

**Fenton Fire Protection District**  
***Meeting of the Board of Directors***

**January 26, 2022**

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A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fenton Fire Protection District (hereinafter called the "District") was held via video conferencing on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, originating at the Fenton Fire Protection District, 845 Gregory Lane, Fenton, Missouri 63026.

Chairwoman Beth L. Viviano called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following Directors answered Roll Call:

Beth L. Viviano  
Jennifer Grimes  
Tom Ascheman (Absent)

Also present was:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Romona Kaminski   | District Chief                         |
| Chris McCarthy    | Assistant Chief                        |
| Daniel McLaughlin | District Legal Counsel                 |
| Chris Thiemann    | Division Chief - District Fire Marshal |
| Brett Mueller     | Shop Steward                           |
| Rick Rognan       | District Accountant                    |

Chairwoman Viviano ruled that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the regular and closed meeting held January 12, 2022, were presented and it was

*Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano* to approve the minutes of the regular and closed meeting January 12, 2022. Motion approved and unanimously carried 2 - 0.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Chief Kaminski presented the Board with the bills for review and payment, which totaled \$386,660.27. The list of bills is attached hereto and made a part hereof the minutes to the meeting. After discussion, it was

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*Moved by Director Grimes, and seconded by Director Viviano*, to approve the bills for payment and ratification. Motion approved and unanimously carried 2-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Chief Kaminski reviewed investments which came due with Alliance Credit Union and Meramec Valley Bank. Chief Kaminski presented the Board with the Treasurer's Report on balances of account, deposits, payments, and transfers for the General, Ambulance, Dispatch, Pension, Capital Projects 2019, Debt Service, HRA and FSA Funds. Balances since last meeting are:

Simmons

| <u>Fund</u>      | <u>Balance as of 1/12/22</u> | <u>Balance as of 1/26/22</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| General          | \$17,854,763.53              | \$17,561,657.45              |
| Ambulance        | \$6,154,685.22               | \$6,104,988.81               |
| Dispatch         | \$779,084.40                 | \$567,618.98                 |
| Pension          | \$823,804.20                 | \$823,804.20                 |
| Capital Projects |                              |                              |
| 2019             | \$7,493,996.59               | \$6,455,464.64               |
| Debt Services    | \$2,799,526.43               | \$2,799,526.43               |
| HRA              | \$2,653.31                   | \$10,688.76                  |
| FSA              | \$6,106.08                   | \$6,384.02                   |

After discussion, it was

*Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano* to receive the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion approved and unanimously carried 2-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Division Chief Thiemann provided an update on the construction projects. He reviewed pictures of the front of Station 2 facing the road toward Wally's. Construction is in full swing on the main building with trusses expected to be delivered on Monday. Work continues on the maintenance building which should be completed over the next couple of weeks. Station 3 is for the most part finished. The main focus of construction is now Station 2 and preparation for the bid process for Station 1. The bid process could possibly take place this Summer.

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The next item of old business was the COVID report. Assistant Chief McCarthy first discussed a few of the sources he draws his data from. He then provided the following information: currently first responder community has 104 personnel in isolation and 1,194 hospital beds are filled with COVID patients. One month ago, those numbers were 35 first responders and 630 hospital beds. At the last Board Meeting there were 97 first responders and 1412 hospital beds. We do seem to be trending down in our area, but trending upward in other counties throughout Missouri. This could potentially keep the hospitalization rates high in our area. Within our organization, we have seen an uptick in positive COVID cases. At the time of the meeting, eight personnel were out with COVID and four of them were symptomatic. Administration continues to work with Labor in adjusting policies as needed to meet ever evolving COVID matters.

**ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT**

Mr. Rognan presented the Financial Report and Statements as of December 31, 2021. He indicated that with timing items the District used 88.09% of the general fund budget, or was (11.91%) under budget year to date, or (\$1,038,328.00); and 94.63% of the ambulance fund budget, or was (5.47%) under budget year to date, or (\$204,734.00). The 2021 expenses were a total of \$1,243,062.00 under budget.

Mr. Rognan indicated that for the twelve (12) month period year versus last year, the District had \$1,770,213.00, or (13.43%) more in tax revenue and miscellaneous and bond refinancing income. This increase is more than likely a timing issue in receiving tax payments from St. Louis County Department of Revenue. The District has monthly cash on hand after reserves of 5.13 months compared 2.11 months last year.

Mr. Rognan reviewed the monthly and annual call volume. To finalize 2021, the District ran 827 fire related incidents, 4,220 EMS related incidents and 95 other related incidents for a total call volume of 5,142.

Mr. Rognan recommended any investments made now to be short term with maturity dates between March and June. The Federal Reserve is looking to raise interest rates over the course of 2022 to control inflation.

