

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MADISON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION**

09-20-2023

CALL TO ORDER @ 7:00 pm

ROLL CALL:

- Mr. Adams	x Mr. Gauntner	x Chief Meister
x Mr. Anderson	x Mr. Lee	x Joanne Clapp
x Mr. Donaldson	x Mr. Wayman	x Stacy Dame

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The pledge was recited by all.

REGULAR SESSION

Retired Chief Baker attended the meeting as a special guest so that he could be presented with proclamations/recognition from the MFD Board of Trustees, The White House, the Lake County Commissioners, Ohio State Fire Marshall & State Representative Jamie Callender. Chairman Gauntner presented Chief Baker with all documents and thanked him for his dedication and service to Madison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 16, 2023 Regular Session minutes were presented.

Motion made to approve the Regular Session minutes as presented by: Mr. Lee

Seconded by: Mr. Anderson

ROLL CALL: All ayes

BILLS & PAYROLL - August, 2023

Bills (\$80,835.77), Tax Collection Fees (\$8,091.09) and Payroll (\$215,054.01) for a total of \$303,980.87 are motioned for acceptance and payment.

Ms. Clapp stated that the expenditures include payment for the new chase vehicle.

Mr. Gaunter asked for clarification of the tax collection fees; Ms. Clapp stated it's the fee we are charged for the county to collect our levy monies.

Motion made to approve bills and payroll as presented by: Mr. Wayman

Seconded by: Mr. Donaldson

ROLL CALL: All ayes

FINANCIAL REPORT - August, 2023

Joanne Clapp, Fiscal Officer, summarized the August 2023 Revenue and Expenditures (Fund Summary Report).

OPENING PUBLIC PORTION - None.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mrs. Dame stated that she has prepared two (2) resolutions which appear on the agenda under new business at the request of Chief Meister. She also pointed out that the Executive Session ORC code should be corrected to ORC 121.22(G)(1), not ORC 121.22(G)(3).

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None to report.

OLD BUSINESS - None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #23-23 - A Resolution Recognizing Tod Baker For His Years of Service to the Madison Fire District.

Mr. Anderson stated that Chief Baker did an outstanding job and brought a lot to the community, the residents and the taxpayers during his service. "You are very well thought of and will be missed. Good luck to your future."

Mr. Lee added that Chief Baker was probably the finest Chief the district had in decades. "You're people are your legacy. You've got good people under you and they succeeded. Consequently, you succeeded!. Justin has big shoes to fill."

Mr. Wayman said that Chief Baker stepped up to be Chief at a very good time, pulling the district out of its trouble and making it very solvent. "Your hard work and dedication to your job really proved the type of person you are and I really appreciate that."

Mr. Donaldson stated it has been a pleasure working with Chief Baker. "You were obviously a great leader for this department and also for this Board. I never felt misinformed and I came on right before you began as Chief. It was an interesting time and I always appreciated your forwardness and how you kept us all on the straight and narrow. Thank you."

Mr. Gauntner added that the others have already touched on all that you did but would like to add "You saved this community a lot of money during your time as Chief. Your ideas were innovative and led us to do some things that nobody else had ever done. I can't tell you how much you're going to be missed. I also cherish the friendship that developed between the two of us over the years. I couldn't have been more proud of you a couple of months ago when you represented the fire district and the community very well with regards to the Ford Road bridge. I had people tell me that is one smart guy, to which I replied, that's why he's the Chief! Thank you so very much."

Motion to accept resolution #23-23 made by: Mr. Anderson

Seconded by: Mr. Lee

ROLL CALL: All ayes

**This was passed earlier in the meeting so that Chief Baker could be excused before the regular business meeting began.

Resolution #23-24 - A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a Lighting Package for the Newly Acquired Chase Vehicle.

Motion to accept resolution #23-24 made by: Mr. Wayman
Seconded by: Mr. Anderson

Chief Meister added that several quotes were obtained and the officers felt this package fit the needs the best and it's a local company out of Ashtabula.

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Resolution #23-25 - A Resolution Authorizing and Ratifying Acceptance and Execution of Documents Necessary to Resolve a Pending VSSR Claim.

