

FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance:

Eric Andersen, Acting Chairman
Robert McMurtrie, Acting Clerk
Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically)

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Huish, Board Chairman
Norman Sturm, Board Member

Staff in Attendance:

Mark Savage, Fire Chief
Diana Mercier, Billing Supervisor
Steven Rodriguez, James Vincent Group (electronically)

Others in Attendance:

Thomas Yazzie, Shive-Hattery Architects
Jason Marsh, Marsh Development
Kiel Prudence, Marsh Development

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mr. Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Andersen 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. Andersen opened the call to the public at 6:01 p.m.

There were no members of the public who requested to address the Board.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on November 18, 2025.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the Regular Board Meeting minutes of November 18, 2025. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion carried.

b. Executive Session Board Meeting on November 18, 2025.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the Executive Session Board Meeting minutes of November 18, 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 November 2025.

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for November 2025 and year to date. The non-tax revenue was over budget due to wildland. Tax levy revenue was under budget for the month. Total expenses for the month were in line with the budget. Our year-to-date tax revenue is under budget, our non-tax revenue is over budget, and our expenses are over budget. A discussion followed. The board reviewed the warrants for the month.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the November 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 – Ms. Perry and Chief Savage helped support the Coyote Crisis Collaborative Significant Event Readiness Forum (SERF) that explored county-wide readiness for two disaster scenarios. Shane and Alan Clark facilitated the event. The forum was well attended and reflected the breadth of our local, county, state, and federal resources.

We have been working with Paychex regarding the potential income tax exemptions for overtime premiums and are already accurately tracking overtime and paid time off which will help our personnel calculate their exempt income when it is time for them to file their 2025 taxes.

Our injured Firefighter who was out due to a work-related injury is back online; however, another Firefighter was bitten by a dog while off duty and is likely to be out for a little while.

Joseph McKearney successfully completed our Lieutenant testing process and has begun working full-time with us again. He will be rotating through a few of our stations over the next few months to get caught up before rotating to his assignment at Station 161 in Huachuca City.

Deputy Chief Mauzy is continuing to coordinate training. This month's training included rope rescue technician training, CTC evolutions involving a firefighter Mayday, and above grade VEIS training at the Palominas training site.

Palominas Fire District – Recently purchased a lightly-used Type 1/3 engine that will improve their response capacity.

Facilities – Deputy Chief Seamans is continuing to work on the Station 143 project with SSVEC, Shive-Hattery Architects and Marsh Development. SSVEC should be working through their design work with progress anticipated soon.

Apparatus and Equipment – We should have some preconstruction trips coming up in the next few months for apparatus that we have previously ordered. We will be putting the Tender retrofit out for bid soon as well.

We continue to experience frustration with our replacement cardiac monitors that we have been trying to purchase through Philips. Philips is withdrawing these monitors from the US market due to an inability to obtain FDA approval and licensing. Captain Nash has been coordinating evaluations of the Zoll and LifePak monitors and is expected to provide a recommendation for the District following the Captain's meeting this Thursday.

Grants – Our Fuels Crew is continuing to make strong progress in Ramsey Canyon and the Dead Bear Draw neighborhood. This month has seen them continuing to treat high-risk areas along our forest interface margins. No news on access to the DFFM Fire Crews yet, however we submitted for approximately \$30,000 in grant reimbursement for the personnel costs incurred to date. Chief Savage met with USFS personnel today who may be able to provide some assistance and treat another large parcel of Forest Service property immediately south of the Nature Conservancy parcel. If treated, this parcel would add to the ongoing mitigation footprint in Ramsey Canyon.

The 2025 HFI Grant Cycle has recently opened and has a January submission deadline. We may be ineligible due to the timing of our CWPP update.

We have also requested reimbursement for approximately \$37,000 under the FY2023 EMPG grant approved through DEMA for the DC141 truck and emergency lights.

SEACOM – Director Wilkins continues to improve operations and staffing at SEACOM. We anticipate continued improvements in operational support. The next few months should see Dispatchers continue to follow us to assigned tactical channels during critical events. Additional channels were provided by Arizona Grants to Cochise County Sheriff's Office and will provide our responders with clear access and dedicated incident dispatchers.

Next Fiscal Year may see our costs increase slightly to reflect the more appropriate Cost-per-Call cost allocation method.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review, discussion and possible action regarding an Amended Agreement with T-Mobile modifying the monthly rents and annual rate increase percentage.

T-Mobile would like to renegotiate their current lease agreement to reduce their monthly costs from \$2,548.52 to \$2,293.66 (a difference of \$254.86) and reduce the annual escalation rate from 15% to 12%. They cite market alignment and the potential to relocate to another site. Chief Savage reviewed the original agreements from 2004 and reached out to T-Mobile. They are not looking to exercise any of their termination provisions but to improve their commitment to the community and add stability with additional renewals.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the Amended Agreement with T-Mobile modifying the monthly rents and annual rate increase percentage if they are unwilling to negotiate with Chief Savage. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion carried.

- 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.

Thomas Yazzie with Shive-Hattery Architects presented the Board an update. They are on track to present Marsh Development the pricing package in December for permitting early next year. We are entering the final design phase and going into the bidding process.

Jason Marsh with Marsh Development stated they are ready, they have been working with the sub-contractors and anticipating a fast turnaround on the project once they get the drawings.

No action taken on this item.

- c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of vehicle-mounted exhaust filters (single-source purchase) predominantly funded by AFG.

Chief Savage stated this is a request for ten no-smoke direct source diesel exhaust filtration systems to reduce exposure to exhaust products from most of our diesel apparatus. Primarily funded by the Assistance to Firefighters Grant funding, not to exceed \$115,000 including taxes for the purchase and installation of these filters. This is a sole source product.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to proceed with the purchase of vehicle-mounted exhaust filters (single-source purchase) predominantly funded by AFG, not to exceed \$115,000.00. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion carried.

- d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of a new air trailer (competitive bid recommendation) predominantly funded by AFG.

Chief Savage requested funding in the amount of \$220,000 exclusive of taxes for the purchase of the quoted air trailer, also funded primarily with AFG funding (\$171,000.00 with an \$8,000.00 District match approved). We have one non-compliant bid, and two compliant bids. The

recommendation is to purchase from the lower-cost compliant bidder. The difference in funding is due to an AFG grant funding reduction and a price increase from our original request.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the purchase of a new air trailer (competitive bid recommendation) predominantly funded by AFG, not to exceed \$220,000.00. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.

Motion carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Andersen brought up his concern regarding miles of dead oak, manzanita, juniper, and coniferous trees on the Huachuca Mountain range, especially on the south side. Chief Savage stated the Forest Service shares the concern and plans to conduct research to determine the source of what is killing the trees and whether anything can be done for mitigation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:34 p.m. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

DATED THIS 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board