The report is attached hereto and made a part hereof the minutes to this meeting. After discussion, it was

***Moved by Director Grimes, and seconded by Director Viviano*** to accept and approve the financial statements of the District as of December 31, 2021. Motion approved and unanimously carried 2-0.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Division Chief Thiemann requested the Board of Directors approve a Hydrant Resolution for the project known as Bowles Crossing. The small subdivision is located off of Bowles Avenue between Hawkins and Summit Road. Division Chief Thiemann reviewed the developer's request to ensure the location of the four hydrants meets fire code.

After discussion, it was

*Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano* to approve the Hydrant Resolution for the project known as Bowles Crossing. Motion approved and unanimously carried 2-0.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Kaminski requested to take a moment of silence for three Baltimore firefighters who were killed in a building collapse and Festus Fire Chief, Kevin Cremer, who passed recently from COVID complications.

Chief Kaminski reported personnel on unit 1314 moved up to an engine house in the City of St. Louis during the funeral services of Firefighter Benjamin Polson who recently passed in the line of duty fighting a fire in a vacant building.

Chief Kaminski spoke about a couple of mutual aid fire calls with Mehlville Fire Protection District and High Ridge Fire Protection District. She also discussed a garage fire that took place in Fenton where one of our personnel sustained a burn injury.

Chief Kaminski discussed a recent ice rescue on a frozen pond near Summitt High School in South County. Austin Althoff helped rescue the young girl from the pond. Austin Althoff is the grandson of former Director of the Fenton Fire Protection District, Orville Althoff.

During Chief Kaminski's report, BC Martin started a discussion about additional mutual aid fire calls with West County Fire Protection District and Saline Valley Fire Protection District. Further discussion broke out about the nature and timing of day of these calls.

Chief Kaminski informed the bond payment amount of \$1,153,375.00 (principal \$785,000.00 and interest \$368,375.00) is due by March 1, 2022 and funds will be wire transferred prior to the deadline.

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Chief Kaminski thanked Shop Steward Mueller for his efforts in working with her to have members covered by medical insurance to complete the FormFire process for future insurance considerations with the PFEM IAFF Local 2665 Health & Welfare Trust Fund.

Chief Kaminski stated Deputy Chief Mueller and her attended the Fire Service Metro Alliance meeting. The District use to be a member of this organization and she is considering rejoining. The group meets regularly regarding current legislative issues that could potentially affect fire districts. Chief Kaminski spoke about two pieces of legislative regarding elimination of property tax and requirements to pay for hydrant installations.

**SHOP STEWARD REPORT**

Shop Steward Mueller reported nominations were held for Shift Representatives. He was pleased to announce Caleb Herrell, Steve Evanoff and Tom Meyer all retained their positions. Their time in serving this role is greatly appreciated.

Shop Steward Mueller stated the Shop participated in the new hire interviews this week. He felt there were some strong candidates especially with the low turnout for testing. Low testing participation seems to be a trend throughout St. Louis County.

Shop Steward Mueller thanked the administration for their efforts. Over the last few weeks since his election to Shop Steward he has had several meetings with Administration on a variety of topics. He feels administration is open to ideas and takes into consideration the newest employee to those with more tenure throughout their decision making process. Shop Steward Mueller appreciates this and wanted the Board of Directors to be aware.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, February 9, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further public comment or further business, at 4:55 p.m. a motion was made to suspend the regular meeting for purposes of going into Closed Session pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. After discussion, it was

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***Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano*** to go into closed session for purposes of hiring, firing, disciplining, or promoting of particular employees Section 621.021 (3) RSMo. Motion approved and carried 2-0, Viviano – yea, Grimes – yea.


At 5:36 p.m. Director Grimes moved to reopen the regular meeting of the Fenton Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

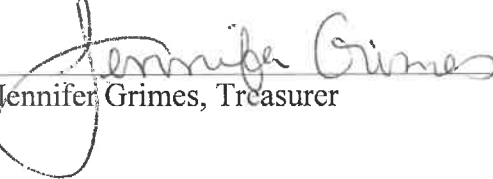
**ADJOURNMENT**

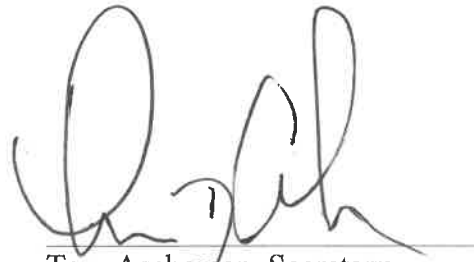
There being no further business before the Board of Directors, at 5:37 p.m., it was

***Moved by Director Grimes, and seconded by Director Viviano*** to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted and attested to by,

  
Beth L. Viviano, Chairwoman

  
Jennifer Grimes, Treasurer

  
Tom Ascheman, Secretary