# FRY FIRE DISTRICT
# MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
# August 27, 2025

## CALL TO ORDER

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

## ATTENDANCE

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| Board Members in Attendance: | Joseph Huish, Board Chairman<br>Eric Andersen, Board Clerk<br>Norman Sturm, Board Member<br>Robert McMurtrie, Board Member<br>Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically) |
| Board Members Absent: | None |
| Staff in Attendance: | Mark Savage, Fire Chief<br>Billy Seamans, Deputy Chief<br>Diana Mercier, Billing Supervisor<br>Steven Rodriguez, James Vincent Group (electronically) |
| Others in Attendance: | Carter Kimberly and Dennis Mullins, PARS – Arizona Employers Pension Prefunding Program (electronically)<br>John Price, Shive-Hattery Architects (electronically)<br>Thomas Yazzie, Shive-Hattery Architects (electronically)<br>Kiel Prudence, Marsh Development (electronically)<br>Friends, family, and co-workers of award recipients |

## 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 6:01 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Call to the public closed at 6:01 p.m.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

a. Captain / Paramedic Michael Bocook Badge Presentation

Chief Savage recognized newly promoted Captain / Paramedic Michael Bocook. Captain Bocook was originally hired as a full-time Firefighter shortly after completing his Paramedic training through Cochise College in 2018. He took a brief sabbatical in 2022, rejoined the District in 2023 as a part-time Paramedic, and then came back online as a full-time Firefighter in 2024. He served for several months this year as an Acting Engineer before successfully competing in the captain testing process. Captain Bocook is currently one of our evaluators in a Critical Care Paramedic training program, and a very active participant in our Tactical EMS program – where he works closely with the Cochise County Regional SWAT Team to ensure the health and safety of law enforcement officers and civilians across Cochise County.

b. Captain Deputy Chief Billy Seamans Bachelor’s Degree Presentation

Deputy Chief Billy Seamans successfully completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Administration and Fire Investigation magna cum laude from Columbia Southern University. In addition to the general education courses, his fire administration major also included topics like: Fire Prevention Organization and Management, Fire Investigation and Analysis, Criminal Law, Political and Legal Foundations of Fire Protection, and Community Risk Reduction. Chief Savage and Deputy Chief Seamans thanked the Fire Board and the Seamans family for their support throughout this program.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on July 22, 2025.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 22, 2025. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Mr. McMurtrie and Mr. Tucker abstained.
Motion carried.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

**COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT**
Chief Savage provided Board Members with the following monthly report:

Operations and Staffing – Chief Savage shared that Beach Fleischman will be onsite at Station 142 tomorrow for part of our annual financial audit. Captain Daniel Furnia retired this month. Captain Furnia will start training with AirEvac soon but is planning to be at next month's board meeting to receive his retirement axe.

We have two new Firefighters working through our initial onboarding process. The addition of Sergio Flores and Carlo Carrasco will bring us up to full staffing. They will be assigned to regular shift duty in early September. We anticipate another full-time vacancy in a few months when Lieutenant Alba retires.

Deputy Chief Mauzy and Captain Sayler facilitated S-212 Basic Chainsaw and S-215 Urban Interface Firefighting classes for some of our newer personnel. Later this week will also see several of our personnel attending an S-219 Wildland Firefighting Ignitions course in Rio Rico. This course will be instructed by Mark South. Deputy Chief Mauzy has also coordinated an Instructor 1 class for next month and a shift-friendly Driver / Operator class which is scheduled to begin later this fall.

Palominas Fire District – Chief Mark Prince is still deployed on fires in Oregon. Chief Savage reached out to him last week and he said that things are continuing to go well. Deputy Chief Seamans is continuing to help PFD 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 month or so.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans helped resolve some AC and roofing issues at Station 142. Contractors are continuing to remediate some of the drywall damage in the kitchen with replacement cabinets on order. Despite some delays from SSVEC, Deputy Chief Seamans is also continuing to work with Shive-Hattery Architects and Marsh Development to keep progress moving forward with the renovation of Fire Station 143.

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

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

Grants – Chief Savage's application was approved for reappointment to the Arizona Department of Homeland Security Southern Region Advisory Council for another term.

We have received no feedback on any of our AFG or FEMA grants. Chief Savage did some additional research regarding the SAFER Grant and stated they did not reinstitute the requirement to maintain SAFER-funded positions after the period of performance ends.

