

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 14, 2021

A Regular Session of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, October 14, 2021, 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, and the public hearing was published according to statute. 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 Andy Parrish, Fire Marshal Mark Morrison, Battalion Chief Matt Braile, Captains Kevin Davis, and Gary McCutchen, Shop Steward Captain Eric Johnston, Shop Reps Firefighter Brett Tichenor and Jeff Woodson, numerous employees, and Board Administrative Assistant Karen Lucido.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by the reading of the Firefighter Prayer.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Mr. Rognan reviewed the monthly financial report for month-ended September 2021. The District is approximately 4.8% under budget to-date; projected that Reserves could be over \$9 million at the end of the year; the District is in good financial shape.

Director Laughlin commended Chief Vineyard and District employees for continuing to be fiscally responsible.

Chief Vineyard reviewed the preliminary 2022 Budget. Worker comp insurance will see a decrease in 2022, and property and casualty insurance costs have been reduced by using a different carrier. Waiting on health insurance premiums.

Chief Vineyard stated that the pension plan is done; Attorney O'Brien emailed the final draft of the defined pension plan document that has been sent out to all members.

Still waiting on two amendments from Empower that RPA should receive in the next 2 weeks, when a Pension Board meeting will be held to approve the final documents. The

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plan will go into effect January 1, 2022. Chief Vineyard thanked the Board for allowing this plan. Director Laughlin stated this is a great benefit for District employees.

Assistant Chief Vomund reviewed the quote for LED headlights for 9114 that will replace the older halogen lights. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve MacQueen Equipment's proposal to replace halogen headlights with LED lights for 9114 for a total cost of \$2,608.64; Chief Vineyard authorized to sign proposal, seconded by Director Gober. Upon roll the vote was:

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

Assistant Chief Vomund stated the two bids in response to the RFP for Station #5 concrete work have been reviewed, and labor management is recommending E. Meier Contracting's bid for concrete repair including the alternate amount to repair and straighten the curb for a total amount of \$79,545.47. The bid from Lauritzen & Sons Concrete was received for a total amount of \$86,185.00 including the alternate amount to repair and straighten the curb. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to accept E. Meier Contracting's bid to replace and repair Station #5's concrete sidewalk, drive lane, and curb, as the best qualified bidder for the lowest price per the terms of their bid in response to RFP 2021-01, for a total amount of \$79,545.47; Chief Vineyard authorized to sign proposal, 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.

LABOR MANAGEMENT

Assistant Chief Parrish stated that the hiring process for Firefighter-Paramedic Pool has begun and 45 applications were received, with 40 applicants moving on to testing; 5 applicants did not have the required qualifications. Video testing will be held October 26; EMS testing and interviews scheduled for October 27 and November 3.

Assistant Chief Parrish stated that the Captain's Promotional Process has begun with testing beginning November 4. Interviews will be scheduled after testing.

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Chief Vineyard stated that he would like to begin the Battalion Chief Promotional Process, as two current battalion chiefs have applied for the Assistant Chief-Training position. Board consensus to begin the Battalion Chief Promotional process per current policy guidelines.

Chief Vineyard stated that three policies need updating to reflect current job duties. Labor Management reviewed these policies and recommend Board approval. Discussion held regarding the duties and responsibilities for each position, and the one update to the battalion chief promotional process. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve revisions to SOP#110.02-Battalion Chief Promotional Process; SOP#114-Assistant Chief/Community Relations; new policy titled Chief Medical Officer, as presented, 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.

OPERATIONS

Chief Vineyard stated District policy remains unchanged regarding COVID-19.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Chief Vineyard stated that republican Senator Bill Eigel recommended personal property tax elimination last year for the State of Missouri, that ended up being targeted to St. Charles County only, but was killed. It will probably be reintroduced next year, and would have an enormous negative impact on all taxing entities in St. Charles County including Police, Fire, Schools, and the Library District. The concern is if the bill just targets St. Charles County and no other city or county in Missouri, it may pass. A coalition has been formed to meet with the Senator November 2 to voice concerns, and their belief that this bill should be run state-wide, not just St. Charles County. Chief Vineyard thanked Rick Rognan for preparing the financial information needed to assist all entities.

Director Laughlin thanked everyone for a successful Fire Safety Day that was held outdoors at the Kohls parking lot, October 3. It was well attended.

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Discussion whether to hold the pictures with Santa event this year. Consensus that due to COVID, having up to 500 people in one large room was too risky. Director Simmons stated that many citizens look forward to the Santa Runs the District holds each year. Assistant Chief Parrish stated Santa Runs are scheduled and the parade truck will drive Santa through District neighborhoods.

Assistant Chief Parrish stated that Stations 1 and 5 will hold a Halloween drive-through trick or treat event, where vehicles can drive through the bays and the firefighters hand out candy; citizens will not have to exit the vehicle.

Attorney Bruntrager commended the Board of Directors and Chief Vineyard for conducting District business in such a manner that minimal Closed Sessions are needed.


Director Laughlin announced the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom due to COVID-19.

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 7:47p.m.


William Laughlin, Chairman

ATTEST:

Karen Lucido, Recording Secretary
Board Administrative Assistant