

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

10-18-2023

CALL TO ORDER @ 7:00 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The pledge was recited by all.

Mr. Anderson requested that all participate in a moment of silence for Jesse Sopko and his family.

Mr. Gauntner stated that he spoke with Captain Sopko earlier today and Jesse is slowly making improvements. We all wish him continued healing.

REGULAR SESSION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 20, 2023 Regular Session minutes were presented.

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

Seconded by: Mr. Adams

ROLL CALL: All ayes

BILLS & PAYROLL - September, 2023

Bills (\$109,987.41), Tax Collection Fees (\$635.59) and Payroll (\$172,854.36) for a total of \$283,477.36 are motioned for acceptance and payment.

Ms. Clapp noted that the bills included the second half dispatch payment and the TPA fees for our workman's compensation.

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

Seconded by: Mr. Wayman

ROLL CALL: All ayes

FINANCIAL REPORT - September, 2023

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

Ms. Clapp stated that she and Chief Meister will meet on Sunday to draft the 2024 budget to present at the November meeting.

Ms. Clapp advised all that the next bond payment is due in November. It may be financially beneficial to pay off vs. making the payment - she will provide numbers at the November meeting.

OPENING PUBLIC PORTION - None.

LEGAL COUNSEL - Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None to report.

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Retention Grant: Chief Meister informed the Board he has received the final paperwork for the state to process before depositing the money to the District's account.

Ms. Clapp stated that the pension board has ruled that withholding is required from the checks. The question at hand is who will pay the approximate \$18,000; each recipient's check can be reduced by the employer portion for medicare and pension, or the District can cover the amount. Discussion ensued and ultimately all agreed the District should cover the cost of the employer portion as a thank you to those who worked during that difficult time.

Motion made to cover the employer pension portion made by: Mr. Adams

Seconded by: Mr. Anderson

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Ms. Clapp will survey all recipients on preference of direct deposit or live check. Once monies have been received from the state, the District has 30 days to distribute to the staff and provide required proof of payments to the State of Ohio.

Mrs. Dame advised the board that she has reviewed all paperwork and agrees everything is in line. Her recommendation is that it can be signed and submitted to the state. She also advised the Board that there is also an option that allows for the District to require members to pay back monies (amount can be prorated) should they leave the District prior to the end of the grant period which is December 31, 2024. After thorough discussion, all agreed that they will not utilize the option to require payback. Ms. Dame reminded the group that records will need to be kept for three (3) years past the grant program closing date of December 31, 2024.

FF Michael Brush (President, Local IAFF #3141) was in attendance and thanked the Board for absorbing the pension cost stating "your continued support is greatly appreciated." Mr. Gauntner responded that the Board appreciates the dedication from all members!

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #23-27 - A Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of the Medical Mutual Agreement (district insurance plan) with a 0.88% increase for 2024.

Motion to accept resolution #23-27 made by: Mr. Anderson

Seconded by: Mr. Wayman

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Resolution #23-28 - A Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of the MetLife Agreement (district basic life and basic AD&D insurance) with zero increase in premiums for 2024.

Motion to accept resolution #23-28 made by: Mr. Adams

Seconded by: Mr. Anderson

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Resolution #23-29 - A Resolution Authorizing Additional Compensation to Laurie Hogya.

Motion to accept resolution #23-29 made by: Mr. Anderson

Seconded by: Mr. Adams

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Resolution #23-30 - A Resolution Authorizing Additional Compensation to Joanne Clapp.

Motion to accept resolution #23-30 made by: Mr. Anderson

Seconded by: Mr. Wayman

ROLL CALL: All ayes

*This resolution was approved after the Board returned from Executive Session later in the meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The following members are recognized for their anniversaries: FF Scott Row - 20 years.

EMS revenue is 82.2% of yearly projection while tax revenue is 107.7% of budgeted collection YTD.

Staffing has been fluid; we continue to require overtime to cover vacations and injury/medical. Weekend coverage remains challenging. Part time new hires (4) are in training. Hopefully this will help eliminate some overtime. Chief Meister thanked all members for stepping up to fill most of the coverage gaps.

Volume continues to be on pace to reach 3700 for the year (3659 in 2022). The group will need to discuss/consider increasing staffing again after the first of the year.

Vehicles: The air brakes on 2133 were repaired this month, the new chase is awaiting the lights/sirens package arrival and installation. New engine is still slated for a December delivery. Countryside Truck has recommended a complete rebuild of the engine in 2113 (estimated cost of \$10-20K). Chief Meister will discuss with Captain Henry the return on service (may not be worth fixing vs the life expectancy).

Pictures were distributed to all of the progress made on the Station #2 barn gym. The finishing phase is beginning with insulation and paint next and then equipment.

The officers made a final decision to move forward with Sansio as our reporting system for the fire side (already utilizing this for the EMS side). A savings of \$10-12K will be seen by selecting them.

All were advised that the full-time testing is to take place on Friday November 3, 2023 at Station #3. The District received 15 total applications (11 external and 4 internal). Promotional process for Lieutenant is also moving forward with 8 internal candidates.

Concord Fire Department is holding a fundraising event on Sunday, 10/22/23 during the Browns game (noon until end of game) at Red Hawk Grill. There will be a chinese auction, gun raffle and bourbon raffle. Monies raised will be donated to the Sopko family. Chief Meister encouraged attendance to support the entire Sopko family. There is also going to be a spaghetti dinner/chinese auction fundraiser held on December 2nd from 4:30 - 6:30 pm by South Central Ambulance District to benefit the families of all involved. It will be at the Eagleville Bible Church on State Rt 45.

Mr. Gauntner asked if there has been much volume for calls to the new UH Urgent Care. Chief Meister replied that so far he believes there has only been 1. Lt. Faulhammer stated that the staff were very nice to work with. Mr. Gauntner asked that calls to the UC be tracked and reported at each meeting.

CLOSING PUBLIC PORTION - None.

CLOSING BOARD COMMENTS - None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss Personnel - Performance/Compensation, pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) was made at 19:37 by: Mr. Anderson

Seconded by: Mr. Adams

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Regular Session was reconvened at 19:55. Mr. Gauntner stated that the Board would like to proceed with motion/approval of Resolution #23-30 (see New Business section).

Mr. Gauntner also stated that the fees for our legal services have not been increased in several years (2018). He asked that the Board consider increasing the monthly fee to \$1,200 and the hourly rate to \$150, effective November 1, 2023.

Motion to approve increasing legal counsel fees made by: Mr. Anderson

Seconded by: Mr. Wayman

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Mrs. Dame thanked the Board for their generosity.

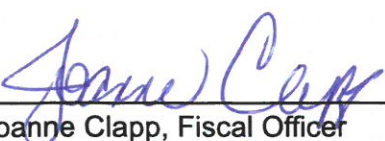
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made @ 19:58 by: Mr. Anderson

Seconded by: Mr. Adams

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Accepted and approved: November 15, 2023



Joanne Clapp, Fiscal Officer



Mr. Ken Gauntner, Chairman