FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 22, 2025

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 Eric Andersen, Board Clerk Norman Sturm, Board Member
Board Members Absent:	Robert McMurtrie, Board Member Thomas Tucker, Board Member
Staff in Attendance:	Mark Savage, Fire Chief Diana Mercier, Billing Supervisor Steven Rodriguez, James Vincent Group
Others in Attendance:	John Price, Shive-Hattery Architects (electronically) Friends, family, and co-workers of award recipient

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mr. Huish led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Sturm 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.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

a. Engineer / Paramedic Andrew Vidinski Badge Presentation

Chief Savage recognized newly promoted Engineer / Paramedic Andrew Vidinski. Andrew Vidinski was hired full-time in 2023, completed his Firefighter probation, and continued to develop as one of our foremost Paramedics. He participates on our Technical Rescue and Wildland Teams. This year, he successfully completed our Engineer promotional process. Chief Savage shared his sincere appreciation for the positive attitude and attributes that Engineer Vidinski brings to the fire district and presented Andrew with his new Engineer badge. The badge was pinned on by his sister, Lauren Healey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on June 24, 2025.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the Regular Board Meeting minutes of June 24, 2025. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for June 2025, and year to date. The non-tax revenue was over budget and expenses for the month were under budget. Year to date non-tax revenue was over budget due to ambulance, wildland, and interest income. Tax revenue was just under budget for the year. 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 June 2025 financial reports. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage provided Board Members with the following monthly report:

<u>Operations and Staffing</u> – Chief Savage shared that we have a few new candidates working through our full and part-time testing process. We have one current full-time vacancy we are hoping to fill as well as another few vacancies that will be coming up in the next few months due to planned retirements. Captain Furnia is planning to retire in August, and Lieutenant Alba is planning to retire in October.

Our S-212 Basic Chainsaw class launched this week. The class has approximately 25 students, representing several local and federal agencies. They will be completing some fuel mitigation work next week during their field day. Deputy Chief Mauzy has an S-215 Urban Interface Firefighting class scheduled for this month to be instructed by Mark South. Chief Mauzy will also be working to coordinate a shift-friendly Driver / Operator class later this fall.

Palominas Fire District – David Parry is helping to fill in while Mark Prince is deployed on wildland fires in Oregon this summer. Deputy Chief Seamans is continuing to help them get up to speed on ImageTrend. Chief Prince is anticipating remaining in Oregon to support an incident management team with their fire season for another few months.

Captain Michael Kean supported the Town of Huachuca City July 4th Fireworks show. Town Manager Suzanne Harvey shared her sincere appreciation for our support during the event and said she received feedback from residents that it was the best celebration yet. We also provided support to the Sierra Vista Fireworks show, working with Ft Huachuca Fire Department, Bureau of Land Management, Sierre Vista Fire and Medical Department, and United States Forest Service (USFS) to ensure that any ignitions were quickly detected and extinguished. The fire risk was relatively low this year due to rainstorms earlier in the day.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans is working to resolve some ongoing AC and roofing issues with Core at Sta. 142, both of which appear to be covered under warranty. We will add the backup generator switch to the list. We had a significant roof leak over the kitchen this weekend, which will require some drywall replacement and possibly some additional remediation. Chief Seamans is continuing to work with Shive-Hattery Architects to develop our options for Station 143. There is an agreement with Shive-Hattery on tonight's agenda for discussion and possible action.

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

Apparatus and Equipment – The 2000-gallon tender been re-listed for sale on Public Surplus.

Grants – Chief Savage completed an interview this afternoon as part of his application process to continue serving on the Arizona Department of Homeland Security Southern Region Advisory Council. He hopes to hear a response in the coming months.

We finalized and submitted a SAFER Grant request to acquire additional funding to bolster our engine staffing. If approved, this grant would support the hiring and training of four additional Firefighters. Funds are spread out over three years with a diminishing federal percentage (60, 60, 35). Required District funding would increase over the term of the grant from $90,000.00 in the first two years, to $231,000.00 in year three, and the full cost of $408,000.00 in year four.

No feedback yet on the Congressionally Directed Spend Grant request for approximately $2.5M to support the Fire Station 143 / Training Facility renovations. Thanks to Cochise College, Palominas Fire District, Palominas School District, and the Sierra Vista Fire and Medical Department for their support on this request.

No feedback on the Sunsites Pearce Fire District submission of a Gila River Indian Community Grant request in the amount of $192,000.00 to update the Cochise County radio cache. If funded, this request would establish two new radio caches (West and East) with 20 radios each. We anticipate feedback on this request by next month.

