

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
September 10, 2020

A Regular Session and Public Hearing of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, September 10, 2020, via Zoom due to COVID-19. Director Laughlin called the meeting to order at 7:01 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, Fire Marshal Mark Morrison, Battalion Chief Andy Parrish, Battalion Chief Matt Braille, Shop Steward Captain Eric Johnston, Engineer Tom Vogelgesang, Firefighters Jeff Woodson, Trey Thomure, Cody Willis, Fire Prevention Specialist Ed Engel, and Board Administrative Assistant Karen Lucido.

The following guests were present: Attorney Neil Bruntrager, Rick Rognan, CPA, and Bruce Kummer, CPA.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Vineyard, followed by the reading of the Firefighter Prayer. Director Laughlin requested special prayers for our fallen brothers and sisters of the 9/11 terrorist attack; and he thanked everyone for all their sacrifices and dedication to keeping our citizens safe.

PUBLIC HEARING

Director Laughlin opened the Public Hearing and recognized Mr. Rognan who reviewed the Profoma calculations and District's proposed tax rates post BOE. He reviewed the general fund, pension and debt services amounts, noting they remain unchanged from 2019. He anticipates revenue increases of approximately \$205,711.00. The Notice of Public Hearing was published at least 7 days prior to this hearing. Chief Vineyard questioned what the pension tax would be if Proposition F is successful in November. Mr. Rognan stated the District currently has a 5-cents per \$100 assessed value ceiling, however, with the Hancock Amendment, the District is only receiving 3.75 cents per \$100 assessed value; with the 10-cents from Proposition F it is possible the District will be at 13.75 cents per \$100 assessed

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value; and could go higher depending on CPI, but not exceed 15 cents. Mr. Rognan reviewed the proposed 2020 tax rates per \$100 assessed values: \$0.7818 for General Fund; \$0.0375 for Pension; \$0.0413 for Debt Service for a total proposed 2020 tax rate of \$0.8606. Director Laughlin asked for any comments. There being none, a motion was made by Director Laughlin to close the Public Hearing, 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 discussion or comments, the public hearing was closed.

Director Laughlin made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-04 as presented, setting the 2020 tax levy rates for General Fund, Debt Service, and Pension tax rates for utilization in the 2021 fiscal year, Resolution 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.

ANNUAL AUDIT

Director Laughlin recognized Bruce Kummer, CPA. Mr. Kummer thanked the Board, Chief Vineyard, and staff for their patience in completing the Audit this year, which was done virtually due to COVID-19. Mr. Kummer stated the District is in good financial shape, and compared 2019 vs. 2018, stating cash increased approximately \$1 million; over \$500,000 in long term debt was paid off, and the total net position (equity) of the District increased several million dollars. Mr. Kummer reviewed the revenue and expenses, stating the Board of Directors is very conservative in their spending, and hired six additional firefighter/paramedics. In depth review of the annual audit was conducted. Mr. Kummer stated the District is very financially healthy and asked if the Board had any changes on the management report. There were no changes. Mr. Kummer stated the District has a great Board of Directors and Administrative staff. Directors Laughlin, Simmons, and Gober thanked Mr. Kummer for his report and the work he did getting this done during these COVID circumstances. Chief Vineyard thanked Mr. Kummer, stating Mr. Kummer and his staff are always professional and do a first rate job, and are great to work with. There being no further questions or comments, a motion was made by Director Laughlin to

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accept the Annual Financial Report for Year Ending December 31, 2019 as presented by Bruce Kummer, CPA, 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.

The Financial Report for year ending December 31, 2019 will be posted on the District's website.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Mr. Rognan gave his financial report for month ended August 2020. While expenses overall show over budget, it is trending down and it is likely the District will end the year at or below budget. Building Permits are up, and Chief Vineyard did a good job of laddering funds regarding interest prior to COVID. Mr. Rognan reviewed year to date expenses and revenues; noting salaries were up mainly due to unscheduled overtime due to COVID. Tax collections increased by \$410,278. He stated the Board is doing a good job of building Reserves which is not easy to do this year, and estimates Reserves will be increased by \$1.8 million, ending at \$8.3 million. Director Laughlin thanked Mr. Rognan for his report.

Chief Vineyard reviewed the 2021 Preliminary Budget, noting salary and wages remain unchanged until after negotiations are completed this year. He estimates benefits may increase by 10%, but will not have insurance numbers until early October. He stated we are looking at purchasing new SCBA's in 2021 which could cost approximately \$425,000; and the SCBA committee is also looking at possible grants to assist with this needed purchase. Chief Vineyard stated the Pension is supplemented \$560,000.00 from the general fund as the current pension tax income does not cover the number of existing employees; originally when the pension tax was enacted there were 14 employees, and now there are over 70. Discussion held.

Chief Vineyard stated that bond refinancing will now move forward as there is an approved Audit for 2019; refinancing should be complete by early October.

