

**O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE (CPC) via Zoom due to COVID-19**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, September 14, 2020 – via Zoom

1. VP Jim Worman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** (Recording Secretary Lucido conducted roll call)

Dave Buck	<b>Present</b>	Asst Chief Moore	<b>Present</b>
John Cook	<b>Excused</b>	Pres Dr. Ottomeyer	<b>Excused</b>
Jamie Cronk	<b>Excused</b>	Kelly Rector	<b>Present</b>
Joe Donahue	<b>Excused</b>	Teri Reiter	<b>Excused</b>
Jim Frain	<b>Excused</b>	Dir. Matt Simmons	<b>Present</b>
Dir Matt Gober	<b>Excused</b>	Chief Tom Vineyard	<b>Present</b>
Tony Graceffa	<b>Present</b>	Assistant Chief Vomund	<b>Present</b>
Dir Bill Laughlin	<b>Present</b>	Sr. Michaleen Vomund	<b>Present</b>
Mark Morrison	<b>Present</b>	Vice Pres. Jim Worman	<b>Present</b>

**Guests:** None.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

VP Worman asked for any questions or comments regarding the January 27, 2020 minutes of the Citizen Planning Committee Meeting. There being none, Director Laughlin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dave Buck. All members present were in favor of approving the January 27, 2020 minutes as presented; none opposed; Absent: Cook, Cronk, Donahue, Frain, Gober, Ottomeyer, and Reiter. **MOTION PASSES.**

4. **Reports:**

A) Assistant Chief Ken Vomund

- Equipment - New E-One ladder truck was received and put into service mid-May 2020. It's running well.
- Purchased small personal thermal imaging cameras to be kept on the trucks so each firefighter can carry one at an incident; one large thermal imaging camera remains housed on each truck.
- Training: Due to COVID-19 all outside training has been cancelled. District will begin an in-house Driver/Operator Class.

B) Assistant Chief Brian Moore

- Has been working on obtaining PPE and on policies and procedures dealing with COVID-19. To-date any firefighter that has tested positive for COVID-19 has recovered and is back on duty.
- Outreach and Shop members have been assisting St. Vincent DePaul, the Salvation Army, and Ft. Zumwalt School District's food banks. Outreach offered Scholarships to the District's 5 high schools and had a good response, giving out 3 scholarships.

C) Fire Marshal Mark Morrison:

- Fire Prevention Bureau: - New Business construction and permits have increased this year; continue to conduct Daycare inspections.
- Discussion of several commercial businesses that included 12,000 sf. Professional Development building for Ft. Zumwalt School District; possible large apartment developments on Mexico Rd & Bryan Rd, and on Veterans Memorial Parkway; and a Dental Office at Hwy K & Mexico Road.
- Safety education is on hold due to COVID-19, and October Fire Safety Day, Christmas Pictures with Santa; and Easter pictures were cancelled.

D) Chief Vineyard

- District members participated in a fundraiser event for an organization called "The Little Black Book", which raises proceeds for Toys for Tots, raising \$10,000 this past year.
- Financial Overview:
  - District's annual Audit has been completed; we have an A+ rating due to how fiscally responsible the District is. In the process of re-funding our Bonds which will give an approximate \$450,000 savings over the life of the bonds. The District's tax rates remain flat, and remains in very good financial shape mainly due to the Board being fiscally conservative.
  - The District has placed Proposition F – a 10 cent pension tax increase on the November ballot. The current pension tax is 5 cents, however, due to Hancock, the District can only receive 3.75 cents. This tax was passed in 1994 when the District had 17 employees, we currently have 71 employees. The pension tax has never been increased. There was debate whether this is a good time to place this on the ballot, however, many of our firefighters are nearing 55-58 years old and still on the truck, not retired because the pension is not adequate for them at this time. The main goal is for firefighters to be able to retire before their bodies break down as this is a highly physically stressful job; and it is not good practice to have 58-63 year olds on the truck; firefighters have high incidents of heart attacks, cancer, and suicide. Ten Cents per \$100 assessed valuation means an increase of \$47.00/year for a home valued at \$250,000. If anyone has any questions regarding this initiative, please contact Chief Vineyard directly.

- Operations:

VP Worman asked if District firefighters have been able to stay away from the COVID-19 virus. Chief Vineyard stated for the first few months, yes, but the last few months we have had several infected employees, and more that were exposed, mainly due to the Governor opening up the State. The District is taking all precautions and our employees are responsible, but it is difficult to know where they have been exposed. Ms. Rector asked if any of our members had to be hospitalized or were symptomatic. Chief Vineyard stated 3 members that tested positive all had symptoms of fever, fatigue, loss of taste and smell, but no one was hospitalized. Chief Vineyard reviewed the safety measures that include everyone who reports to duty is screened with temperature checks and a questionnaire, including temperature checks on their second day. We have had extra cleaning from an outside company that sanitizes the stations and administration building, and have

cancelled outside events and stations tours, with no outside visitors in the stations. District members have done an excellent job of keeping COVID-19 out of the stations.

5. **Unfinished Business:**

- None.

6. **New Business**

- None.

7. **Good of the Order**

- Director Laughlin asked everyone to stay safe and take of themselves and their neighbors.

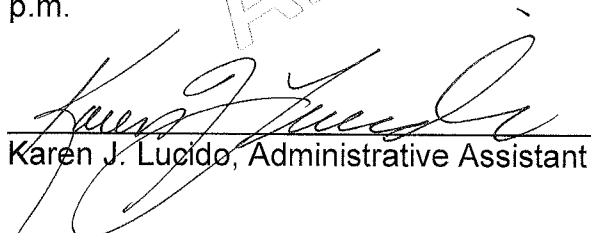
- Chief Vineyard stated that you may see media coverage regarding Proposition F, and he would be glad to answer all questions.

8. **Next CPC Meeting**

VP Worman announced the next CPC meeting is set for Monday, October 26, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

VP Worman called for meeting adjournment. All members present were in favor of adjournment, none opposed, Absent: Cook, Cronk, Donahue, Frain, Gober, Ottomeyer, and Reiter.

There being no further business, VP Worman adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.



Karen J. Lucido, Administrative Assistant