FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 25, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McMurtrie called the Regular Meeting of the Fry Fire District Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance:	Robert McMurtrie, Acting Chairman Norman Sturm, Acting Clerk Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically)
Board Members Absent:	Joseph Huish, Board Chairman Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Staff in Attendance:	Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Mercier, Billing Supervisor Steven Rodriguez, James Vincent Group (electronically) Billy Seamans, Deputy Chief Kaleb Mauzy, Deputy Chief Dennis Ferrel, Local 4913 President Phillip Allred, Local 4913 Treasurer
Others in Attendance:	John Price, Shive-Hattery Architects (electronically) Thomas E. Yazzie, Shive-Hattery Architects (electronically)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mr. McMurtrie led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Sturm gave the invocation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. McMurtrie 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. McMurtrie 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.

LOCAL 4913 REPORT

Local 4913 President, Dennis Ferrel stated there is nothing to report, but he invited members of the board to a Fire Family BBQ at the end of March.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on January 28, 2025.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 28, 2025. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

a. Review, discussion, and possible action on the monthly financial report for January 2025.

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for January 2025, and year to date. The non-tax levy revenue was over budget due to wildland. Tax revenue was under budget for the month and year to date. Total expenses for the month were over 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. Sturm made a motion to accept the January 2025 financial reports. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage provided Board Members with the following monthly report.

Operations and Staffing – Thanks to Chairman Huish, Board Clerk Andersen, and Board Member Tucker for attending our annual awards banquet. Captain Short and his wife, Kari did an exceptional job setting it up this year. The 2024 Awards Winners are:

Part-Time EMS of the Year Award – Roberto Iniguez
Outstanding Achievement Award – Jimmy Ayers
EMS Professional of the Year Award – Michelle Robbins
Firefighter of the Year Award – Walter Webb

January's call data showed 395 total calls. DC Seamans is working to set up a Fry Cast with regular call / response data sent to the Fire Station Alerting screens.

Thanks to Captain Short, all of our wildland invoices have been submitted and paid.

Roberto Iniguez started this week as a full-time Firefighter on C-Shift. We have also extended an offer to Aubrey Anderson, another full-time EMS-Only Paramedic who is expected to start on B-Shift in mid-March. This will get us to our current full staffing capacity, which includes one additional firefighter online.

Aaron Kaiser is continuing to progress well. Jimmy Ayer's last day was last Friday. Kudos to DC Seamans for coordinating a great luncheon and send-off. Our mechanics are now being memorialized on the Maintenance Shop sign. This included a name plate for James Engols as well. Mr. Engols was our first full-time mechanic and worked for the District for 22 years.

DC Mauzy has been accepted to a Fire Leadership Master's Degree Program through Columbia Southern University. He is currently working through our quarterly Crew Performance Reviews with all personnel.

Chief Savage reviewed a final draft of our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan with Ironwood Strategic Solutions and forwarded it to Board Members. Chief Savage requested Board Members review the draft and return any feedback no later than Friday.

<u>Facilities</u> – DC Seamans is continuing to work with Shive-Hattery Architects to develop our options for Fire Stations 141 and 143.

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

The Cochise College Fire Training program conducted search and rescue training in our burn room this month. Due to some attrition at the college, the Allied Health Department's paramedic training program has loaned Captain Haros to support their fire training program as the lead fire instructor this semester.

<u>Apparatus and Equipment</u> – The 2000-gallon tender is being listed for sale on Public Surplus.

Mr. Kaiser received a new control module for the liquid spring suspension system on M1431. Once that is fixed, the ambulance will get detailed and then scheduled for the power-load repair from Stryker. He is also working to diagnose an oil leak on E143 that was discovered during pump testing.

<u>Grants</u> – We submitted Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant requests for an air trailer and vehicle-mounted exhaust filters. Senator Ciscomani provided a letter of support for the regional air trailer request (FFD and PFD).

Firefighter Michael Bocook submitted a State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) request for approximately $80,000.00 in funding to purchase a suburban to better support the Cochise County Regional SWAT Team. This vehicle would provide better protection with less advertising for our tactical medics.

Our fuels crew started working on our 2024 HFI Fuel Reduction Grant from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). We are also evaluating some local contractors who do similar work and hope that we will be able to use them to continue fuel mitigation during the fire season. This grant provides approximately $150,000 in funding to reduce wildland hazardous fuels on another 100 acres in our highest risk interface areas.

Chief Savage is continuing to try to move things forward with Verisk. Unfortunately, the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) was not a viable funding source for this kind of research.

Chief Savage is also continuing to anticipate recommending the addition of a WUI building code appendix when we adopt our next fire code.

There is no 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.

The Florian / 3am team is continuing to work to improve the usefulness of their incident management system. We are caught up on reimbursement requests and reports and continue to look forward to some additional functionality on the platform.

SEACOM – Director Wilkins continues to improve staffing levels. This month saw JPA Board renew her contract for five years. The center now has fourteen full-time dispatchers and another four in training. This marks significant progress from a few years ago when they were down to six full-time dispatchers.

This evening's agenda has another agreement with SEACOM to extend our dispatch subscription with them. This maintains our annual cost of $30,000.00, which is likely to see a significant increase at the end of FY2026, when we are anticipating moving to a fee per call schedule. So far, the rough estimates have a significant increase to our annual cost, based on roughly 4,500 calls per year. Assuming the cost increase, we will continue to work to ensure that we are able to take credit for in-kind services, such as the time Deputy Chief Seamans spends working on SEACOM / Spillman issues.

LEGAL – Mr. Matura still has not received a response to our Motion to Dismiss. Chief Savage will continue to keep the Board appraised of any developments.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding design work, construction manager at risk (CMAR) process, and capital improvement planning with Shive-Hattery Architects for Fire Sta. 143.

John Price and Thomas E. Yazzie of Shive-Hattery Architects gave a presentation and summary of the schematic design phase project recently completed. Mr. Yazzie shared images of the set of drawings produced for the capital improvement plan for Station 143. Approximately 2681 addition square feet would be added to the current facility, including individual bunk rooms, unisex showers, turnout gear storage, decontamination areas for equipment and personnel, a fitness space, and a passthrough between the existing bays with storage.

The bays will be provided with increased general exhaust systems that are larger than required by code.

DC Seamans stated the next step is the design development phase where these aspects and elevations are detailed out and provided to a contractor for pricing.

No action taken on this item.

b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding agreement with Cochise College for firefighter training support.

Chief Savage provided Board Members with a copy of the IGA between Cochise County Community College and Fry Fire District that was drafted by our attorney. The IGA allows us to continue providing support to the firefighter training program with the college.

Mr. Tucker made a motion to approve the agreement with Cochise College for firefighter training support. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Board Resolution 2025-01 in support of our FY2026 Grant Application through the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Chief Savage shared with the Board a $90,000.00 request to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for stabilization equipment and extrication tools.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01 in support of our FY2026 Grant Application through the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding subscriber agreement with SEACOM for Dispatching Services through June 30, 2026.

Chief Savage stated this is an extension of our current agreement that will allow us to keep our current schedule of the $30,000.00 annual cost through fiscal year 2026. SEACOM is working on amending their fee structure from cost per radio to cost per call.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the subscriber agreement with SEACOM for Dispatching Services through June 30, 2026. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Tucker would like to discuss our preparation for wildland fire season and public notifications. Mr. McMurtrie would like to see it in the Herald.

Chief Savage stated he appeared on First Watch last week with Dan Duchon talking about the Ready, Set, Go Program, Firewise USA and emergency notification systems.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:28 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Tucker.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

DATED THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board