



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Of the Wentzville Fire Protection District of January 14, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Wentzville Fire Protection District was held on January 14, 2021 was held via video conferencing due to COVID-19 pandemic and current CDC restrictions.

Chief Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Open Forum: No one from the public was present.

Roll Call: Chief Schneider called roll. All Board Members were present Director Bob Hawkins -present, Director Jennifer Houston-present, and Director Frank Grassmuck-present.

Also, in attendance were Deputy Chief Michael Scott, Fire Marshal Chris Cuddihee, Battalion Chief Chris Browder, Shop Steward Max Mueller, and Assistant Shop Steward Bryan Notheis

Director Hawkins made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Real Estate under closed; it was seconded by Director Grassmuck. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

Director Grassmuck motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 7, 2021; the motion was seconded by Director Houston. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

CPA Rognan provided the December 2020 financial report. He commended everyone for the bottom-line management of the budget. He went through revenue and expenses. Revenue lines were all over what was budgeted, this is a good thing. He stated the Fire Marshal's office continues to excel. He also stated the district does a great job laddering the revenue early in the year. Because of this, the district made the mark in interest. He stated all revenue line items are slowing down. He informed the board expectations on commercials properties- real estates are changing. He said many will be asking for reductions in their taxes, interest is not coming back, revenue will not be growing for three to five years, even with proposals at GM. He reminded the board to be cautious and proactive. CPA Rognan went over the expenses, indicating salary and wages was slightly over, unscheduled overtime was over due to COVID, and with that payroll taxes over budget as a byproduct of the two categories. Expenses were up by 1.2% from last year. If revenue continue to lessen and expenses continue to increase, this could impact the reserve. CPA Rognan discussed how this year and COVID will have an impact to commercial for the next several years. He stated a virtual workforce will change dynamics of commercial building. Property owners will be redirecting resources and Assessors know this. He stated the Assessors are planning collectively, this will be a major change to discuss with Board of Equalization. CPA Rognan is introducing these discussions in preparation for looking down the road. He stated the district is insulated because there is room for expansion within our district. CPA Rognan informed the board debt service is on target even by rolling back a penny. He stated in capital projects, there is not a lot of spending. Letting what is there stay, indicating the district can spend \$150,000 a year, but will need to go back at some point to the voters. He reminded the board the reserve

cash in the bank is less due to pension. The district received \$204,000 in new tax money for the year. There is nine months in reserve. Cannot endure less revenue more expenses to maintain this. This year was a good example of why it is important to build reserves. He stated there will need to be discussion as to what the district's threshold to be comfortable in the reserves, do not want to be where we were 6 or 7 years ago 39 days. CPA Rognan stated calls are down. This was to keep our members safe during the height of the pandemic. 4617 calls this year compared to last year 5024, down 407. Once things all open back up, the district will see calls pick up. Director Houston is pleased with 4.77% under budget considering the year we have had. Director Hawkins agreed. We are well positioned for the next several years. Chief Schneider thanked the committee heads, planning committee and Admin Potts for their work on the budget and day to day spending of the district. CPA Rognan stated the district had a great year. Director Houston stated to pass on she was happy with great job everyone did in keeping the budget.

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

No New Business

Officers Report:

Chief Schneider the community outreach is being recognized by the school district. The next round of bills has the \$750,000 drop to the pension. He, Assistant Chief Ledoux, Administrative Assistant Potts and Foundation Wealth Management met with the actuary and it was recommended to make drop. He stated they discussed waiting until after the first quarter for any future drops. There will be a report at the pension board meeting on the 28th.

Assistant Chief LeDoux not present.

Deputy Chief Scott discussed the CARES fund reimbursement. He stated it was acted on quickly. He also said he has reached out regarding future moneys and the district will submit again for the first of February. He also reported Wentzville Lowes donated five Weber pellet grills to the district. They have been delivered to the fire stations. They also donated to SCCAD and Lincoln County. This was Lowe's way of thanks. He stated a social media post will go out.

Fire Marshal Cuddihee informed the board he has 18-19 permits to be reviewed. He stated the apartment complex slated for 40 and Prospect Apartments picked up their permits today.

Battalion Chief Browder was pleased to announce B shift is 100%, it has been a while. Operations of the district are going well, guys are happy. He stated they have been busy on the firefighting front. Today there was an awful wreck, he stated the guys did a fine, professional job and he checked in with the crews and they are doing well. He shared 9815 was down for a good period time but is back in service. There was discussion related to battery powered tools vs hydraulic tools. The crews are pleased with the battery powered tools. Director Houston stated she respects to the crews on scene today, she was part of the traffic and stated her thoughts are with the crews.

Legal Counsel McLaughlin was not present.


Shop Steward Mueller reported on two quick good news items. He stated the International approved the district to use the assistance of their grant writer Mark Fuller. He and Mike Scott are rolling on it. Also, he informed the board he was on way to union meeting to find out more about the COVID vaccine. He stated the Governor has moved the status of first responders. The Governor moved firefighters to 1A. Assistant Shop Steward Notheis had two things, indicating he and Max talked about the pension drop and indicated it has been a goofy year, but the district has managed to accomplish a lot. He acknowledged Max, stating he has been a good balance, he keeps refocusing the guys to be grateful! He stated the members signed up to put themselves in the line of risk, but on the day-to-day Max reminds them of all the good stuff. Notheis is hoping to get back to the business and driving ahead, for better district and protection for the residents.

No Committee Report

No Board Report

Director Hawkins motioned and Director Grassmuck seconded to move to closed session at 6:35 p.m. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

The board returned to open session at 6:41 p.m., Director Hawkins announced four members, Daniel Bodenschatz, Ben Holste, Jacob Plaggenburg and Blake Miller had all been taken off their first-year probation and then moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Grassmuck. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.


Frank Grassmuck, Secretary


Stacy Krieger, Recording Secretary