No feedback yet regarding our grant request to the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety for approximately $90,000.00 to support the purchase of additional stabilization equipment and extrication tools for Station 141. They are still waiting for federal approval and anticipate decisions coming out in August or September.

We are continuing to make progress on our 2024 HFI Fuel Reduction Grant and continuing to work with USFS and the Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership to get good data to build a 2025 request. Fire Crews are continuing to add structure triage data to the NIFC map that will better inform incident managers working to prioritize limited wildfire resources across our area.

No feedback on an FY2022 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. We are working with Mr. Daniel Duchon to roll the request into the FY2023 EMPG cycle. 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 the system for departments like ours. We are scheduled for ongoing status meetings with them to ensure functionality is maintained on the platform.

<u>SEACOM</u> – Director Wilkins continues to improve operations at SEACOM. We anticipate this continuation to support operational improvements and streamline administrative functions with HR and Finance collocated at Cochise County.

<u>LEGAL</u> – Mr. Matura shared that the appeal timeline has expired for the civil claim from the fire in Palominas. Chief Savage will be meeting with him next week to discuss indemnification from Palominas Fire District for his fees related to the representation.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2025-003 accepting DEMA Grant No. HMGP FM-5466-2-2R.

Chief Savage stated the grant has been approved. DEMA requires a resolution and agency authorization letter to give Chief Savage the authority to continue the 60/40 grant for backup generators.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-003 accepting DEMA Grant No. HMGP FM-5466-2-2R. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2025-004 supporting participation in the Arizona Employers' Pension Prefunding Plan.

The resolution allows us to open the employee retirement trust, but we are not funding the account currently. Chief Savage is concerned that the LGIP bond interest rates will not last.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-004 supporting participation in the Arizona Employers' Pension Prefunding Plan. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2025-005 supporting participation in the FY2024 SAFER Grant program.

This resolution supports the SAFER Grant application that would fund four full-time Firefighters, one on each shift and one additional full-time float. Chief Savage stated our financial projections over the next four years will support the increase. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-005 supporting participation in the FY2024 SAFER Grant program. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the FY2023 DEMA EMPG Grant application.

Chief Savage stated the Resolution is for the resubmission of the FY2022 Grant into the FY2023 Grant cycle. We are also exploring the feasibility of adding an early wildfire detection grant. We are working on getting a quote from Orora Tech for their infrared satellite subscription service to cover Cochise and Graham Counties

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the FY2023 DEMA EMPG Grant application, with conditional approval to include funding for the Orora Tech service in an amount not to exceed $10,000.00. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

e. Review, discussion and possible action regarding design work and capital improvement planning with Shive-Hattery Architects for Fire Sta. 143. This item may include direction to execute contracts for construction, and direction moving forward with plans, phasing, adopting a fee schedule and gross maximum price.

Chief Savage requested Board approval to participate in the Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (S.A.V.E.), a state-wide cooperative purchasing agreement.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the participation in Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (S.A.V.E.). Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

John Price, project manager and architect of Shive Hattery provided Board Members with an update on the remodel of Station 143. We are in the design development phase where they are working with Marsh Development to bring the project into budget. Mr. Price stated we should get through phases one and two with the initial $2M budget. Phase three is a potential for the future. Marsh Development is working on an updated cost model, and we should have some numbers next month. Mr. Price said he will keep the Board updated on the schedule and costs.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve spending $74,689.20 on the Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Shive-Hattery, Inc. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

John Price reiterated that Cochise County officials agreed to a 10-foot abandonment of the 30-foot right-of-way for our use. The transformer will be moved into the abandoned area so it will not be in the future right-of-way. They will go back to the surveyor and ask for an amendment to their contract to include the 10-foot abandonment. The document will need to be recorded at the County Recorder's Office. He advised that the property Cochise County would be abandoning belonged to Cochise County and not the Bureau of Land Management.

f. Review, discussion and possible action on FY2025 year-end balance transfers.

Steven Rodriguez provided information about our cash year over year. Our general fund cash increased $905,000.00. GFOA recommends a reserve balance between 25% and 35%, or three months of the total budget. Historically we keep approximately 28%. JVG recommends transferring $500,000.00 to capital, $250,000.00 to PARS, if the Board is willing to fund the account, leaving the general fund balance just over the 28%.

Mr. Huish asked if we have updated our capital plan figures to reflect increasing costs. Chief Savage replied in the affirmative and that the current capital plan (through 2031) includes conservative project costs. Steven reviewed the current capital plan briefly with the board, identifying projected costs for Sta. 143 and several emergency response apparatus.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to fund the Capital $500,000.00 and hold off on funding $250,000.00 to PARS for the FY2025 year-end balance transfers pending additional information from PARS. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

DATED THIS 23RD DAY OF JULY 2025.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board