

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 23, 2025**

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 Mercier, Billing Supervisor Steven Rodriguez, James Vincent Group (electronically)
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Others in Attendance:	Friends, family, co-workers of award recipients, and members of SAWs Southwest
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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.

Dale O'Neill from Servants at Work (SAWs) Southwest thanked Chief Savage and employees of the Fry Fire District for their participation in building ADA compliant ramps for low-income, disabled residents of Cochise County. Mr. O'Neill presented Chief Savage with a plaque of appreciation.

Chief Savage thanked the members of SAWs for building ramps that provide safety for residents of the Fry Fire District and our Fire and EMS personnel. Ramps not only extend independence but also reduce the likelihood of injuries due to falls for residents and responders.

Call to the public closed at 6:07 p.m.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- a. Firefighter Joshua Leffelman – Firefighter Oath and Badge presentation.

Captain Michael Kean recognized Firefighter Joshua Leffelman for completing the one-year probationary period and presented him with his Firefighter Badge. Chief Savage administered the Oath of Office. Firefighter Leffelman's badge was pinned on by his girlfriend, Julia Tenpenny.

- b. Captain Danny Furnia – Retirement Axe presentation

Captain Danny Furnia was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The axe presentation was postponed to next month's Regular Fire Board Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Board Meeting on August 26, 2025.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the Regular Board Meeting minutes of August 26, 2025. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for August 2025 and year to date. The non-tax revenue was over budget due to wildland and interest income. Tax levy revenue was under budget for the month. Total expenses for the month were over budget. Our year-to-date tax revenue is over budget, our non-tax revenue is under budget, and our expenses are 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 August 2025 financial reports. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage provided Board Members with the following monthly report:

Operations and Staffing – Chief Savage stated Captain / Paramedic John Clark is currently on a wildland assignment in California and will be receiving his badge at next month's meeting.

One of the new hires recently resigned to pursue another job closer to home.

We are currently advertising for Firefighter and Lieutenant positions in anticipation of Lieutenant Alba's pending retirement next month.

Deputy Chief Mauzy is continuing to coordinate advanced training that includes a Fire Instructor I course that will be wrapping up later this week. Mauzy also recently supported joint Rescue Task Force training that included all SVFMD and FFD shifts as well as Whetstone Fire District personnel. Deputy Chief Mauzy has also coordinated a shift-friendly Driver / Operator class which is scheduled to begin later this fall. He has been accepted into the National Fire Academy (NFA) Standards of Cover course this November and should bring back some better information regarding our staffing and deployment models.

Palominas Fire District – Chief Mark Prince returned home from Oregon today. Chief Savage is looking forward to catching up with him later this week or next.

Fort Huachuca Fire Department – Chief Savage was invited to support the hiring process for the next Ft. Huachuca Fire Chief. He will be reviewing resumes this week and participating in an interview panel later in the process.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans is wrapping up some of the Station 142 repairs. Chief Savage will provide an update and discuss the work with Shive-Hattery Architects and Marsh Development under new action items related to the renovation of Station 143.

Apparatus and Equipment – High Country Fire District is interested in purchasing our 2000-gallon water tender that was listed for sale on Public Surplus. We anticipate them coming down in early October to inspect it.

Grants – We have received no feedback yet on any of our AFG or FEMA grants. We submitted our final reports for the HRSA grant, which was approved.

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. Although the funding for the SWAT medic truck was originally eliminated, we may be able to reapply for additional funding.

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.

We are continuing to make progress on our 2024 HFI Fuel Reduction Grant. Last week we met with DFFM to discuss an updated forest stewardship plan in Ramsey Canyon. We may be able to get DFFM Fire Crews back into our area to help with fuel mitigation work. The 2025 HFI Grant Cycle has yet to open.

The FY2023 EMPG request for our newest command truck (DC141) was resubmitted. 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 \$35,000.00 in grant funds.

The Florian / 3am team is continuing to work to improve the usefulness of the system for departments like ours. They should be on site next week to continue working to resolve issues.

SEACOM – Director Wilkins continues to improve operations and staffing at SEACOM. We anticipate this continuing to support operational improvements and streamline administrative functions with HR and Finance 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. Discussions are ongoing to extend services to the City of Safford.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. 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.

Chief Savage stated Deputy Chief Seamas is waiting on SSVEC to provide feedback on the cost and expected timeline for extending three-phase power to the property. The design fee has been paid. We are waiting for an engineer to schedule a site visit so they can complete the design work and then we should get the cost and timeline for running electricity to the station. We should have more information from Shive-Hattery Architects and Marsh Development next month.

No action taken on item.

- b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding FFD Capital Improvement Plan.

Chief Savage and Steven Rodriguez provided board members with a presentation outlining the current Capital Improvement Plan for the stations, apparatus, equipment, projects, communications, IT, etc., showing bond and capital spending for the next ten years. Chief Savage stated the current timeline is manageable. Mr. Rodriguez stated the Plan is conservative and history is on our side with how we have performed based on our practices. The Plan will help prevent having to ask for another bond sale.

No action taken on item.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no requests from Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board