

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Huish called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 6:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance:	Joseph Huish, Board Chairman Robert McMurtrie, Board Member Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically)
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Board Members Absent:	Eric Andersen, Board Clerk Norman Sturm, Board Member
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Staff in Attendance:	Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Jones, Billing Supervisor Ben Archer-Clowes, JVG
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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mr. Huish led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. McMurtrie 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 6:02 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on November 19, 2024.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of November 19, 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 November 2024.

Ben Archer-Clowes from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for November 2024, and year to date. The non-tax revenue was over budget due to wildland and interest income. Tax revenue was over budget for the month and close to budget for year to date. Total expenses for the month were under budget. Year to date non-tax revenue was over budget, and total expenses were under budget. AZDHS has tentatively approved our ambulance rate increase. A discussion followed. The board reviewed the warrants for the month and there were no questions.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to accept the November 2024 financial reports. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Operations and Staffing – Chief Savage stated our wildland personnel and Type 3 engine are back from California. They spent approximately two weeks on a preposition assignment in anticipation of increased wildfire risk. The crew is working to finalize and submit the invoice.

We hired a new mechanic. Aaron Kaiser. Mr Kaiser comes to us with some heavy-duty experience with Cochise County. He will be working closely with Mr. Ayers and Deputy Chief Seamans to get up to speed before Mr. Ayers retires in February.

This month personnel completed live fire evolutions with Deputy Chief Mauzy in our burn room. The evolutions utilized all our live-fire instructors and also included personnel from Sierra Vista Fire and Medical Department, Douglas Fire Department, and Palominas Fire District. All evolutions ran relatively smoothly.

We are continuing to make progress on the development of our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. We were finally able to schedule our last planned workshop and Ironwood Strategic Solutions should be wrapping up our draft plan for final review.

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. Mercier (Jones) is continuing to make progress with the transfer of our historical data from HealthEMS into ImageTrend.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans is continuing to work with Shive-Hattery (formally WSM) Architects to develop our options for Fire Stations 141 and 143.

We are still working to coordinate matching paint for the maintenance shop.

The USBP EMT class we hosted in our training room wrapped up just before Thanksgiving. They certified 17 new EMTs that we are sure to work with in the future.

Apparatus and Equipment – The second 4000-gallon tender has arrived. As soon as the payment is processed, we should be able to get it registered and put it in service.

Ford finished the repair work for the engine in the flooded ambulance. It has been test-driven and is in our shop, waiting for the replacement Stryker Auto-Load platform to be finished. We expect to receive the replacement platform in mid-January. District-wide training regarding roadway hazards, specifically flooding hazards, is still pending.

Grants – Last year's Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant request to FEMA and the SAFER grant were denied. The AFG grant cycle has opened for the current year. We have submitted a regional request for an air trailer with Palominas Fire District and we will put in an additional request for apparatus mounted exhaust filters.

The extrication tools funded by the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety arrived. They will be placed into service on Engine 161 in Huachuca City as soon as we are able to install a rollout tray and tool mounts.

We are continuing to work through the final steps of the approval process for another Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) Fuel Reduction grant from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). The tentative award will provide approximately \$150,000 in funding to reduce wildland hazardous fuels on another 100 acres in our higher risk interface areas.

The Ft. Huachuca Sentinel Landscape hired a Resilience Specialist. She has extensive expertise in GIS and is currently helping develop some of the shapefiles we need to submit to DFFM as part of our grant package.

We will look at the feasibility of adding a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) building code when we adopt our next fire code. Chief Savage stated the State Fire Marshall's Office is under the DFFM and believe they will adopt a WUI building code when they move to the 2024 building code. Insurance companies have been increasing the costs of coverage or refusing to renew some policies in interface areas in other Arizona communities.

Our fuels crew is continuing to make progress under our current grant. They recently mitigated the common area east of Equestrian, north of Ramsey Canyon Road. We have funding to continue their work through March of 2025.

We are still waiting for feedback on an EMPG request for funding 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 / 3am incident management system. We are continuing to work with them to clean up and improve the functionality of the user interface to make sure the system supports incident managers on emergency scenes.

SEACOM – The JPA recommended unanimously to shift the responsibility for human resources from the City of Sierra Vista to Cochise County. The Sierra Vista City Council agreed. The County Administrator was added back onto the JPA Board, and the Sheriff will remain as Board

Chair for tie-breaking authority if needed. The presentation to the Cochise County Board of Supervisors should be scheduled for the end of December.

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, and they still have not provided feedback.

No action taken on this item.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Thomas Tucker III to fill one pending board vacancy. (Resolution 2024-005).

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-005 and appoint Thomas Tucker III to fill one pending board vacancy. Mr. Huish seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0. Mr. Tucker abstained.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Joseph Huish to fill one pending board vacancy. (Resolution 2024-006).

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-006 and appoint Joseph Huish to fill one pending board vacancy. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0. Mr. Huish abstained.

- d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of five (5) mobile radios for emergency response apparatus.

Chief Savage provided Board Members with copies of a state contract quote from Motorola for the purchase of five mobile radios to be placed in apparatus. The radios will allow personnel to talk to dispatch and responders on other frequencies. Each unit is approximately \$10,000.00.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the purchase of five (5) mobile radios for emergency response apparatus. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from the Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

DATED THIS 18TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2024.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board