

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**OF THE O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**May 14, 2020**

A Regular Session of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, May 14, 2020, via Zoom video conference to follow social distancing guidelines of 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 Brian Moore, Battalion Chief Andy Parrish, Captain Matt Braile, Captain Eric Johnston, Captain Darren Daly, Firefighter Jeff Woodson, and Board Administrative Assistant Karen Lucido. Fire Marshal Morrison was absent.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Vineyard, followed by the reading of the Firefighter Prayer.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Rick Rognan, CPA, reviewed his monthly financial report that included: Overall expenses reflect over budget, but that is due to front-end payments on insurance, and a \$450,000 payment on the new ladder truck; overall expenses will continue to trend down projecting under budget by end of 2020. There is anticipated higher expenses due to COVID-19 and PPE/cleaning/mitigation. Tax collections are up from 2019; building permits are down; interest rates are up for now, but projected to decrease due to the economy. Calls are down from 2019, mainly due to changed run cards, reduced EMS calls due to less traffic/travel, and fewer EMS calls due to citizens hesitant to go to the hospital due to COVID-19; fire calls are up from 2019. Anticipate EMS calls will climb substantially once the County begins opening up.

Rick Rognan reviewed the 2019 General Fund Reserve and revisions he is requesting in order to complete the 2019 audit. Discussion held that included

assigning funds for Emergency Preparedness and for the final ladder truck payment. Chief Vineyard stated the District's cash reserves are in separate banks, and asked for Mr. Rognan's opinion whether additional funds need to be placed in Reserves; Mr. Rognan will review and let Chief Vineyard know. Chief Vineyard stated that a \$446,000 payment has been made on the new ladder truck, with a final payment of \$120,000 due. After discussion, upon Mr, Rognan's recommendation, a motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve assigning \$5,900,000.00 for the purpose of future appropriations, assigning \$1,500,000.00 for the purpose of emergency preparedness, and committing \$612,445.00 for the purchase of a ladder truck from the 2019 General Fund Balance, 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.

Mr. Rognan reviewed Resolution 2020-02 -Senate Bill 870, setting the reimbursement rate provided in RSMo 99.848.2 (2018), 100.050.4 (2018), and 353.110.4 (2018), in the amount of 100%, and notifying St. Charles County Collector of Revenue and the St. Charles County Assessor prior to July 1, 2020. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve Senate Bill 870 – Resolution 2020-02 setting the reimbursement by the District at 100% for RSMo Chapters 99, 100, and 353 as presented, seconded by Director Gober; attached as Exhibit I. Upon roll call the vote was:

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

Mr. Rognan noted that the District publishes this notice annually, the notice was last published in January 2020.

Chief Vineyard stated that District crews have been working out with trainers motivating crewmembers to work out frequently as a crew, which has led to a shortage of a sufficient number of hand-weights at each station; Labor Management is recommending approval of additional hand-weights. There are available funds in the 2020 Budget for this purchase. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve purchase 4 sets of dumbbells and 4 dumbbell racks for a total of

\$6,050.84, from Johnston Fitness & Wellness, per their quote dated April 20, 2020; Chief Vineyard authorized to sign quote, 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 stated that originally the Board approved the finishing of Station #4's bay floors in 1 stage to reduce costs, however, the new \$1.3 million ladder truck would need to be kept outside for approximately a week. Chief Vineyard requested approval to finish Station #4 Bay Floors in 2 phases in order to keep the new ladder truck under roof. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to authorize Station #4's bay floor finishing in two sessions at an additional cost of \$4,488.75, per Missouri Terrazzo's bid approved February 27, 2020; 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.

Assistant Chief Vomund stated the new ladder truck is being fitted with equipment and radio antennas. The antennas and radios were initially purchased by the District and sent to E-One for installation prior to the truck's delivery, but E-One overlooked this. They are being installed now and E-One is paying for the cost of antennas and installation. All should be completed and the truck placed in service by the end of May.

LABOR MANAGEMENT

Chief Vineyard stated labor management met last week; nothing major is in the works; several policies are being reviewed and brought up to date; they will come before the Board when they are fully revised.

