

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 13, 2020

A Regular Session of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, August 13, 2020, via Zoom due to COVID-19. Director Laughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Notice of said meeting had been provided at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by posting the meeting time in the case on the outside wall of the Administrative Offices. The following Directors were present: Director Bill Laughlin, Director Matt Gober, and Director Matt Simmons. The following staff members were present: Chief Tom Vineyard, Assistant Chief Ken Vomund, Assistant Chief Brian Moore, Fire Marshal Mark Morrison, Battalion Chief Andy Parrish, Battalion Chief Matt Braile, Shop Steward Captain Eric Johnston, Captain Kevin Davis, Engineer Tom Vogelgesang, Firefighter Jeff Woodson, various OFPD members and staff, and Board Administrative Assistant Karen Lucido.

The following guests were present: Attorney Neil Bruntrager, and Rick Rognan, CPA

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Vineyard, followed by the reading of the Firefighter Prayer.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Rick Rognan, CPA, reviewed the Amended 2019 Budget, and per the Auditor's request, Mr. Rognan asked for approval of the attached amended budget showing three transfers totaling \$582,000; these transfers were on the last 2019 Amended Budget, however, they were cut off when the budget was sent. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve the Amended 2019 Budget that includes three transfers totaling \$582,000.00 as presented (attached as Exhibit I), seconded by Director Gober. Upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes: (3) Directors Laughlin, Gober, and Simmons
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Motion declared and carried.

Mr. Rognan reviewed the proposed Notice of Public Hearing for September 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to set the District's property tax rates for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021. Discussion held regarding holding this hearing via Zoom due to COVID-19 concerns. Attorney Bruntrager recommended the District hold the Public Hearing via Zoom and ensure Zoom log-in's appear in the advertised Notice of Public Hearing. *Consensus by the Board of Directors to hold a Public Hearing Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conference due to COVID-19.* Mr. Rognan stated that the numbers reflected in the public hearing notice are preliminary, with post BOE numbers expected by September 10, 2020. Preliminary total assessed valuation change is \$258,000.00 between 2019 and 2020. Residents' tax rates per \$100 assessed valuation will remain unchanged.

Mr. Rognan gave his financial report for month ended July 2020. While expenses overall show over budget, much of that is due to up-front expenses and increased personal protective equipment needs due to COVID-19, as well as increased insurance costs, however, projections are that the District will end the year at or below budget. Mr. Rognan advised that commercial real estate is projected to take a hit in 2021, and recommends the District continue to build their Reserves, which are very healthy, currently covering 8 months of District operating expenses. Calls remain down through July, mainly due to COVID-19; where callers do not want to go to a hospital, and medical calls are responded to by the ambulance district. Director Laughlin thanked Mr. Rognan for his report.

Chief Vineyard stated that he received a draft of the Audit this week with no surprises; the two concerns remain the same as in previous years; credit card receipts, and allocation of duties that is due to minimal office staff positions. Chief Vineyard thanked Ms. Lucido, Ms. Meyer, and Ms. Ennis for their assistance to Mr. Kummer CPA during this virtual audit.

Chief Vineyard stated Ms. Howard was waiting for a copy of the Audit which she has been sent, prior to proceeding with bond refinancing. He will have a bond refinancing update at the next Board meeting.

Chief Vineyard stated he attended a quarterly MOFAD meeting for worker comp this afternoon, and anticipates the District's costs will increase next year due to a large claim MOFAD had to absorb; all members' fees are anticipated to increase.

Approved at 8-27-20 Board Mtg

LABOR MANAGEMENT

Chief Vineyard stated Labor Management did not meet this month; next meeting scheduled for September.

OPERATIONS

Chief Vineyard stated last month the District reverted to restrictions that were previously in place due to a COVID-19 flare-up. All firefighters diagnosed with COVID are back on full duty. Assistant Chief Moore thanked the Board of Directors for supporting the District's continuing efforts to operate in a cautious manner.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Shop Steward Johnston stated the Shop should be ready to begin negotiations with the Board in September.

Director Laughlin made a motion to go into closed session at 7:29 p.m. under RSMo 610.021 (1) Legal Actions involving a public governmental body and confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys, and (13) Individually Identifiable Personnel Records, seconded by Director Gober. Upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes: (3) Directors Laughlin, Gober, and Simmons
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Motion declared and carried.

A motion was made at 7:38 p.m. by Director Laughlin to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session, seconded by Director Simmons. Upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes: (3) Directors Laughlin, Gober, and Simmons
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Motion declared and carried.

Director Laughlin again congratulated Battalion Chief Matt Braile and Captain Kevin Davis on their recent well-deserved promotions; both indicated everything was going smoothly.

Director Laughlin announced the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

A motion was made by Director Laughlin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Gober. Unanimous consent to Adjourn:

Ayes: (3) Directors Laughlin, Gober, and Simmons
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (0) None
Motion declared and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



William Laughlin, Chairman

ATTEST:



Karen Lucido, Recording Secretary
Board Administrative Assistant

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