

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 23, 2020

A Regular Session of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District Board of Directors was held via video conference due to COVID-19 social distancing practices on Thursday, April 23, 2020, via Zoom. 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 and video conference log-in information 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, Shop Steward Captain Eric Johnston, Captain Matt Braile, Firefighter Jeff Woodson, and Board Administrative Assistant Karen Lucido.

The following guest was present: Attorney Jon Bruntrager

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by Assistant Chief Moore's reading of the firefighter prayer.

A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve minutes of the prior Regular Board Meeting of March 26, 2020, and Regular Board Work Session of April 9, 2020, as presented, 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Director Gober stated a current checking account balance of \$736,095.85. There being no questions, a motion was made by Director Laughlin to pay bills as presented, 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.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

Director Simmons thanked the firefighters for their continuing vigilance in keeping our citizens safe; and wished all continued good health.

Director Laughlin thanked and sent his prayers to all first responders and those working on the front lines of COVID-19; and their families.

Director Gober gave hats-off to our firefighters who are going to calls 24/7 and responding with compassion and professionalism not knowing what they are walking into.

Assistant Chief Moore stated District firefighters are coming to work everyday and doing what needs to be done, and thanked the Board of Directors for keeping our Fire District running smoothly and effectively.

Shop Steward Captain Johnston stated the Shop donated \$2,500 to STAT an organization that provides meals to doctors and nurses working in the St. Charles County ICUs. The Shop also donated \$2,500 to the St. Louis Heroes Network, and \$1,000 to the Ft. Zumwalt West Food Pantry run by Ft. Zumwalt West Crisis Counselor Melissa Tichy that is assisting 65 families within our District.

Administrative Asst. Lucido stated she has received many requests for drive-by Birthday Parties and graduations, and many emails from grateful families in our District thanking our firefighters for providing happy moments for their children's events.

OLD BUSINESS

There was further discussion regarding the new Ladder Truck. Assistant Chief Vomund stated the new truck arrived yesterday and he looked it over this afternoon. Truck went to Banner immediately to replace an alternator belt that broke during its travels from Florida to O'Fallon. It should be at Station #4, April 27, where the crews will look it over. Chief Vineyard noted that during the truck's travel from Florida, there was a period of time that E-One did not know its location.

There was further discussion regarding COVID-19. Per Assistant Chief Moore: The District received another small PPE supply; feedback from crews are that currently they have sufficient PPE supplies, however, supply levels continue to

be monitored weekly. Crews are running about 50% less calls than before the COVID-19 lock-down, some of that is attributable to citizens not wanting to go to a hospital, and a reduction in vehicle accidents due to low traffic volume. The District's firefighters are doing a good job of protecting themselves by using their PPE on calls.

Per Chief Vineyard: Engineer Kevin Davis who is a member of the Federal D-Mort Team was deployed to New York in the role of Safety Officer to assist in the processing of over 6,000 deceased. Engineer Davis wanted to go for this 2-week deployment, and Chief Vineyard commended him on his unselfish commitment. The District is keeping close tabs on his family, ensuring they have everything they need and are doing well.

Chief Vineyard stated that all Fire District members have been very cooperative and understanding of the restrictions and safety processes. Governor Parsons is still indicating some restrictions may be lifted May 4. Chief Vineyard is meeting with the St. Charles County Chiefs on a regular basis and they are working on a plan to de-escalate, and a plan for District members to take appropriate precautions when the time comes.

Fire Marshal Morrison stated his department is working on hydrants and pre-plans.

NEW BUSINESS

Per Assistant Chief Moore: The District's computer system storage costs the District \$300.00 per year for 300 gigs storage per month, but when storage goes over that amount, the fee escalates substantially. He reviewed a proposal by FeatherShark to provide Cloud storage. In the meantime, FeatherShark is reducing data overages as we are notified. An in-depth assessment of the District's computer needs is required, so Cloud Storage recommendations will be on hold until FeatherShark is able to do this.

Per Assistant Chief Moore: O'Fallon Firefighters Community Outreach has pledged monies to the Salvation Army, St. Vincent De Paul Society, and Ft. Zumwalt West Food Bank. Fresh Thyme manager greatly reduced fresh fruit costs and personally donated to the Food Bank. Another entity donated fresh meat at cost. Kohr's donated \$500 and its owners and their parents each donated \$500 to Outreach. In the future, Outreach may request donations from the public. The

O'Fallon Firefighters Community Outreach is run by off-duty firefighters and staff and all fundraising and donations go back into the Fire District's community to assist its residents. This is the first year that the Outreach Organization has offered \$1,200.00 scholarships to District high school students; one scholarship can be awarded per high school. Applications were received from Ft. Zumwalt West High, Ft. Zumwalt North High, and Hope High students. 3 scholarships were awarded.

Director Laughlin announced the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Director Laughlin to adjourn the meeting, 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



 William Laughlin, Chairman

ATTEST:



 Karen Lucido, Recording Secretary
 Board Administrative Assistant