

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

09-17-2025

CALL TO ORDER @ 1900 hours.

ROLL CALL: x Mr. Adams
 x Mr. Donaldson
 x Mr. Sill

x Mr. Anderson
- Mr. Lee
x Mr. Wayman

x Chief Meister
x Joanne Clapp
x Stacy Dame

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The pledge was recited by all.

REGULAR SESSION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Session minutes from August 20, 2025 were presented for approval.

Motion to accept the minutes of , 2025 August 20, 2025 was made by: Mr. Anderson

Seconded by: Mr. Adams

ROLL CALL: 1 abstain (Donaldson); 4 ayes

BILLS & PAYROLL - August, 2025

Bills (\$99,835.27), Payroll (\$204,460.42) and Tax Collection Fee (8,089.39) for a total of \$312,385.08 are motioned for acceptance and payment.

Ms. Clapp stated that extraordinary expenses for August consisted of \$30K to Richmond & Richmond for the insurance renewal.

Motion to accept bills and payroll was made by: Mr. Adams

Seconded by: Mr. Sill

ROLL CALL: All ayes

FINANCIAL REPORT - August, 2025

Ms. Clapp provided a detail of finances from the fund summary. She noted that December will have two larger expenses; the holiday and longevity payouts to staff, and the next loan payment.

Mr. Sill asked Ms. Clapp how many more payments are left on the loan. Ms. Clapp responded that it is the remainder of 2025 and all of 2026. He noted the interest income is strong and asked her if she expects that the interest will continue to look good as it has the last few months. Ms. Clapp stated that as far as she knows it should remain at a similar level. He also noted that expenses for legal fees are over budget for 2025 and asked that she provide him with the legal fee expenses for the last four or five (4-5) years.

Ms. Clapp presented the following for approval:

Resolution #25-18 - Approval of the 2026 Lake County Auditor's Tax Budget - A resolution approving and adopting the tax budget of the Madison Fire District for the fiscal year commencing on January 1, 2026 and continuing through December 31, 2026.

Motion to approve Resolution #25-18 Approval of the 2026 Tax Budget was made by: Mr. Adams

Seconded by: Mr. Anderson

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Ms. Clapp asked that the board vote on utilizing Zapitelli Financial Services as a deferred compensation provider. Mr. Sill stated that he has some reservations, and would be happy to discuss the program. Chair Wayman asked Mr. Sill to please express his thoughts given his financial background (as well as any other Board members).

Mr. Sill explained that although he is not allowed to provide financial advice, he has utilized Equitable in the past and they provide services from an annuity company. They focus mostly on variable annuities and he speaks from a standpoint of wanting to ensure our members are taken care of properly. He stated that they are known to have some redundant tax benefit inside the 457 plan. It also has higher fees, has a surrender schedule with penalties, lower performance due to fee drag and are designed to more protect the advisory, not the account holders. Their plan allows account access to the advisors which is not ideal, and many subscribers are not aware of what they are getting into.

Mr. Adams asked if this plan was something that the fulltime Union is requesting and if those interested are preparing to retire; Chief referred the question to Ms. Clapp who stated she was made aware that a few of our staff were interested in doing this after a presentation was done by Mr. Zapitelli. Mr. Adams asked Ms. Clapp if the majority of staff are utilizing another product. Ms. Clapp stated that she already has issues with the current provider (Empower - TPA) periodically rejecting contributions on behalf of our employees, so she would not recommend the District add another program.

After a brief discussion, all Board members present agree to not participate in the program at this time.

OPENING PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Mark Faulhammer and Mrs. Kathleen Carter Faulhammer were present. Mrs. Carter Faulhammer asked that she be allowed to address the Board and then read the following statement:

"Dear Madison Fire District Trustees, Chief Meister and Legal Counsel Stacy Dame,

I would like to present facts re: Captain Brian Faulhammer leading up to this meeting.

Captain Brian Faulhammer has been with the Madison Fire District as a Firefighter since 2000, during which time he has represented this department to the community with pride, and self respect. He has worked his way through the ranks to Captain Obtaining many certificates and specialized training to provide the best care for the Department and the community.

He has been the BWC Representative for Local 3141 for 12 years during which time he has handled many injured workers in the same way this particular worker was handled which was

established by Joanne Clapp in the affidavit written long after the fact from November 26, 2023, on June 27, 2025.

Today we meet again to rehash the business that has lead up to **YOU** as a **Board of Trustees for Madison Township** to discipline an innocent Firefighter who performed the duties without so much as a Policy or Protocol defining his role as a Bureau of Workers Compensation Representative for his fellow Local 3141 Firefighters.

