

Fenton Fire Protection District

Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 26, 2023

Page 1 of 5

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fenton Fire Protection District (hereinafter called the "District") was held on Wednesday, July 26, 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 (via telephone)
Tom Ascheman

Also present was:

Romona Kaminski	District Chief
Chris McCarthy	Assistant Chief
Chris Thiemann	Division Chief - District Fire Marshal
Brett Mueller	Shop Steward
Emily Perez	Legal Counsel

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the regular and closed meeting held July 12, 2023, were presented and it was

Moved by Director Ascheman and seconded by Director Grimes to approve the minutes July 12, 2023. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Chief Kaminski presented the Board with the bills for review and payment, which totaled \$440,961.78. After discussion, it was

Fenton Fire Protection District

Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 26, 2023

Page 2 of 5

Moved by Director Ascheman and seconded by Director Grimes to approve the bills for payment and ratification. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0.

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 2022, Debt Service, HRA and FSA Funds.

Simmons

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Balance as of 07/12/23</u>	<u>Balance as of 07/26/23</u>
General	\$15,967,033.56	\$15,710,174.74
Ambulance	\$ 7,620,519.13	\$ 7,558,918.73
Dispatch	\$ 543,095.88	\$ 540,678.89
Pension	\$ 10,868.67	\$ 10,868.67
Capital Projects		
2022	\$ 5,192,696.91	\$ 5,184,458.35
Debt Services	\$ 2,309,033.32	\$ 2,309,033.32
HRA	\$ 2,332.06	\$ 5,177.16
FSA	\$ 31,543.44	\$ 21,959.08

After discussion, it was

Moved by Director Ascheman and seconded by Director Grimes to receive the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Division Chief Chris Thiemann advised the Board there are still loose ends being tied up on the new building, but he expects those to be completed soon. They are still in a holding pattern regarding the new project.

NEW BUSINESS

Rick Rognan updated the Directors on the passage of SB 190, which was recently signed by Governor Parson and will become law on August 28, 2023. The bill ultimately freezes the residential real estate tax rate for seniors if the county of residence adopts an ordinance authorizing the freeze. The new law will likely face legal challenges, especially over its application to special

Fenton Fire Protection District

Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 26, 2023

Page 3 of 5

taxing districts like schools and fire protection districts, over which counties are not supposed to have any authority. However, if St. Louis County adopts an ordinance authorizing the tax freeze and if the law is ultimately deemed valid and enforceable (generally or as applied to special taxing districts), the impact on tax revenue to the Fire Protection District would be significant. For now, Rick advised that a “wait and see” approach is really the only course of action.

Next, Rick reviewed the District’s financial statements through June 30, 2023. He indicated that through the first six months of the year, the District used 44.06% of the general fund budget, or was (5.94%) under budget, or (\$772,653.00); and 49.72% of the ambulance fund budget, or was (0.28%) under budget, or (\$11,871.00).

Mr. Rognan indicated that for the first six (6) months of this year, the District has \$11,139,343.00 in total revenue or 32.81% more than the total revenue over the first six (6) months of last year. The District had expenditures over revenues in the amount of \$2,550,735.00. Regarding reserves, Rick noted that even if the District does not end the year under budget, reserves will be at approximately \$20m, the equivalent of 14 months.

The report is attached to these Minutes and was made a part of the record. After discussion, it was

Moved by Director Ascheman and seconded by Director Grimes to approve the financial statements through June 30, 2023. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0.

Mr. Rognan presented the Public Hearing Notice for review, noting that most residential assessments will experience ~17% increases and commercial assessments will experience ~27% increases, but appeals are expected. Revenues will total about \$1.5b if assessments hold through appeals, though Mr. Rognan reminded the Directors that the District only gets 5% of that total.

Next, Assistant Chief McCarthy updated the Board on EMS/MC Communications, noting that a component of the District’s software that manages the movement of data from one server to another was exploited and compromised. Cybersecurity firms have been engaged for the response and the insurance carrier has been notified. The District is satisfying all of its legal obligations in responding to the breach. Around 50 other local agencies were also victims of the attack. Importantly, he noted, the amount of the District’s data that was compromised appears to be minimal.

Next, Chief Kaminski presented the Fenton Fire District Ethics Policy and Resolution. After discussion, it was

Fenton Fire Protection District

Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 26, 2023

Page 4 of 5

Moved by Director Ascheman and seconded by Director Grimes to approve the policy and resolution as presented. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Kaminski introduced Brett Mueller and Andy Erickson as Pension Trustees.

She noted MCG Consulting Group and Pension and Retirement Services will host a pension board member educational event on September 21, 2023.

Regarding GEMT, Chief Kaminski noted that supposedly the District was overpaid in 2020 and now is being asked for reimbursement by August 21, 2023, but noted that Kimberly is investigating further.

Chief Kaminski advised the Board there will be a swearing-in ceremony for four (4) new hires on July 27, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Chief Kaminski advised the Board that a member recently participated in an on-camera segment with Channel 2 News on the topic of boat safety and represented the District well.

SHOP STEWARD

There was no Shop Steward report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further public comment or further business, at 4:50 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

Fenton Fire Protection District

Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 26, 2023

Page 5 of 5

Moved by Director Ascheman and seconded by Director Grimes to go into closed session for purposes of confidential or privileged communications Section 621.021 (1) and (3) RSMo. Motion carried 3-0.

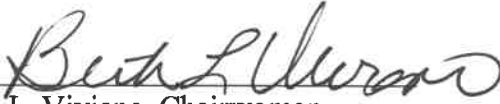
At 5:03 p.m. Director Ascheman moved to reopen the regular meeting of the Fenton Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

ADJOURNMENT

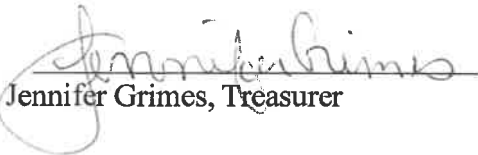
There being no further business before the Board of Directors, at 5:03 p.m., it was

Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Ascheman 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

