



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Of the Wentzville Fire Protection District of March 11, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Wentzville Fire Protection District was held on March 11, 2021 was held via video conferencing due to COVID-19 pandemic and current CDC restrictions.

Chief John Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Forum: No one from the public was present.

Roll Call: Chief John 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 Michael Scott Fire Marshal Chris Cuddihee and Battalion Chief Willie Meyer and CPA Rick Rognan.

Director Hawkins made a motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Director Grassmuck. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

Director Hawkins motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 4, 2021; the motion was seconded by Director Houston. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

CPA Rognan presented the February financials and discussed the preliminary assessment information received in accordance with Senate Bill 711. He stated it is good news. The preliminary assessment received indicated a 10.79% in real estate and a 2.54% increase in personal property. There is a 9.36% in assessments to 2,294,856,702. CPA Rognan caution the increase stating these are preliminary numbers and will find Post Board of Equalization number in August interesting to see what transpires. Chief Schneider inquired as to how many districts in our county line up? CPA Rognan indicated our district is the leader, however O'Fallon and Lake Saint Louis are seeing average increases of 6 to 8% which is good for the entire county. CPA Rognan is interested to see post BOE numbers knowing residential is strong but does questioned commercial strength and effect from the pandemic. He is hopeful things will remain strong, but we may see a difference next year. The numbers are positive the county and much higher than many expected. CPA Rognan will have the preliminary tax rate form released to the district next Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. CPA Rognan discussed the February financials indicated timing is impacting the financials. The district is 7.81 over. He stated the funding of the pension and HSA is creating the overage. He did state that unless something significant happens, the district is trending to be under budget for the year. CPA Rognan informed the board the district has collected 96.17% of tax revenue as of February. He stated this shows the strong tax base of our district. He commended the Fire

Prevention Bureau who is up \$289,000 in revenue from last year. He indicated the district will not see much in the way of interest through the year. There was discussion regarding new legislation being proposed that will provide more pandemic relief to cities, states, and other municipalities. CPA Rognan encouraged applying for these opportunities. He stated the first two months doing great. He discussed expenses indicating many items are timing or paid early. CPA Rognan went over the cash account and estimates the reserve will be at \$10 million at the end of the year. CPA Rognan discussed the calls indicating everything is opening and we are already seeing calls up by ten. Down seven for the year, we will have a greater call report this year.

**Old Business:**

No Old Business

**New Business:**

No New Business

**Officers Report:**

Chief Schneider addressed legislation proposed in Jeff City a few of fire chiefs have been watching. The proposal is to remove personal property, he stated this is not a popular tax but would be 20-25% hit to our budget and this is concerning as a district. He indicated it was killed in the Senate. This week is the halfway mark for this year's legislative session. Chief Schneider informed the board the team in Jeff City is doing well for the fire districts. If personal property tax were lost, it would be difficult to replace this revenue and there is no real plan to do so. He stated he will continue to monitor the legislation. Chief Schneider shared there is a lot of discussion in Jeff City over Roy Blunt's announcement to leave.

Assistant Chief LeDoux stated the district had another good week on the COVID front. He reminded the board service contract proposals will be presented the 18<sup>th</sup>. He shared a sunshine request for contractor information and pricing for our current cleaning service at headquarters. Assistant Chief LeDoux consulted with Legal Counsel and the information was provided.

Deputy Chief Scott informed the board the county training officers met as did our internal training team. He stated training with county participation will start in July and in house, multiple company training will start up at the end of March. Deputy Chief Scott reminded the board the MEM funds have come in and he is looking into more grant opportunities.

Fire Marshal Cuddihee stated as CPA Rognan alluded to the Fire Prevention is doing well for the year. He stated he has issued over 55 permits this year and that things are good. He shared there was a fire a GM at 3 am the other day and that GM has a lot of plans for additions coming next year. He stated these are exciting times. Director Grassmuck asked about damage at GM and was informed it was a press belt fire. Deputy Chief

Scott stated he responded with B shift, they were in and out quickly. Chief Schneider stated there have been three minor but working incidents at GM in the last month. Director Houston asked Fire Marshal Cuddihee if is this a record for permitting? She stated good job and keep it rolling.

Battalion Chief Meyer shared all is well. He stated they survived a weekend of brush fires that BC Hutson and his team worked. Now the crews will get ready for flooding. BC Meyer shared they have been getting tons of requests for car seats and smoke detectors.

Legal Counsel McLaughlin was not present.

Shop Steward Mueller was not present.

Schneider did inform the board contract talks have started in a collaborative effort between management, Legal Counsel, and the Shop. He stated at the Planning meeting this week they cleaned up articles on current practices and came to some agreements. It will be in the draft toward the end of summer beginning of fall.

Chief Schneider also shared the fire district will be participating in a major event with the School District on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Holt High School to get school personnel vaccinated. Chief Schneider thanked the board for always supporting participation that allows us to support the community.

Director Hawkins motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Director Grassmuck. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

  
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Frank Grassmuck, Secretary

  
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Stacy Krieger, Recording Secretary