

APPROVED AT 12-29-21 BOARD MTG

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF THE O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
December 9, 2021**

✓ APPROVED  
12-29-2021

A Regular Session of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, December 9, 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. 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, Assistant Chief Matt Braile, Fire Marshal Mark Morrison, Battalion Chief Brian Moore, Shop Steward Battalion Chief Eric Johnston, Assistant Shop Steward Captain Darren Daly, Accreditation Manager Captain Mike Alcorn, Captains Mike Knipping, Sean Porter, and Gary McCutchen, Shop Reps Firefighters Brett Tichenor and Jeff Woodson, Firefighter Trey Thomure, numerous employees, and Board Administrative Assistant Karen Lucido.

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

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 November 2021. The District is projected to end the year under budget and contribute more to its Reserves than previously forecasted. The District is in good financial shape. Director Laughlin commended Chief Vineyard and District employees for continuing to be fiscally responsible. Mr. Rognan commended the Board of Directors and Chief Vineyard for remaining fiscally conservative and for continuing to build the District's Reserve fund. Number of calls were reviewed; Captain Alcorn clarified that last year's call numbers included mutual aid calls, and 2021's call data does not, therefore the District's actual 2021 calls have increased substantially from 2020.

Mr. Rognan reviewed the 2022 Preliminary Operating Budget, comparing years 2018 thru 2021. Mr. Rognan gave an in-depth review of the proposed 2022 General

Fund Budget, 2022 Pension Budget, 2022 Debt Service Budget. There was zero dollars projected in the Capital Projects Budget for 2022. Discussion held. Mr. Rognan recommended that in addition to the annual Financial Audit, the District conduct a Pension Plan Audit as well for the first year, then every 2 years thereafter to ensure the Pension Plan is being run as intended. Consensus from the Board to ensure Pension Plan audits are conducted as recommended. There being no further questions or comments, a motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve the 2022 General Fund Budget 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.

A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve the 2022 Pension Fund Budget 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.

A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve the 2022 Debt Service Budget as presented, attached as Exhibit I, 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.

Chief Vineyard gave an overview of the Local 2665 Health & Welfare Trust that is intended to assist departments in containing health care costs, stating there are potentially 75 departments in the local that could join the trust. There will be a meeting in January to explain how the trust will work, with a projected go-date of July 1, 2022 if possible. Discussion held.

Chief Vineyard updated the Critical Illness Cancer Trust program. The State approved \$5 million in funding to begin the Trust, with the Trust being maintained by members who would pay a per-firefighter fee. An attorney has written the By-Laws for

the Trust, and an Actuary performed the analysis to help set the rates. The details are being finalized and Chief will bring a Resolution to the Board for approval in January. This Trust will give firefighters who are diagnosed with one of 14 different cancers immediate funds to assist them; they are still allowed to file for worker comp. Once all Trust documents are approved, then the State Fire Marshal's Office can release the State monies for this Trust. Director Laughlin expressed interest in taking advantage of this program. Chief Vineyard will keep the Board updated.

Assistant Chief Parrish stated that the District's current health insurance provider, CIGNA, initially increased our rates for next year by 22%, but after Denny & Associates negotiated with them, the increase is now 14% for the District to retain the exact coverage we currently have. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to move forward with CIGNA's 2022 health insurance rates; Chief Vineyard authorized to sign documents, 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

Chief Vineyard stated that the District conducted final interviews for the Firefighter EMT/P Hiring process this week. Offers of employment will be discussed in Closed Session.

### OPERATIONS

Chief Vineyard stated District is doing Santa Runs, participating in O'Fallon City's Celebration of Lights; and conducting a Food and Toy Drive for District residents.

### OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Administrative Assistant Lucido requested Board approval for the proposed 2022 Board Calendar. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve the 2022 Board Calendar 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.

Director Laughlin requested information on upcoming employee retirement ceremonies. Per Chief Vineyard: Retirement Ceremony for Assistant Chief Ken Vomund, and Administrative Assistant Karen Lucido will be held December 17, at 0730, Station #3. Ceremony for Captain Mary Emge will be held January 2, at 0730, Station #1. Ceremony for Captain Bud Marchlewski, Firefighter Russ Hubert, and Firefighter Dave Koenig will be held January 4, at 0730, Station #3. Ceremony for Captain Mike Alcorn will be held January 5, 0730, Station #1.

Captain Alcorn stated the Accreditation Team will be here the week of December 13 for the District's re-Accreditation. He reviewed the schedule of events, inviting Board Members to participate where they are able. Chief Vineyard stated that Captain Alcorn has put a tremendous amount of time and effort in this process and is unbelievably good at what he does; he will be missed. Captain Gary McCutchen and Firefighter Trey Thomure have been assisting Captain Alcorn, and have also put in much time and effort and are ready to step up to fill Captain Alcorn's spot once he's retired. Director Laughlin stated that Captain Alcorn will be missed and the Board appreciates all the hard work, and commended the rest of the District's members for their work and dedication in assisting to keep this District running so well.

Director Laughlin made a motion to go into closed session at 7:56 p.m. under RSMo 610.021 (1) Legal Actions involving a public governmental body and confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body, and its attorneys; (3) Hiring, promoting, and disciplining of particular employees, 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 8:30 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 announced that during the Closed Session, the following motions were made:

A motion was made by Director Laughlin to make an offer of employment to 8 applicants for the position of Firefighter EMT/P contingent upon successful background checks and medical/physical tests, 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 by Director Laughlin to allow Chief Vineyard to deal with a particular disciplinary matter, seconded by Director Gober. Upon roll call the vote was:

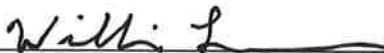
Ayes: (3) Directors Laughlin, Gober, and Simmons  
Nays: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None  
Motion declared and carried.

Director Laughlin announced the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 29, 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 8:32 p.m.

  
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William Laughlin, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Julie Gaylord, Recording Secretary  
Board Executive Administrative Assistant