FRY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 25, 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:	Friends, family, and co-workers of the award recipients Kiel Prudence, Marsh Development (electronically) Jason Marsh, 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.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

a. Firefighter / EMT Ian Zatarain – Oath and Badge Presentation.

Senior Captain Michael Kean recognized Firefighter / EMT Ian Zatarain for successfully completing one year of firefighter probation and beginning the Paramedic Program with Cochise Community College. Chief Savage administered the Oath of Office and presented Firefighter / EMT Ian Zatarain with his badge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting on July 28, 2026.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 28, 2026. Mr. Sturm 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 July 2026.

Steven Rodriguez from James Vincent Group (JVG) gave a PowerPoint presentation reflecting a summary of the financial reports for July 2026. Tax revenue was over budget for the month. The non-tax revenue was under budget due to wildland. Expenses for the month were under budget.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to accept the July 2026 financial reports. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

COMMAND STAFF'S REPORT

Chief Savage provided Board Members with the following monthly report:

Board Members were provided with a copy of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors Resolution which cancels our November 3 election and appoints Mr. McMurtrie, Mr. Andersen, and Ms. Watkins to 4-year board terms effective on December 1, 2026.

Deputy Chief Mauzy finished the Fire Officer 1 and 2 training program that was co-hosted with SVFMD. We had seven students in the class, all seven have successfully passed the Fire Officer 1 certification and four have passed the Fire Officer 2 certification.

We are continuing to make strong progress with implementation of the new DEA rule which is impacting our medication control and resupply documentation procedures.

There was no AFDA Board meeting in August. As the new Secretary / Treasurer, Chief Savage is working closely with Director Mary Dalton and her new office manager Lori Weinberg. Chief Savage anticipates recommending Levi Garner with Sunsites Pearce Fire District as the Area 2 Representative for Cochise, Graham and Greenlee counties at the September meeting.

Yesterday Chief Savage had a meeting with AZDOHS and Regional Advisory Council members from across the State to reevaluate how grants are scored. The consensus was to place a greater emphasis on projects with multi-jurisdictional, regional, and state-wide interoperability and impact.

Operations and Staffing – Firefighter Trystan Trudeau has resigned from full-time employment with the Fry Fire District effective August 31, 2026.

Paramedic Nolan Brown has begun his field training as a full-time Paramedic on C-Shift.

Our Type 3 Engine returned from a wildfire assignment in the State of Oregon. Since their return, we redeployed Captain Michael Bocook, Engineers James Wallace, and Andrew Vidinski back to wildfires in Oregon initially, and now in the State of Washington. This deployment is on the new Huachuca City Type 6 Engine.

Two of our Firefighters, Ian Zaratain and Daniel Mead, have started the Cochise College Paramedic Program and passed their first Paramedic exam.

Facilities – The Station 143 project is continuing to quickly move ahead. The addition continues to take shape as we move towards the completion of Phase 1 and the opportunity to move crews out of the current living quarters to allow the renovation. As of this morning, the move is expected to happen towards the end of September. Chief Savage thanked Deputy Chief Seamans for continuing to stay on top of this critical project.

The additional work we discussed previously including re-grounding the radio antenna and running appropriate electrical power to the pump house has been approved and should be moving ahead.

Apparatus and Equipment – Deputy Chief Seamans, Senior Captain Kean, and Mr. Kaiser will be traveling to South Dakota next month to perform the final inspection on the Type 3 engine Rosenbauer has been building.

Demers is still waiting on a chassis to begin work on our next ambulance.

The Tender retrofit specification has gone out to bid with proposals due by September 1.

Chief Savage took delivery of a 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe. We are still working on the exterior marking and need to install some additional equipment, but the radios and emergency lights are fully functional.

Captain Nash is working to track down a Phillips representative to coordinate the return of their loaner monitors as well as a refund of the money we spent on their monitors.

Grants – This morning we met with an AmeriCorps Representative ahead of their crew of 10-12 full-time volunteers arriving next month. They will be working on fuel reduction projects in the area from mid-September through mid-December. These projects include supporting hazardous fuel mitigation and invasive species work on Ft. Huachuca, the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch and in the Ramsey Canyon / Coronado National Forest area. The crew will come at no cost to us other than some equipment, site supervision, and safety training. Our goal is to utilize them as a force multiplier for our seasonal fuels crew which we anticipate rehiring in October.

SEACOM – The JPA Board met earlier this month and approved an Inter-Governmental Service Agreement to provide part-time dispatch services to Ft. Huachuca. This growth continues to expand the regional impact of 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 of Marsh Development stated the underground utilities to the building are complete. The electrical gear is installed, the building foundation is complete, the exterior framing and sheeting is complete, the roof joist is complete, the mechanical and electrical equipment is in place, there are ducts going through the roof, the interior wall framing is complete for the decon and the build-out, and the insulation is complete. They are working on insulation above the bunk rooms and drywall work is continuing. Doors and door frames installation will start tomorrow. Countertop layout for the restrooms will begin on Thursday.

No action taken on this item.

b. Review, discussion and possible action regarding an update to the Automatic Aid Agreement with the Palominas Fire District.

Board Members were provided with a copy of the Palominas Fire District Automatic Aid Agreement Draft for review. Mr. Matura added some language to the indemnification clause. The incident command and communications section was updated to provide consistency in Operations and Suppression, Emergency Medical, and the Incident Management level. Interim Chief Abel has reviewed and supports the agreement.

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adopt the updated Automatic Aid Agreement with the Palominas Fire District. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

c. Review, discussion and possible action regarding DEA Medication Management Policy.

Chief Savage stated the policy sets the expectations for our personnel with regards to record keeping under the DEA rule and our state and federal registration as an EMS agency.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt the DEA Medication Management Policy. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

d. Review, discussion and possible action regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement with Whetstone Fire District for EMT Ride Time.

Board Members were provided with a copy of the Intergovernmental Agreement with Whetstone Fire District for EMT Ride Time drafted by Mr. Matura. The agreement provides us with some protection while allowing EMT students the opportunity to ride with our personnel on our units. The agreement mostly mirrors the agreement we have with Pima Community College.

Mr. Sturm made a motion to adopt the Intergovernmental Agreement with Whetstone Fire District for EMT Ride Time. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0.
Motion carried.

REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Huish requested having Chief Savage's yearly evaluation ready for discussion at the next board meeting.

Mr. McMurtrie requested having the property tax exemption for veterans on next month's agenda for discussion. He would like to receive information from the County Assessor for budgeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McMurtrie made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:36 p.m. Mr. Sturm seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.
DATED THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

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Eric Andersen, Board Clerk
Fry Fire District Board