

**FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 28, 2026**

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
Norman Sturm, Board Member
Thomas Tucker, Board Member (electronically)

Board Members Absent: None

Staff in Attendance: Mark Savage, Chief
Diana Mercier, Billing Supervisor
Steven Rodriguez, James Vincent Group

Others in Attendance: Jason Marsh, Marsh Development (electronically)
Kiel Prudence, Marsh Development (electronically)

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 members of the public present to address the Board.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on March 24, 2026.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of March 24, 2026.
Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Mr. McMurtrie abstained.
Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the March 2026 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 – We are continuing to closely track the new DEA rule's impact on our medication requirements and working with Canyon Vista Medical Center (CVMC) to ensure any disruption is minimized. Arizona Department of Health Services is working on a new rule that should allow EMS agencies to register directly with the DEA; however, this would likely create some logistical hurdles for us. Our hope is that we will be able to work something out with CVMC and our current Medical Director. We may be able to register under the license of our medical director with DEA. We are exploring other options in the event that CVMC is unable and/or unwilling to continue supporting us.

We anticipate hiring Caden Hicks full-time once he has completed the NFPA 1582 physical, and recently extended part-time Firefighter offers to four additional applicants. We have another full-time Firefighter selection process scheduled for next month and anticipate filling at least one planned vacancy in the near future.

Michelle Robbins is resigning from her full-time Paramedic position to a part-time position. She will be attending nursing school full-time, and we are excited about her continued professional growth and development. David Rimron will be moving into the vacant full-time Paramedic position. David is a retired Drexel Heights firefighter / paramedic and works as a paramedic instructor with Cochise College. He will be an excellent addition to our team.

Deputy Chief Mauzy was accepted into the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program. Deputy Chief Mauzy is continuing to provide exceptional training. Our officers completed command training scenarios involving wildland interface fires, just in time for our wildfire season to kick off. Chief Savage also anticipates supporting the Southeast Zone Type 3 IMT as a Liaison Officer on fires in our region over the next few months.

Facilities – The Station 143 project is continuing to move ahead. Chief Savage thanked Deputy Chief Seamans and the Fire Board for attending the official Ground-Breaking ceremony. Marsh is off and running and making quick progress so far.

Apparatus and Equipment – The Type 3 engine under construction with Rosenbauer is continuing to progress. We are hopeful they will be able to schedule a final inspection visit within the next month or so and are hoping that we will be able to take delivery prior to the end of this year's fire season.

Demers is still waiting on a chassis to begin work on an additional ambulance. The Tender retrofit should be going out for bid soon as well. We are working with Gust Rosenfeld to have the title liens released on several vehicles we intend to surplus over the next year. These include the R1421 chassis, air trailer, and an aging Tahoe.

The new Zoll cardiac monitors have arrived. Captain Nash is waiting for some additional supplies, as soon as they are here, he will be coordinating district-wide training to get them onto our units.

Grants – We are starting to see some slow progress with AmeriCorps. Chief Savage has a meeting scheduled with them next week. If we are able to coordinate housing support from Ft. Huachuca for the Conservation Crews, we may be able to continue our fuel mitigation efforts during the summer and fall months while our fuels crew is working their regular fire season jobs.

We submitted our second reimbursement request to DFFM for approximately \$56,000 for our Fuels Crew from mid-December through March. Angel Perry prepared the only request Chief Savage has ever seen to make it through their review and audit process on the first pass. We anticipate receiving these funds sometime early next month.

SEACOM – Budget work for Southeastern Arizona Communications Center (SEACOM) continues. We requested credit for approximately half of the capital funds we spent on the Fire 2 (Mule Mountain) repeater replacement. The JPA tabled the question at our last meeting. Chief Savage asked for it to be placed on the next Operations Committee agenda. Palominas and Whetstone Fire both depend on the VHF Fire 2 frequency (which is bridged to TG1) for mobile radio communications with SEACOM.

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.

Kiel Prudence with Marsh Development stated we broke ground last week. This week they removed the rear apron, are working on the underground electrical and plumbing, and working on the buildout for the addition. Jason Marsh with Marsh Development said we are looking at five to six weeks for the building slab to be completed.

No action taken on this item.

b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding FY2027 Annual Budget.

Steven Rodriguez gave an overview of the FY27 Budget process, revenues, expenses, and current position. The proposed budget will be brought to the Board in May for a tentative adoption, and again in June for the final adoption.

The FY27 Budget property tax revenue saw an increase of 4.4% in our assessed value. We are leaving our tax rate at the current rate of \$3.3999. FDAT remains the same at \$400,000.00. For non-tax revenue we are increasing our ambulance revenue to 1,800,000.00, we are increasing the interest income, the cell tower rent, and Huachuca City revenue as per contract. Wildland, Grant, and all other projected revenues remain the same.

On the expense side, everyone who is eligible will receive a step increase, there is a proposed COLA increase of 2.8%, a non-sworn fire inspector position, three Senior Captain positions, a slight increase in PSPRS, an increase in our paramedic stipend, and \$150,000.00 into funding reserves. We have not received a quote for workers' compensation coverage, so we have a 5% place holder.

Operational expenses saw a \$50,000.00 increase in dispatch services. This does not take into consideration any credits for in-kind work or capital improvements. A discussion followed.

No action taken on this item.

c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality Delegation Agreement EV26-0083.

Chief Savage stated the updated agreement from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality continues our authority to manage open burning. We track permits and report the data to ADEQ.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt the updated Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality Delegation Agreement EV26-0083. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.

Motion carried.

d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Craig Tiger Act policy.

Board Members were provided a copy of the Craig Tiger Act policy that reflects state mandate. Chief Savage stated we recommend our employees use the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) under our healthcare benefit. The policy has been reviewed by Mr. Matura and Captain Nash.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adopt the Craig Tiger Act policy. 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 6:59 p.m. Mr. McMurtrie seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

DATED THIS 29TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board