain Hall are continuing to provide updates to shift personnel with ImageTrend to continue progress in our transition away from HealthEMS. Ms. Jones has

been able to make progress in transferring our historical data from HealthEMS into ImageTrend. This will allow the billing department to store all our patient records in one place for subsequent ambulance billing work.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans is continuing to work with Shive-Hattery Architects (formerly WSM) to finalize the contract terms to develop our options for Fire Stations 141 and 143. The architects have provided some feedback on 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.

The USBP EMT class we have been hosting in our training room is continuing to go well and should wrap up towards the end of November.

Apparatus and Equipment – Captain Kean and Engineer Wallace completed the post-construction visit for our second Osco Tender. They identified a few needed repairs that Osco is working with the chassis dealer to remedy. Once those repairs are made, the tender should be set up for delivery, hopefully within the next month.

Ford is continuing to finalize repair work on the flooded ambulance. The total cost of repairs to the ambulance and the replacement of the Stryker Auto-Load platform are estimated to cost approximately \$60,000.00. Our insurance company has processed the claim and should have a check in the mail minus our \$1,000.00 deductible. District-wide training regarding roadway hazards, specifically flooding hazards, is still pending.

Grants – Our Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant request to FEMA was denied. We anticipate receiving a similar notice on the SAFER grant requests. The AFG grant cycle has reopened and we will put in a request for some apparatus mounted exhaust filters and a regional application for a trailer to provide air support on fire scenes.

The Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety formally approved our grant agreement for new extrication tools. Extrication Concepts, the vendor we selected, should have the new Holmatro tools to us by the end of the week. The tools will be placed on Engine 161 in Huachuca City to replace hydraulic tools we originally purchased in 2004.

We are also continuing to work through the approval process for another fuel reduction grant from the Arizona DFFM. The tentative award will provide approximately \$150,000 in funding to reduce wildland hazardous fuels on another 100 acres in our highest-risk interface areas.

The Ft. Huachuca Sentinel Landscape hired a resource specialist. She has extensive GIS knowledge and is helping us develop some of the shape files we need to submit to DFFM as part of the grant package. She is also working on a map that shows the actual boundaries of the Fire District.

The extension we requested for our current grant was approved, and our fuels crew will continue working on that budget line through March.

We are still awaiting 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 have already spent. If approved, we may see approximately \$53,000.00 in grant funds.

We successfully deployed the Florian incident management system, we are continuing to work with them to clean up some of the user interface and add some functionality to better utilize the tool in our area.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding new policies requested by HRSA.

Chief Savage stated the policies were sent to HRSA for review last month, and they have not yet responded.

No action taken on this item.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Board Members to fill two pending vacancies.

The terms for Board Members Joseph Huish and Thomas Tucker III are expiring at the end of this year. No election packets were submitted to the Cochise County Elections Department. The Board may appoint District residents to fill vacancies. Mr. Huish and Chief Tucker are interested in continuing to serve on the Board. Mr. McMurtrie read the statute and believes we need to wait until December to fill the vacancies. A discussion followed regarding taking action tonight and ratifying the action during the December Board meeting.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-004 and appoint Joseph Huish and Thomas Tucker III to fill the two pending vacancies. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0 with Mr. Huish and Mr. Tucker abstaining.

Motion passed.

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

Chief Savage reported there is no news on pending lawsuit. Mr. Matura is still waiting for a response on the motion to dismiss.

No action taken on this item.

## **REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no requests from Board Members.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Andersen.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

DATED THIS 20TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk  
Fry Fire District Board