

**Fenton Fire Protection District**

***Meeting of the Board of Directors***

**May 17, 2023**

Page 1 of 7

---

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fenton Fire Protection District (hereinafter called the "District") was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, originating at the Fenton Fire Protection District, 1001 Assembly Parkway, Fenton, Missouri 63026.

Chairwoman Beth Viviano ruled that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following Directors answered Roll Call:

Beth L. Viviano  
Jennifer Grimes

Also present was:

Romona Kaminski	District Chief
Chris McCarthy	District Assistant Chief
Chris Thiemann	Division Chief - District Fire Marshal
Dan McLaughlin	Legal Counsel
Connor Eastman	Lockton
Tom Meyer	Pension Trustee
Brett Mueller	Shop Steward

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the regular and closed meeting held May 3, 2023, were presented and it was

*Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano* to approve the minutes May 3, 2023. Motion approved and carried 2-0.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Chief Kaminski presented the Board with the bills for review and payment, which totaled \$400,548.60. After discussion, it was

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

**Fenton Fire Protection District**

***Meeting of the Board of Directors***

**May 17, 2023**

Page 2 of 7

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

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, Capital Projects 2022, Debt Service, HRA and FSA Funds.

Simmons

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Balance as of 05/03/23</u>	<u>Balance as of 05/17/23</u>
General	\$19,008,059.84	\$18,195,016.68
Ambulance	\$ 8,146,993.85	\$8,088,878.47
Dispatch	\$781,759.61	\$783,622.74
Pension	\$1,376,277.15	\$1,380,005.09
Capital Projects		
2022	\$5,226,203.11	\$5,213,927.28
Debt Services	\$2,289,971.03	\$2,297,438.14
HRA	\$8,867.47	\$5,107.93
FSA	\$21,825.28	\$22,739.84

After discussion, it was

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Division Chief Thiemann advised the Board that the Steering Committee met with Arch Images over changes to Station #1 remodel. The Committee submitted the changes and are currently waiting on a response to see what cost impact those proposed changes will bring. He advised the Board they are actively working towards making the best decisions for the taxpayers and District as a whole while continuing to adhere to the principle of delivering the promises made to the taxpayers. Chief Kaminski advised the Board there is a lot of good listening that is going on as ideas are being discussed and shared.

Division Chief Thiemann discussed the remaining punch list items on Station #2. He said the engineer and architects walked through today and they are down to a few items, such as the

**Fenton Fire Protection District**

***Meeting of the Board of Directors***

**May 17, 2023**

Page 3 of 7

---

generator. He said the engineer made a final punch list so things can be addressed while everything remains under warranty.

Division Chief DiMercurio advised there was currently one (1) employee out with COVID.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PENSION CONSULTANT REPORT**

Connor Eastman, with Creative Planning, provided the Board with the current market commentary. He advised the first quarter of 2023 was strong with a positive return. Mr. Eastman advised large growth had a reversion to mean and returned very well for the Fund. He advised the market remains down for the year in every category, but the first quarter remained positive. Mr. Eastman believes higher interest rates will be good for the Fund as many managers are buying long-term bonds which will help our fixed return. He advised the Fund balance as of March 31, 2023, was \$36,585,726.26. Mr. Eastman discussed capital preservation and stable value options. He provided that while money markets are good there are not predictable rates of return; they go back and forth as the Federal Reserve moves rates and the market is pricing out any further moves. The recommendation is to not replace stable value with any money market account. Currently, the asset allocation has 6.68% in money markets.

A copy of the report is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes.

The Board next discussed the current \$2,200,000.00 to be invested. Mr. Eastman advised he planned to invest the entire amount at once. Kimberly Smith said she first needs to transfer the \$750,000.00 from the general fund and that would be available by Friday.

***Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano*** to approve the transfer of \$750,000.00 from the general fund and the remaining balance to Creative Planning for investment per Mr. Eastman's recommendation. Motion approved and carried 2-0.

Fund Counsel inquired of Mr. Eastman's opinion to restructure the current asset allocation to be more heavily weighted towards fixed income to better help meet the Fund's assumed rate of return. While he agrees the fixed market could help, Mr. Eastman advised that Creative Planning has not changed its current capital market assumptions to adhere to that and believes long-term investment outlook will not change.

Mr Eastman was thanked for his time and excused from the meeting.

**Fenton Fire Protection District**

***Meeting of the Board of Directors***

**May 17, 2023**

Page 4 of 7

---

The Board next discussed replacement trustees as the two (2) current plan participant trustees are retiring. Discussion ensued on who can serve as a trustee. Fund Counsel will have to research Plan document to determine definition of “plan participant”.

Fund Counsel presented procurement action plan for 2023. After discussion,

***Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano*** to the 2023 Missouri Procurement Action Plan Annual Report. Motion approved and carried 2-0.

A copy of the Action Plan is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes.

Paul Wirth was welcomed into the meeting to present medical, dental and vision renewal.

Mr. Wirth reported to the Board the medical renewal is 4% with a rate cap of 9.5% next year. He believes one of these years it will come back to get us, but we have been doing well and the 9.5% gives us piece of mind going into next year. Mr. Wirth advised there was no change in benefits, medical, dental or vision. The dental and vision coverages negotiated last year included a 2-year rate guarantee with rates not changing until 2024. Discussion on DDP network and UHC push to drive participants to their network labs, etc. Discussion on having a UHC representative come to the next health insurance committee meeting to discuss all benefits.

***Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano*** to accept the UHC medical, dental and vision renewals as presented. Motion approved and carried 2-0.

A copy of the UHC renewals are attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes.

Mr. Wirth was thanked for his time and excused from the meeting.

Chief Kaminski next presented the Board with two (2) proclamations for signatures for the upcoming retirements of Tom Meyer and Tony Roycastle. She advised that Tom Meyer’s retirement ceremony will be July 1, 2023.

**CHIEF’S REPORT**

Chief Kaminski discussed the need to change fuel providers. She indicated there has been continuous, on-going issues with Sieveking Fuel Company and several times the District has run out of fuel.

**Fenton Fire Protection District**

***Meeting of the Board of Directors***

**May 17, 2023**

Page 5 of 7

---

Curtis Aytes advised the Board he reached out to Energy Petroleum, which is a St. Louis based company that has been in the business for over 100 years. He indicated that several area Districts, along with the City of Fenton, currently utilize their services. Captain Aytes advised the Board the pricing schedule will be consistent with that being utilized by the City of Fenton. He indicated they all go with the flat rate discount for diesel fuel plus a slight markup for delivery. Energy Petroleum will provide all of the dispensary equipment free of charge so long as the District purchases fuel through the Company.

***Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano*** to terminate services with Sieveking Fuel Company and engage the services of Energy Petroleum. Motion approved and carried 2-0.

A copy of the Energy Petroleum and City of Fenton contract is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes.

Chief Kaminski next advised the Board that the President of St. Clare Hospital, Kyle Grate, did a ride-along with the Crews last Friday, May 12, 2023. She indicated he ran a few calls and was overall a great guy. Division Chief DiMercurio said he was very appreciative of the opportunity and said if there is anything the District needs to simply reach out. He is scheduled to come again Saturday.

Chief Kaminski also advised there will be an EMS open house this Saturday at Station #2. Division Chief DiMercurio is in charge of the event and it will also be considered the official ceremony for the opening of Station #2. Division Chief DiMercurio discussed some of the events, such as a live burn demonstration, helicopter, maze, bubble bus, etc.

Chief Kaminski next presented the 2024 rate letter from Central County 911. She indicated the rates are remaining flat at \$465,492.02 for 2024.

Chief Kaminski next advised the Board the Missouri legislative spring session had come to a conclusion and no personal property legislation was passed but it is not going away. She indicated there was one good piece of legislation with the establishment of a mental health fund for First Responders. It was funded by the State with an initial \$7,000,000.00 investment. It will not operate like the Missouri Critical Illness pool but details are set to come.

Chief Kaminski advised the Board of a fire call the Crews ran in Tapawingo this past Saturday evening. She indicated the fire resulted from a lightning strike. The homeowners were unaware of the lightning strike, but it was noticed by a passerby. The crews took five (5) minutes and

**Fenton Fire Protection District**

***Meeting of the Board of Directors***

**May 17, 2023**

Page 6 of 7

---

thirty-three (33) seconds to response. Chief Kaminski indicated the fire was under control quickly and reported to Central County that it was completely under control within forty-four (44) minutes.

Chief Kaminski next announced she and Assistant Chief McCarthy recently met with several new hires. They met with Evan Artinger, who will be going to C Crew at Station #3 and starting on June 9<sup>th</sup> as well as Sean Robinson who will be assigned to A Crew at Station #1 and will be starting June 11<sup>th</sup>. Chief Kaminski indicated there will be a pinning ceremony for four (4) new hires soon. She further indicated they met with the new part-time inspector, Justin Spraul who was the former Assistant Chief from Boles Fire Protection District. He will start on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**SHOP STEWARD'S REPORT**

Shop Steward Brett Mueller advised the Board the trivia night, held May 12, 2023, was a huge success and all had a good time.

Shop Steward Mueller next advised Extra Mile Fitness will be doing a fitness challenge on June 10, 2023 with all of the proceeds going to Community Outreach.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further public comment or further business, at 5:08 p.m. a motion was made to suspend the regular meeting for purposes of going into Closed Session pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) and (3) RSMo. After discussion, it was

***Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano*** to go into closed session for purposes of confidential or privileged communications Section 621.021 (1) and (9) RSMo. Motion approved and carried 2-0, Viviano – yea, Grimes – yea.

**Fenton Fire Protection District**

***Meeting of the Board of Directors***

**May 17, 2023**

Page 7 of 7

---

At 6:06 p.m. Director Grimes moved to reopen the regular meeting of the Fenton Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

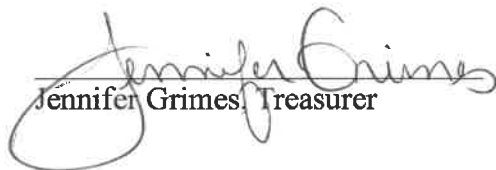
**ADJOURNMENT**

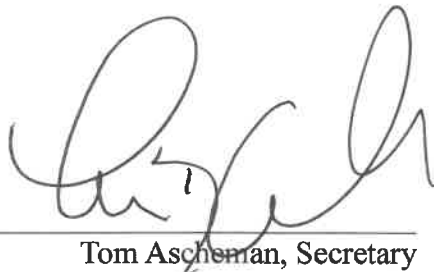
There being no further business before the Board of Directors, at 6:07 p.m., it was

***Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Viviano*** to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion approved and carried 2-0.

Respectfully submitted and attested to by,

  
Beth L. Viviano, Chairwoman

  
Jennifer Grimes, Treasurer

  
Tom Aschenman, Secretary