As discussed repeatedly, from the time the injured worker reported their injury on 09/11/2023 to today, the course that was taken was not in any way obstructed, presented any **false statement or rumor concerning** this matter: SOP 100.00P (7)(i). If anything the injured worker has caused their own demise regarding a 'hostile environment', and encouraging another person to place an anonymous 'fraud' charge on June 19, 2024. If Capt. Brian Faulhammer had indeed placed the fraud charge you are accusing him of, C-86 form would be available for public knowledge. This anonymous 'Fraud' claim was called in prior to Capt. Brian Faulhammer talking with the BWC regarding his hypothetical questions on June 21, 2024. That unfortunately, is not to this day spelled out in a **Job position**, which prompted his phone call to BWC, because it has not been approved by **YOU, the Board of Trustees**.

Any inaccuracies for the injured worker were not made by Capt. Brian Faulhammer but by your own Legal Counsel and Fiscal Officer Joanne Clapp, as shown throughout this case.

The Independent investigator who worked with your current Legal Counsel, Stephanie Landgraf, Esq., now a Magistrate in Lake County Domestic Relations Court, her history does not include investigations into Workers Compensation law but instead: family law, custody, child support, divorce and dissolutions, has not produced any written investigative records regarding her investigation. The only statement that seems to link her to it was that Capt. Brian Faulhammer was consistent with his responses as to not filing a Fraud report.

As to **YOU, the Madison Board of Trustees** to have sworn to uphold the law to the best of your ability have committed your own crimes in agreeing to use Tax payors dollars to place an injured worker on paid status and give payors \$2,235.50 approximately.

This is, in fact, a crime of misuse of public funds and against BWC that states specifically they are not only to **NOT** receive these benefits but also **NOT** to be working during this disability. The restrictions are printed and/or emailed to said person with each claim. They have to answer that question with each pay. This has constituted a crime from both **YOU, Madison Township Trustees** and the injured worker. The injured worker admitted working from home and at the station restocking during their injury. This can be pursued by **US, the Tax Payors**, even though the BWC, Ohio Ethics Commission, or Attorney General has not as of yet filed a case against the two of you. Local 3141 states in the contract what each employee will earn during disability, again **YOU, Madison Township Trustees**, chose to ignore the contract and give what was not theirs. The past Local 3141 employees (which have since requested their BWC files) that have not had that privilege may be your 'Fraud' caller and not the representative for the BWC at the time, Capt. Brian Faulhammer. Any FRAUD complaint with form C-86 would

have had to go through Chief Meister and Stacy Dame first. Once again no solid proof, only accusations.

Just as YOU, Madison Township Trustees, have assumed the email Brian sent to Chief Meister and Stacy Dame was an admittance of a Fraud claim, in fact had you asked for clarification instead of ASSUMING (we all understand what the word ASSUME means) you would not be here today again, wasting tax payers money. This has become a disturbing waste of time and energy by all involved when there are so many more important issues in Madison Township that truly need your attention. I am recommending you discontinue this pursuit of discipline, with no actual proof of anything you have shared to this point, can be substantiated".

Kathleen Carter Faulhammer
5623 River Road
Madison, Ohio 44057
phone number redacted

*Copy of statement attached as Exhibit A

Chairman Wayman thanked Mrs. Faulhammer for her comments and asked if anyone else had any statements at this time.

Mr. Mark Faulhammer (same address as above) asked why no investigative reports have been released to date. Chair Wayman replied that the reason is due to the case currently in an on-going status. Mr. Faulhammer stated he feels it should be handled the same as a court case where both sides are provided with all evidence being used. Ms. Dame responded by stating "All public records and all responsive records are being produced", adding that there are multiple requests currently and all are being answered.

LEGAL COUNSEL - Ms. Dame shared that the only item she had is that she is requesting a brief executive session to discuss pending litigation, per ORC 121.22(G)(3).

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy #100 - Fire Service Authority

This policy was brought to all for review and approval. Ms. Dame explained that the only change made was in section 100.6 Supervisory Authority; The wording was changed to any Officer as suggested, instead of any Captain may relieve...

Ms. Dame stated also that she has reviewed the policy and suggests that where it refers to ORC 737.11 and ORC 505.37 (2 places) that it also lists ORC 505.371 which pertains to joint fire districts so that all sections are being referred to.

Chair Wayman asked for a motion to accept Policy #100 - Fire Service Authority with Ms. Dame's suggested edits; motion made by: Mr. Anderson
Seconded by: Mr. Adams

ROLL CALL: All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #25-19 Approval of the Lake County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Agreement for the period January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2031.

Ms. Dame stated that she has reviewed the agreement and it is literally word for word exactly the same as each previous agreement that has been signed with exception of the rates that are listed for each year, including the \$600 per station for cellular VPN as well as the \$4,000 per year maintenance fee with additional fees to connect. She added that Chief Meister asked her to confirm that the District has an out clause; the agreement does indeed have a provision that provided the District gives six (6) months written notice prior to January 1 of the following year, the agreement can be terminated. For example, the District would need to provide notice to them in June of any given year for the agreement to end on December 31st of the same year.

