

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 24, 2020

A Regular Session of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, September 24, 2020, via Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19. Director Laughlin called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 Chiefs Andy Parrish, and Matt Braile, Shop Steward Captain Eric Johnston, Captain Darren Daly, District employees, and Board Administrative Assistant Karen Lucido.

The following guest was present: Attorney Neil Bruntrager

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

A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve minutes of the prior Regular Board Meeting of August 27, 2020, Regular Board Work Session and Public Hearing of September 10, 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 \$3,543,871.35. Director Laughlin requested clarification on an invoice for installed station solar panels; Chief Vineyard stated the company that initially installed the panels at Station #4 was Brightergy, which was taken over by Solar Ocean. There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Director Laughlin to pay bills as presented, seconded by Director Simmons. Upon roll call the vote was:

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

Director Laughlin thanked the chiefs, firefighters, staff and board members for all their well-wishes.

Director Gober said the well-wishes and prayers of all continue for Director Laughlin.

Chief Vineyard read an email from a citizen (former Green Bay Wisconsin firefighter) who witnessed Captain Daly and crew's response to a vehicle incident on the highway; commending them for their quick actions and professionalism.

Shop Steward Johnston stated that IAFF members send their well wishes and prayers to Director Laughlin. Cpt Johnston stated that IAFF 2665 donated \$5,400 for MDA this year as firefighters were unable to do the Boot Collection due to COVID-19. The Shop is working on materials regarding Proposition F.

Administrative Assistant Lucido read the following communications:

1. A card wishing firefighters well from The Henry Clever group of Community Living; stating their members miss stopping by on Fridays to help at the stations and offices.

2. An email from Ms. Boyle of Ft. Zumwalt School District thanking Assistant Chief Moore and the firefighters for their assistance in donating food and offers of help delivering food to their families in need over the summer.

3. A letter from Dr. DuBray of Ft. Zumwalt School District thanking Assistant Chief Moore and Firefighter Community Outreach for their continued support to the school's at-risk students by donations and assisting with fundraisers.

OLD BUSINESS

There was further discussion regarding COVID-19 Demobilization Plan. Chief Vineyard stated the District is continuing to follow the same rules as we have in the past few months; Fire Prevention Bureau is on quarantine and should return next

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week. We continue to have exposures, most from outside of work; St. Charles County COVID numbers continue to rise.

There was further discussion regarding bond refinancing. Chief Vineyard had met with Joy Howard who reviewed the different options of: General Offer Refunding or Deferred Payment. Deferred Payment would defer interest to 2025 allowing the District to pay down the principal quicker and result in an approximate \$34,000 cost savings. Recommendation is to go with the deferred interest plan as the best option.

Discussion held. Consensus from Board members to move forward with the Resolution for refunding bonds for approval at the October 8 Board meeting.

There was further discussion regarding Proposition F. Chief Vineyard stated that information about this proposition has been placed on the District's website explaining the proposition and why it is necessary; this is information only, nothing indicating which way to vote on it. Mailers and the District Newsletter will be mailed within the next few weeks, for information purposes only. Shop Steward Johnston stated the IAFF Local will place signs and also send out 2 mailers.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Vineyard stated the District exhausted the capital projects fund in 2018. The 2021 Budget contains new SCBA purchases due to the age of the current SCBAs, at an approximate \$500,000 cost. St. Louis Bank offers a lease-purchase agreement for SCBAs, quoting rates at approximately 2% with a loan equaling the 12 year life expectancy of the SCBAs. This would allow the District not to dip into its Reserves or spend \$500,000 out of General Revenue. Also, once the current bonds are re-funded the District could go for a no-tax bond increase down the road that could pay off the SCBAs. Discussion held. Consensus from the Board members to look at a Lease-Purchase Agreement in 2021 for the purchase of new SCBAs.

Chief Vineyard stated Spinner & Kummer's auditing 3-year agreement with the District expired with this year's audit and recommended continuing with this company for another 3-year agreement. Discussion held, and consensus that this company is professional, thorough, good to work with, and consistently has a lower quote whenever the District has gone out to bid. Chief Vineyard will request a 3-year

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Agreement letter from Spinner & Kummer P.C. for Board approval prior to the end of 2020.

Director Laughlin made a motion to go into closed session at 7:28 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 representatives and its attorneys; and (9) Preparation, including any discussion or work product on behalf of a public governmental body or its representatives for negotiations with employee groups, 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 7:50 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, October 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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 7:51 p.m.


William Laughlin, Chairman

ATTEST:


Karen Lucido, Recording Secretary
Board Administrative Assistant