There has been no feedback yet on the Congressionally Directed Spend Grant request for approximately $2.5M to support the Fire Station 143 remodel and training facility renovations. Unfortunately, funding for the medic truck was eliminated.

We were not selected for funding by the Gila River Indian Community Grant request in the amount of $192,000.00 to update the Cochise County radio cache.

We have received 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 we anticipate decisions coming out in 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 refine the POD lines. Fire Crews are continuing to add structure triage data to the NIFC map that will better inform incident managers working to prioritize limited resources across our area.

The FY2022 EMPG request for our newest command truck (DC141) was resubmitted as a FY2023 reallocation request. 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 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 and staffing at SEACOM. We anticipate continued operational improvements and streamlined administrative functions with HR and Finance now collocated. This month saw our approval of an IGSA that will allow SEACOM to begin providing part-time dispatching services for Ft. Huachuca after hours and on holidays.

<u>LEGAL</u> – Mr. Matura shared that the appeal timeline has expired for the civil claim from the fire in Palominas.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Arizona Employers Pension Prefunding Program (AEPPP) / Section 115 Trust Program.

Mr. Kimberly and Mr. Mullins gave a refresher presentation on the investment options and the process of investing with AEPPP. The Trust can be used to stabilize pension rates, as a rainy-day fund, or as a diversification to the LGIP pool. Mr. Kimberly went over the investment management options, portfolio strategies, and program fees. Mr. Mullins normally recommends the income portfolio - half stocks and half bonds - dependent on whether we anticipate pulling assets out of the portfolio inside five years or not.

Mr. Andersen asked if we have to stay with the investment strategy we choose. Mr. Kimberly stated it is an easy process to switch from one to another, we can change at any time, and there is no cost. Mr. Tucker asked how they historically perform in relation to our pension system. Mr. Kimberly stated they perform similarly. He will run an analysis and follow up with the information.

Chief Savage asked if the board is ready to fund the Trust, which management style and which asset allocation they would prefer. Mr. Huish asked the dollar amount to be considered. Chief Savage believes the yearend balance of $250,000.00. Mr. Sturm is concerned about not having the final costs of the renovation project. Mr. McMurtrie would like to discuss funding the Trust once year end numbers are finalized, and reviewing other projected costs and fund performance relative to PSPRS is reviewed.

No action taken on this item.

b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding design work and capital improvement planning with Shive-Hattery Architects and Marsh Development 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.

John Price of Shive-Hattery Architects stated they have initiated the GMP1 (first guaranteed maximum price), provided by Kiel Prudence and Marsh Development to secure the electrical equipment. Thomas Yazzie electronically shared the electrical site plan with board members and Mr. Price explained how they are going to upgrade the site's electrical service. Mr. McMurtrie stated it was unnecessary to go over the details Chief Savage and Deputy Chief Seamans already approved. The Board only needs information on the proposal.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the GMP1 proposal at $110,535.00 and empower Chief Savage and Deputy Chief Seamans to review and approve payment request. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Artificial Intelligence Policy.

Chief Savage provided board members with a copy of the Artificial Intelligence Policy that included Mr. Matura's edits. Mr. McMurtrie stated he may add an appendix to the policy after reviewing it more closely. AI should augment medical professionals, not replace them, specifically for reporting.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the Artificial Intelligence Policy. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of a Type 1 Ambulance.

Chief Savage stated we have the purchase of a new ambulance on this year's capital improvement plan. Demers anticipates the new ambulance cost at no more than $425,000.00 which reflects the current situation with U.S. tariffs. This is approximately a 22% increase over our last purchase. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the purchase of a Type 1 Ambulance. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

e. Review, discussion and possible action regarding annual subscriptions for Fire Protection.

Chief Savage stated there is an unincorporated area west of the Town of Huachuca City with approximately 15 houses that have no fire protection services. The area is approximately 2.5 miles from Fire Station 161 in Huachuca City. Chief Savage would like the board to consider extending an annual subscription for fire protection services. The board reviewed possible rates and suggested a surcharge to cover costs ordinarily absorbed by the County and to encourage annexation into the District.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve extending an annual subscription fee based on our full tax levy and a 10% surcharge for Fire Protection services in unincorporated areas outside of the District. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
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 7:30 p.m. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

DATED THIS 27TH DAY OF AUGUST 2025.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board