OPERATIONS

Chief Vineyard stated procedures are in place regarding COVID-19; employee screening continues at all stations and Administration, and all buildings are closed to

the public. Employees have been very cooperative and understanding. Chief Vineyard has a meeting with the St. Charles County Chiefs and the Director of Administration for St. Charles County to discuss what opening the County/economy will look like. One firefighter's wife contracted COVID; the employee has tested negative so far, and is at home quarantined. Engineer Davis has returned from his deployment to New York as part of the D-Mort team and he is quarantined for 14 days prior to returning to work. Office staff remains working from home through May, then procedures will be re-evaluated. All work is getting done, and the emphasis is on employees' safety. Director Laughlin recommended holding meetings via Zoom through May, then re-evaluate. Chief Vineyard stated everyone is anxious to get back to normal; and he is hopeful that by mid-Summer this can happen. We are noticing more traffic as citizens are letting their guard up. St. Charles County has reported approximately 900+ cases out of an approximately 750,000 population; no District employee has contracted COVID.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Assistant Chief Moore stated that Outreach gave out 3 scholarships via Facebook-live with cooperation of the families of the recipients to keep social distancing. All went very well, and we look forward to handing out up to 5 scholarships next year.

Assistant Chief Moore stated that Firefighter Tichy's wife, Melissa, is continuing her food pantry for families in need within the Ft. Zumwalt School District, and Outreach continues to assist with food donations, as well as assisting the O'Fallon Salvation Army, and St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Chief Vineyard stated he was appointed to the new MACFPD Board and also elected as Vice President of the St. Louis Area Fire Chiefs organization as the current vice president retired. Congratulations were given.

Discussion held regarding the pros and cons of giving the new MACFPD organization a different name to signify that it is a much differently-run organization now, that strives to include all fire districts/departments in the State of Missouri, equally, regardless of size.

Chief Vineyard stated he requested BarnesCare resume random drug testing of employees once they reopen, forecasted for June 2020.


Chief Vineyard stated that one of the District's captains is undergoing major surgery next week with a positive prognosis; he will keep the Board informed.

Director Laughlin announced the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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 7:50 p.m.

  
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William Laughlin, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Lucido, Recording Secretary  
Board Administrative Assistant

APPROVED COPY

Approved at 5-28-2020 Board Mtg

**O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

William Laughlin  
Matthew Simmons  
Matthew Gober



**FIRE CHIEF**

Thomas Vineyard

**SB 870 RESOLUTION # 2020-02**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Whereas,** pursuant to RSMo 99.848 (2018), 100.50 (2018) and 353.110 (2018) the District must annually set the reimbursement rate provided in RSMo 99.848.2 (2018), 100.050.4 (2018) and 353.110.4 (2018), prior to the time the assessment is determined by St. Charles County.

**Whereas,** annually, the District is required to notify St. Charles County Collector of Revenue and the St. Charles County Assessor of said reimbursement rate, prior to the time the assessment is determined by the assessor of the county (i.e., July 1).

**As such,** pursuant to Senate Bill 870 enacted into law by the 99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Missouri Legislature and signed by the Governor, the District sets an annual reimbursement rate for financing pursuant to Chapter 99 RSMo, Chapter 100 RSMo and Chapter 353 RSMo. The reimbursement rate for the District shall be 100%. Hence, beginning August 28, 2018 and thereafter, the District shall be entitled to reimbursement from the special allocation funds as defined in Chapter 99 RSMo in the amount of 100% of the District's tax. This applies to all tax increment financing (TIF) projects approved after August 28, 2004. Moreover, the District shall be reimbursed an amount of 100% of the ad valorem real, personal and other tangible property tax revenues that the District would have received in the absence of a tax abatement under Chapter 100 RSMo and Chapter 353 RSMo. These reimbursements are applicable to all tax increment financing, tax abatements and special allocation funds financing or amendments filed after August 28, 2018.

**THIS RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF May 2020.**

**O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

----- Chairman  
William Laughlin

----- Treasurer  
Matt Gober

----- Secretary  
Matt Simmons

*"Committed to Protecting our Community"*