

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 24, 2026**

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, Board Member
 Norman Sturm, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Joseph Huish, Board Chairman
 Thomas Tucker, Board Member

Staff in Attendance: Mark Savage, Fire Chief
 Diana Mercier, Billing Supervisor
 Billy Seamans, Deputy Chief (electronically)
 Steven Rodriguez, James Vincent Group

Others in Attendance: John Price, Shive-Hattery Architects (electronically)
 Jason Marsh, Marsh Development (electronically)
 Kiel Prudence, Marsh Development (electronically)
 Thomas Yazzie, Shive-Hattery Architects (electronically)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mr. Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Sturm 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 6:00 p.m.

There were no members of the public present to address the Board.

Call to the public closed at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on January 27, 2026.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 27, 2026. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

a. Review, discussion, and possible action on the monthly financial report for January 2026.

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for January 2026 and year to date. The non-tax revenue was over budget due to ambulance and interest. Tax levy revenue was under budget for the month. Our year-to-date tax revenue is under budget, our non-tax revenue is over budget due to ambulance, wildland, and interest revenue, and our total expenses are over budget. A discussion followed.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to accept the January 2026 financial reports. Mr. McMurtrie 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 developed individual worksheets for each of our employees to calculate their OBBB Overtime Premium Tax Exemption amounts. She also navigated our re-enrollment in the E-Verify system and completed an audit with AZDPS regarding our employee background check process. An updated criminal justice information policy that she developed in conjunction with AZDPS is on tonight's action items.

Roberto Iniguez successfully completed his probation and will be recognized at next month's meeting. Jacob Santoro completed his pre-hire physical assessment and has started as a full-time Firefighter Trainee. Rutger Calihan is completing his initial training, and we anticipate bringing him online as soon as he completes his pre-hire physical assessment. We also hired a few more part-time EMS employees: Kasey Hunt, Kersten Klein, and Aidan Ramage.

Deputy Chief Mauzy is continuing to coordinate training. This month's training included an evaluation of basic crew performance metrics at Station 143.

Firefighter Walter Webb has coordinated our Annual Awards Banquet. This year dinner will be held at Manda Le Restaurant on February 28, with cocktails at 1700, dinner at 1800, and awards to follow. Walter Webb was also recently recognized as the 2025 Elk's Firefighter of the Year.

Facilities – The Station 143 project is continuing to move ahead. More on that on tonight's action items.

Apparatus and Equipment – Deputy Chief Seamans, Captain Kean, and Aaron Kaiser are in South Dakota this week at the Rosenbauer facility to complete a pre-construction visit for our new engine. They will be in Canada next week for a similar visit to DeMers in anticipation of our next ambulance build.

The Tender retrofit should be going out for bid soon as well.

The chassis to replace the backup rescue truck has arrived and we are waiting for the fuels crew to finish up for the season before we move the box from the old chassis to the new one. We should be able to complete this project in-house.

The Type 3 engine partially funded with the 1720 grant from DFFM is undergoing construction and is anticipated to be completed within the year. We will be coordinating with DFFM once it is delivered and placed into service.

Grants – Our Fuels Crew finished the large The Nature Conservancy (TNC) parcel in Ramsey Canyon. They are working off Richards Road now and continuing to treat high-risk areas along our forest interface margins. We received our reimbursement of approximately \$30,000 from DFFM for our Fuels Crew through mid-December and will resubmit another request in mid-May after they return to their regular fire season jobs.

Today's meeting with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (ADOHS) Southern Region Advisory Council saw us tentatively awarded approximately \$80,000 for a suburban that will support our tactical medics.

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

SEACOM – Thursday we have a joint JPA and Operations Committee meeting to make some forward-looking operational decisions. Director Wilkins continues to improve staffing at SEACOM. As shared previously, the next fiscal year may see our costs increase 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.

Chief Savage stated there has been no response from T-Mobile. The concerns are the reduction to the annual escalation rate from 15% to 12%, below recent average inflation rates, as well as the reduction in monthly payments on the lease agreement.

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.

Chief Savage thanked Mr. Sturm, Mr. Andersen, Kiel Prudence, and John Price for the thorough and productive work session yesterday. Chief Savage and Steven Rodriguez reviewed the impact on our capital improvement plan, and the remaining bond funds of \$1.7M that need to be spent this year.

Chief Savage is recommending the Board approve the Station 143 project at the price point that has been provided by Marsh of GMP2 with Pueblo as the plumber inclusive of all three phases at a total cost of \$2.66M and funding for permitting at approximately \$17,000. We anticipate Marsh scheduling a ground-breaking early next month with completion of the entire project at the end of January 2027.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to approve the Station 143 project at the price that has been provided by Marsh of GMP2 with Pueblo as the plumber, inclusive of all three phases, at a total cost of \$2.66M and funding for permitting at approximately \$17,000. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Criminal Justice Information policy update.

Chief Savage stated our new hires go through a criminal background investigation including a State and Federal fingerprint check. We are required to complete an audit with AZDPS every three years. We updated our policy to reflect using a third-party vendor for submitting fingerprints, and for receiving the data electronically, based on AZDPS recommendations.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the Criminal Justice Information policy update. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Office Manager job description.

Chief Savage stated the job description has been revised to reflect the current duties performed by our administrative assistant. In the past five years, there has been significant growth in job duties and professional development. Based on a recommendation from JVG, Chief Savage also recommended placing the position in the Billing Supervisor pay band.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adopt the Office Manager job description with the pay increase at the Billing Supervisor pay band. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

e. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Part-Time Plus job descriptions.

Chief Savage stated that several months ago we began a trial period using our part-time employees for 24-hour shifts with the goal of improving coverage and reducing temporary duty assignments to other stations to provide appropriate coverage. As a result, we realized that we

had some employees who were on the cusp of triggering ASRS benefits (20/20 rule). This job description reflects the amount of work (1 x 24-hour shift per week) that some of our part-time personnel are already working. If we continue to utilize personnel to fill these positions, they will receive ASRS enrollment and benefits.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adopt the Part-Time Plus job descriptions. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

f. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Board Resolution 2026-01 in support of the 2027 Governor's Office of Highway Safety Plan and Grant Program.

Chief Savage stated the 2026-01 Resolution supports our current application to the 2027 GOHS Grant Program. This application will request funding in an amount just under \$75,000 for battery-powered extrication tools.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt Board Resolution 2026-01 in support of the 2027 Governor's Office of Highway Safety Plan and Grant Program. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0.
Motion carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Andersen asked when we are going to start developing the new budget. Chief Savage stated he received the budget worksheets from Steven Rodriguez today and anticipates sending them to staff this week. Steven Rodriguez stated we will have an update at next month's Board Meeting, a workshop in mid-April, and tentative adoption in May.

Mr. McMurtrie asked about the recent laws that allow Veterans to avoid paying property taxes. Chief Savage stated that some similar legislation has been proposed and that AFDA is opposed to additional exemption legislation unless there is some other way found to replace the lost revenue.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:33 p.m. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

DATED THIS 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board