Chief Vineyard stated that there is a social security deferral option made available by President Trump's executive order, where employees making less than \$4,000 biweekly or less than \$100,000 annually are eligible to defer social security tax, however, it must be repaid beginning in 2021, so it is basically a loan. Shop

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Members voted to opt out, and he is recommending the District opt out of this option, as there is a provision in the Order to do so. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin for the District to opt out of the Social Security Deferral Option currently available under Executive order, 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.

Chief Vineyard stated a Stifel CD was purchased several years ago and matured August 28, and their terms of renewal were 0.15% across the Board, which he found unacceptable. St. Louis Bank is offering .80% which is not great but considerably better, and requested approval to move \$2.7 million to St. Louis Bank. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve moving of \$2.7 million in District funds to St. Louis Bank at a rate of .80%, 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.

LABOR MANAGEMENT

Chief Vineyard stated Labor Management met this month and went through the 2021 preliminary budget and budget request that the Board reviewed during this meeting.

OPERATIONS: Chief Vineyard stated nothing new to report.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Shop Steward Johnston reviewed the IAFF2665 Letter of Intent to begin negotiations he sent to the Board; stating the Shop will give the Board a list of negotiating items at the September 24 Board meeting with the intent of beginning negotiations the following Board meeting.

Director Laughlin stated his wish to back to in-person meetings beginning September 24, and asked for any concerns. None were expressed. Social distancing and mask wearing will occur.

Director Laughlin made a motion to go into closed session at 7:49 p.m. under RSMo 610.021 (1) Legal Actions involving a public governmental body and confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its

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representatives and its attorneys; 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 8:05 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 the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m..

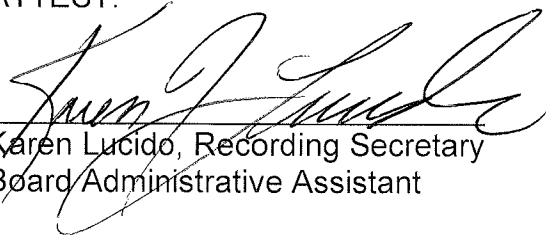
A motion was made by Director Laughlin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Gober. Unanimous consent to Adjourn:

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 8:06 p.m.

  
William Laughlin, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Karen Lucido, Recording Secretary  
Board Administrative Assistant

**O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO.** 2020-04

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Directors of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District of St. Charles County, Missouri, at a public hearing held September 10, 2020, discussed the financial affairs and expenses for the O'Fallon Fire Protection District's 2021 fiscal year; and,

**WHEREAS**, a Public Hearing is required by the Missouri Revised Statutes concerning the proposed budget and tax rate with said Public Hearing being held on September 10, 2020, and,

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Directors of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District of St. Charles County, Missouri, after study of the District's finances and contingent expenses for 2021, which includes general operating, pension and debt service expenses, have arrived at a regular tax levy for the 2020 tax year for utilization in the 2021 fiscal year.

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

The 2020 tax levy within the O'Fallon Fire Protection District, when levied upon every dollar of taxable tangible property within the O'Fallon Fire Protection District shown by the last completed assessment, shall be a total of **\$0.8606 Cents** per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars assessed valuation and is broken down as follows:

1. The 2020 tax levy within the O'Fallon Fire Protection District, when levied upon every dollar of taxable tangible property within the O'Fallon Fire Protection District shown by the last completed assessment, shall be a total of **\$0.7818 Cents** per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars assessed valuation for the general operating expenses as provided in Sections 321.610 and 321.241 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
2. The 2020 tax levy within the O'Fallon Fire Protection District, when levied upon every dollar of taxable tangible property within the O'Fallon Fire Protection District shown by the last completed assessment, shall be a total of **\$0.0375 Cents** per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars assessed valuation for the purpose of providing revenue to fund the employees pension plan of the District as provided in Section 321.610 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

3. The 2020 tax levy within the O'Fallon Fire Protection District, when levied upon every dollar of taxable tangible property within the O'Fallon Fire Protection District shown by the last completed assessment, shall be a total of **\$0.0413 Cents** per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars assessed valuation for the purpose of providing revenue required for debt service as provided in Section 321.260 and 321.330 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
  
4. 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 shall set an annual reimbursement rate for financing pursuant to Chapter 99 RSMo, Chapter 100 RSMo and Chapter 353 RSMo. **The reimbursement rate for the District beginning upon the approval of the District's tax rate shall be 100%.** 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.**
  
5. A duly authenticated copy of this Resolution is to be submitted to the Collector of Revenue of St. Charles County, Missouri for collection of the tax rate upon the assessed valuation of all taxable tangible property within the District, in addition to several other taxes, as may be levied by the St. Charles County Council.

**THIS RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED THIS 10th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

(SEAL)