

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**OF THE O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**May 27, 2021**

A Regular Session of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, May 27, 2021, via Zoom Meeting due to 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, Fire Marshal Mark Morrison, Battalion Chiefs Andy Parrish and Matt Braile, Shop Steward Captain Eric Johnston, Captains Darren Daly, Kevin Davis, and Mike Alcorn, Firefighter Brett Tichenor, District employees, and Board Administrative Assistant Karen Lucido. Assistant Chief Brian Moore was excused.

The following guests were present: Attorney Neil Bruntrager, Attorney Jon Bruntrager

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

Director Laughlin asked for a moment of silence in honor of Retired Chief Mike Ballmann who passed away unexpectedly. Retired Chief Michael Ballmann served the District from 1973 as a volunteer firefighter to 2014, when he retired as Fire Chief.

Chief Vineyard requested two items be added to the agenda: "New Badge purchase" as Item c., and "SB45-Critical Illness Cancer Trust" as Item d. under New Business. Board Consensus to add these two items to the agenda; no Nays; all present.

A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve minutes of the prior Regular Board Meeting of April 22, 2021, the Regular Board Work Session of May 13, 2021, Pension Board Minutes of November 17, 2020, and Pension Board Minutes of March 2, 2021 as presented, seconded by Director Simmons. Upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes:	(3)	Directors Laughlin, Simmons, and Gober
Nays:	(0)	None
Absent:	(0)	None

Motion declared and carried.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Director Gober stated a current checking account balance of \$957,460.87. There being no 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:

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

Administrative Assistant Lucido read a letter from Engineer Tom Vogelgesang thanking all who participated in the recent fundraiser for St. Baldrick's, raising over \$6,500 for a cure for childhood cancer, and raising over \$75,868 over the past six years.

Accreditation Manager Captain Alcorn, stated that the District's Accreditation has been approved this year and we are working on re-Accreditation for next year. Board members stated their appreciation for all the work Captain Alcorn is doing towards the District's re-Accreditation.

Chief Vineyard stated that the personal property tax legislation was amended to only affect St. Charles County before going to a vote; and the bill was then killed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was further discussion regarding the District's COVID-19 Demobilization Plan. Chief Vineyard stated all District precautions remain status quo. Attorney Bruntrager stated that because we don't know who has and hasn't received vaccines, in keeping with CDC guidelines, and once a certain threshold is met and the National Institute of Health weighs in, he is recommending continuing public meetings via Zoom at least through the end of June. Discussion held. Board consensus to continue holding public meetings via Zoom through the end of June, when this will be revisited, per Attorney recommendation.

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There was further discussion regarding the Pension Plan. Shop Steward Captain Johnston stated that the Shop held informational meetings and all 71 members voted this week whether to move forward with the proposed defined benefit plan. The vote was: 62-yes; 8-no; 1-abstain. Captain Johnston thanked Chief Vineyard for all his hard work in bringing this benefit together; and for all the behind-the-scenes work he put in to meet with employees both individually and by crew to ensure all questions were addressed. Captain Johnston thanked the Board members for approving this benefit. Director Laughlin congratulated the employees on being able to receive this needed benefit. Chief Vineyard stated that we are now in the design phase of the Plan and he will be giving the Board regular updates.

NEW BUSINESS:

Assistant Chief Vomund stated that Station #1 is in need of a new compressor. They do have a breathing air compressor, but a regular compressor is needed for routine tasks such as filling tires. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve purchase of one, New Curtis 5hp 2-stage air compressor from Alltype Compressor Service Company per their quote dated May 24, 2021 for a total cost of \$2,152.00; Chief Vineyard authorized to sign proposal; 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 several policies regarding hiring and promotions were revised and approved by Labor Management, and posted for employee comments. Director Laughlin questioned why changes were needed. Chief Vineyard stated that qualifications and certifications weren't changed, just components of the process, and the amount of paperwork was narrowed down to lessen how cumbersome the process is. Discussion held. Attorney Bruntrager stated he reviewed all the revisions and explained the different scenarios that would benefit both employees and employer, and he had no reservations with any of the proposed changes. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve the following 4 policies as revised: (1) SOP 112.02-Captain's Promotional Process; (2) SOP 119.00-Hiring Procedures; SOP 119.01-Hiring Process for Recruit Firefighter/EMT-P; and SOP 119.02-Recruit Firefighter EMT-

P Guidelines; Chief Vineyard authorized to sign policies, 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 that Engineer Kory Dunn has done much work researching new badges, and this has been previously discussed with the Board. The Board did approve this purchase for the 2020 Budget, but with COVID-19, it was put on the back burner. Chief Vineyard stated the proposed new badges would be more personalized and requested approval to begin changing over to the new badges. The badges take approximately 8-10 weeks to arrive once ordered and the changeover would be done gradually. Discussion held. Chief Vineyard requested a not to exceed budgeted amount of \$16,000 towards the purchase of new badges. Attorney Bruntrager stated since badges would be changed over gradually and individually purchased, purchases would remain under \$10,000 so no bidding process is required. Discussion held. A motion was made by Director Laughlin to approve a budget not to exceed \$16,000 for the purchase of new badges from Conway Shield of New Berlin, WI, 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 updated the Board regarding Senate Bill 45 that establishes a Critical Illness Cancer Trust for firefighters. This bill is modeled after Colorado's 2015 presumptive cancer law, however Colorado found that insurance companies routinely denied these claims. Chief Vineyard reviewed the bill's provisions, including that it would cover approximately 14 different cancers and provide an immediate benefit to the employee to offset costs of cancer care/treatment. Employees can still file worker compensation claims. This is a huge deal for firefighters in the State of Missouri who are routinely exposed to carcinogens in their line of work. Chief Vineyard will serve on the Steering Committee for this project, and the State will contribute \$5 million to capitalize the Trust. Senate Bill 45 passed the Senate by a 30-2 vote in favor, and passed the House 151-0 in favor without any attachments. The State Board of Insurance will need to okay the Trust, but that should not be an issue. The Fire Service

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will have members on the Board that will control the trust, funding will be maintained by the fire service. Attorney Bruntrager stated that fire departments/district monies will fund the Trust, not individual firefighters. This Trust will be available to every fire department and district, paid and volunteer throughout the State of Missouri, and funding will be at a tiered rate. Discussion held on the causes of cancer in the fire services and policies and procedures in place to help mitigate exposure to carcinogens.

Director Laughlin made a motion to go into closed session at 7:36 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 (12) Any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, 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.

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 Gober. Upon roll call the vote was:

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

During the Closed Session the following two motions were made:

A motion was made by Director Laughlin to give Notice to HM Risk Management that the District is terminating the P&C insurance policy with them through ESIP, effective immediately, 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 by Director Laughlin to approve Assured Partners bid for Property & Casualty and Liability Insurance as tendered by Assured Partners in their 2021-2022 Premium Summary, with a total annual package premium of \$64,805.00, effective immediately; Chief Vineyard authorized to sign documents, 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.

Director Laughlin announced the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom due to COVID-19.

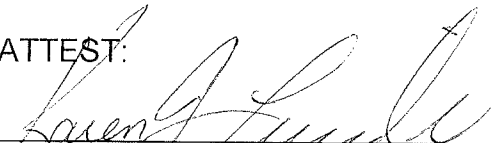
A motion was made by Director Laughlin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Simmons. Upon roll call the vote was:

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 7:52 p.m.

  
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William Laughlin, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Karen Lucido, Recording Secretary  
Board Administrative Assistant

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