

**Fenton Fire Protection District**

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

**August 14, 2024**

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A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fenton Fire Protection District (hereinafter called the “District”) was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, originating at the Fenton Fire Protection District at Fire Station 2, at 1001 Assembly Parkway, Fenton, Missouri 63026.

Acting Chairwoman Jennifer Grimes called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following Directors answered Roll Call:

Beth L. Viviano (via Zoom)  
Jennifer Grimes  
Tom Ascheman

Also present was:

Romona Kaminski	District Chief (via Zoom)
Chris McCarthy	Assistant Chief
Chris Thiemann	Division Chief
Daniel McLaughlin	Legal Counsel
Brett Mueller	Pension Trustee
Andrew Erickson	Pension Trustee
Aaron Cizek	Assistant Shop Steward
Rick Rognan	District Accountant
Connor Eastman	Creative Planning
Martin Ghafoori	Stifel

Acting Chairwoman Grimes 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 July 31, 2024, were presented and it was

*Moved by Director Ascheman and seconded by Director Viviano* to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2024, meeting. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0.

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**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Assistant Chief McCarthy presented the Board with the bills for review and payment, which totaled \$601,002.37. After discussion, it was

*Moved by Director Grimes and seconded by Director Ascheman* 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 07/31/24</u>	<u>Balance as of 08/14/24</u>
General	\$19,508,489.31	\$19,237,660.88
Ambulance	\$ 9,390,243.21	\$ 9,341,349.91
Dispatch	\$ 827,423.77	\$ 827,758.80
Pension	\$ 16,354.63	\$ 21,916.21
Capital Projects 2022	\$ 3,208,713.20	\$ 3,170,601.76
Debt Services	\$ 2,677,659.96	\$ 2,684,428.37
HRA	\$ 1,126.37	\$ 4,431.62
FSA	\$ 23,005.53	\$ 23,900.25

After discussion, it was

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Division Chief Chris Thiemann updated the Board on the status of Station #1. He said the contractor continues to pour exterior concrete and is performing grading in the rear of the Station. In addition to continuing to hang drywall, painting has also begun. Division Chief Thiemann addressed the status of Station #4. He advised the crews relocated back into the Station with little odds and ends being completed both on the interior and exterior of the Station. Division Chief Thiemann advised the District is waiting on the engine bay doors.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Martin Ghafoori, with Stifel, presented the Board with an updated debt profile and current debt service levy. He discussed options of keeping the debt service the same (0.1750) or going for a defeasance. Mr. Ghafoori advised the only reason to increase the debt service is to pay off the District's bonds earlier than expected allowing it to go back to the public sooner in order to renew the bonds. He advised a defeasance generally takes four (4) to five (5) weeks to complete. The matter was tabled for further discussion. A copy of his report is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes.

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

**PENSION CONSULTANT REPORT**

Connor Eastman, with Lockton Investment Advisors, LLC, was present at the meeting. Mr. Eastman gave the Board an in-depth overview about the state of the economy and then presented the investment review for the second quarter 2024. The Fund balance as of June 30, 2024, was \$41,071,195.47 which includes a large distribution of approximately \$900,000.00 but does not include the recent \$2,000,000.00 deposit. Mr. Eastman advised the Trustees that Creative Planning is recommending replacing Clearbridge Small Cap Growth Fund with Fidelity Small Cap Growth K-6. After discussion, it was

*Motion by Trustee Ascheman, and seconded by Trustee Viviano* to accept the recommendation of Creative Planning to replace Clearbridge Small Cap Growth Fund with Fidelity Small Cap Growth K-6. Motion passed and unanimously carried 3-0.

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

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

**ACCOUNTANT REPORT**

Mr. Rognan presented the Financial Report and Statements as of July 31, 2024. He indicated that with timing items the District used 59.86% of the general fund budget, or was 1.56% over budget year to date, or \$182,722.00; and 51.24% of the ambulance fund budget, or was (7.06%) under budget year to date, or (\$344,817.00).

Mr. Rognan indicated that for the seven (7) month period year versus last year, the District had (\$25,955.00), or (0.23%) less in tax revenue and miscellaneous and bond refinancing

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income. The District had expenditures over revenues in the amount of (\$799,097.00). The District has a reserve of 18.07 months compared to 14.42 last year.

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

*Moved by Director Ascheman, and seconded by Director Viviano* to accept and approve the report and financial statements of the District as of July 31, 2024. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0.

Mr. Rognan next presented the Public Tax Hearing Notice. He discussed the looming tax relief initiatives and declining personal property taxes. Mr. Rognan indicated the District's general fund should increase by \$104,674.00, or half of one percent (0.05%). The Notice is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. After discussion, it was

*Moved by Director Ascheman, and seconded by Director Viviano* to set the Public Tax Hearing for September 25, 2024. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

Assistant Chief McCarthy asked for a moment of silence for retiree Dan Hillberry. He stated his funeral arrangements are pending.

Assistant Chief McCarthy advised the Board that several of the crews participated in the First Responder's Youth Camp held August 5-9, 2024.

Assistant Chief McCarthy discussed with the Board the District's current Child Car Seat Safety Program. He said the installation standards and certifications are obtained through Safe Kids. Assistant Chief McCarthy indicated Safe Kids has a very stringent certification program which has resulted in it becoming very difficult for the crews to maintain updated certifications. He advised the Administration is considering dropping the program as the District is down to three (3) or four (4) certified installers. The Board requested additional information on the number of installs done per year as well as the Shop's position.

**SHOP STEWARD'S REPORT**

Assistant Shop Steward Cizak advised the Shop is looking at a few Community Outreach events in the Fall.

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**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further public comment or further business, at 5:04 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

*Moved by Director Ascheman and seconded by Director Viviano* to go into closed session for purposes of legal action, personnel and confidential or privileged communications, Section 621.021 (1) RSMo. Motion approved and unanimously carried 3-0, Viviano – yea, Grimes – yea, Ascheman - yea


At 5:15 p.m. Director Ascheman moved to reopen the regular meeting of the Fenton Fire Protection District Board of Directors.


**ADJOURNMENT**

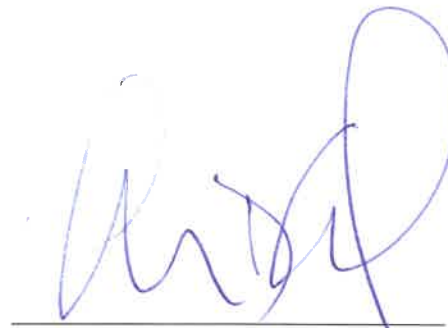
There being no further business before the Board of Directors, at 5:16 p.m., it was

*Moved by Director Ascheman 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