The board members have some reservations about the significant increase in the cost of the proposed agreement (approximately 6% per year), as well as the additional fees being added. Chief Meister explained that many of the local Chiefs are also unhappy with the additional costs associated with the new agreement, however there are not any viable options other than Central at this time although with the roll out of NextGen 911 he anticipates there will be additional options that become available. He explained that all entities have been put on a tier structure based on call volume and at the end of the 5 years, all Tier I will pay the same, Tier II the same, etc. Chief Meister will do some additional research on prospective options and associated costs.

Chair Wayman asked for a motion to approve Resolution #25-19 Approving the Lake County Sheriff's Dispatch agreement; made by: Mr. Donaldson

Seconded by: Mr. Wayman

ROLL CALL: (2 ayes, 3 nays)

Chief Meister was directed to approach Central/LC Commissioners prior to the October meeting to see if they would negotiate on the rate as it is over 12% plus the additional charges for call volumes and station VPN. Chief Meister will reach out to them and update the Board accordingly. Chief Meister attended a meeting with Willoughby dispatch who explained that they would like to take on additional departments once their new headquarters is completed, however he was not sure if they would be able to accommodate the volume of calls Madison receives. Chief Meister asked for an estimate/draft agreement, which to date, has not been received.

Mrs. Faulhammer suggested that someone should reach out to suburban areas such as outside of Columbus to see how they handle their dispatch. Chief Meister stated he would take that into consideration.

Additional Policies for Review:

#200 - Organizational Structure, #201 - District Directives, #202 - Training, #203 - Liability Claims, #204 - Electronic Mail, #205 - Administrative Communications, #214 - ADA Compliance, & #215 - Limited English Proficiency Services

Ms. Dame noted that she had a few issues with the policies (to ensure that we are providing all of the specific items listed within the policies or that the items can/should be removed (i.e. the ADA and the LEP policies) because they are very specific. Ms. Dame will get her suggested revisions to Chief Meister.

After some discussion, the Board requested that a standard procedure be put into place. They would like the policies sent to them at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. The policies will be reviewed individually at the next meeting and any suggested revisions noted. Said policies will then be revised and brought back to the following meeting for final review and approval.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Anniversaries: FF R. Brecker - 2 years, FF J. Romischer, FF J. Sopko, FF E. Tennant - 10 years; Congratulations to all!

Financial: EMS revenue is 77.2% of yearly projection while tax revenue is 98.2% of budgeted collection YTD. The District has spent 52.4% of the annual budget to date in 2025.

Chief Meister and Joanne have begun to draft the 2026 budget and will bring it to the October meeting for discussion/review.

Staffing: Staffing is stable with some overtime.

Volume: The District responded to 365 calls for service in July; 281 EMS and 84 Fire.

Inspections: Remain on-going; see report in your folder.

Vehicles: Chase vehicle #2147 will be at Pike's the week of 09/15/25 to repair damages obtained in the deer strike. Ambulance #2132 had PM completed along with front-end work including brakes, tie rods & alignment. Unit #2112 had PM completed as well as fixes to the A/C, evaporator leak, brakes, and alignment.

Buildings: Station #3's generator had its batteries replaced; everything looks to be working well.

Other:

Discussions with Cardinal Woods regarding the volume of calls was scheduled but Chief Meister had a family emergency that day, so the discussion will be rescheduled.

Training: VFIS training courses and a walk through of Standing Rock Farms is slated to take place this month.

CLOSING PUBLIC PORTION - No additional comments.

CLOSING BOARD COMMENTS Mr. Adams stated that given the unfortunate circumstances over the last couple of weeks for various District members (past and present), he would like all to keep those families in your thoughts and prayers.

Chair Wayman requested a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, per ORC 121.22(G)(3).

Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, per ORC 121.22(G)(3) was made @ 19:50 by: Mr. Anderson
Seconded by: Mr. Sill

ROLL CALL: All ayes

Regular session resumed at 20:02.

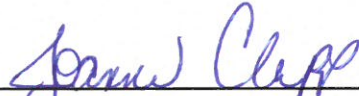
ADJOURNMENT

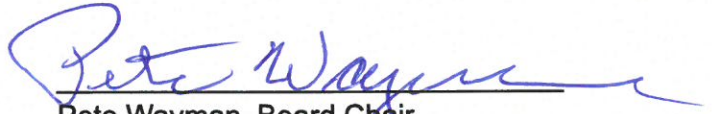
Chair Wayman stated there being no further business, he would entertain a motion to adjourn.
Motion to adjourn was made by: Mr. Adams
Seconded by: Mr. Anderson
All ayes

ROLL CALL:

Meeting was adjourned at 20:03

Accepted and Approved: October 15, 2025


Attest: Joanne Clapp, Fiscal Officer


Pete Wayman, Board Chair

September 14, 2025

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