Motion to accept resolution #23-25 made by: Mr. Donaldson
Seconded by: Mr. Lee

Mrs. Dame added that the Ohio Industrial Commission has approved the settlement so once the resolution is passed we can send the check and payment would be completed.

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Resolution #23-26 - A Resolution Approving and Amending Permanent Appropriations (to make the payment(s) for the VSSR Claim).

Motion to accept resolution #23-26 made by: Mr. Anderson
Seconded by: Mr. Lee

ROLL CALL: All ayes

CHIEF'S REPORT

The following members are recognized for their anniversaries: FF's Erin Tennant - 8 years, Jesse Sopko - 7 years, Joe Romischer - 6 years & Korey Baker - 5 years.

EMS revenue is 73.2% of yearly projection while tax revenue is 104.4% of budgeted collection YTD.

Staffing has been fluid; we continue to require overtime to cover vacations and injury/illness. Weekend coverage remains challenging. Part time new hires will be starting soon (potentially 3-4). Hopefully this will help eliminate some overtime.

Volume continues to increase. Mr. Lee requested that Chief Meister revise the graph to reflect the upwards trend. Anticipating increased volume once the Urgent Care is opened. Already on pace to reach 3700 for the year. The group will need to discuss/consider increasing staffing again after the first of the year.

The UH Urgent Care is slated to open October 3rd. Final inspections have been on-going. All to be kept apprised.

The second new squad (2132) was delivered mid-August and is in service. The new engines (2133) delivery has been pushed back to December due to engine availability issues. The new chase vehicle was picked up and is just awaiting the lights/sirens package.

There have been some improvements made to the part time application process. A fillable application has been added to our website. Once completed by the applicant, an email is received by Lt. Faulhammer.

The Station #2 Fitness room project is in the build phase (slow progress due to call volume, etc.). Chief Meister and Captain Henry will discuss possible solutions for a quicker completion. The officers will be moving forward with full-time testing and officer promotion processes this fall.

October 1st is the target date for making a reporting system vendor decision (ERS has been bought by ESO). If the district remains with UH Medical control at Geneva, there is no extra charge from Sansio. This system is already used for EMS reports. Quotes from ESO for the next two years totaled approximately \$12,000. Chief Meister stated this is an acceptable option, provided that the system works for the inspections side.

Some district members had heard that other departments had already received the ARPA retention grant payments. Chief Meister reached out to the state and to a couple of the local departments. Both confirmed that no payments have been released/paid to date. The State will send a contract which will need to be signed and returned before monies are received.

Chief Meister is working with the ADAHMS Board (Crossroads President, Joe Parkin) to compile a list of options for the \$11,200 Wellness Grant which MFD received. He would like the unions to decide what the money gets spent on so that it is useful for the members.

Mr. Lee & Mr. Gauntner both noted the continued trend upwards in call volume. Mr. Lee asked if the increase continues to be from the many nursing facilities located within the district. Chief Meister responded that they are a contributing factor, however increased call volume is county wide. The district is putting repeat patients in touch with Job & Family Services (Adult protective division) or the Council on Aging when appropriate to help eliminate some of the volume. Mr. Gaunter asked if there are still a high number of falls (invalid assists). Chief Meister said that does add to the volumes for sure.

Mr. Donaldson asked if funds from the Wellness Grant received by the MFD could be used to hire a contractor. Chief Meister responded that there are very specific requirements to utilize the monies and does not believe that would be an approved option but he will double check.

Chief Meister has a preliminary budget meeting on October 22nd with Ms. Clapp and plans to present at the November 15th meeting.

CLOSING PUBLIC PORTION - None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss

Personnel/Compensation, pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) was made at 19:35 by: Mr. Donaldson
 Seconded by: Mr. Anderson ROLL CALL: All ayes

Regular Session was reconvened at 19:50. Mr. Gaunter stated that no action is needed at this time.

CLOSING BOARD COMMENTS - None.

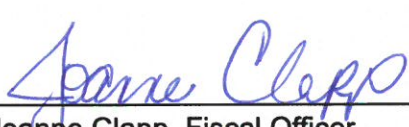
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made @ 19:51 by: Mr. Anderson


Seconded by: Mr. Lee

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Accepted and approved: October 18, 2023



Joanne Clapp, Fiscal Officer



Mr. Ken Gauntner, Chairman