



Monroe Fire Protection District



MINUTES OF WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair Sorensen called the work session of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe Fire Protection District to order at 6:03 p.m. EST Tuesday, August 3, 2021 via a Zoom Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public notice of the meeting had been duly made to local media by email transmission and hard copy notices had been placed in all the usual places.

Mrs. Bovenschen called the roll of the board of trustees to determine members present, absent, and to identify others present.

Those present were as follows: Vicky Sorensen, Chair
Mark Kruzan, Vice Chair
C. Ed Brown, Fiscal Officer
Christina Courtright, Trustee

Those absent were as follows: Dan Vest, Trustee

Others present were as follows: Dustin Dillard, Chief, MFD
Joel Bomgardner, Assistant Chief, Administration, MFD
Tammy Bovenschen, Administrative Assistant MFD
Lorie Robinson, Financial Assistant MFD
Christine Bartlett, Attorney, Ferguson Law
Jeff Combs, House Captain, MFD
Marty Hawk, Monroe County Council
Jim Hicks, Clear Creek Resident
Michelle Bright, Benton Township Trustee

CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chair Sorensen asked if there were any amendments or changes to the agenda. There were no changes or amendments.

**HEADQUARTERS
3953 S KENNEDY DRIVE
BLOOMINGTON IN
812-331-1906
812-336-1166 (FAX)**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Sorensen explained this was the time when any member of the public could speak to the board concerning any matter not listed on the agenda.

Mrs. Bovenschen read the policy for public comment.

Mr. Hicks read a formal statement. (attached Appendix A). Chief Dillard encouraged Mr. Hicks to attend the board meeting on August 10.

Vice-Chair Kruzan asked Chief Dillard if the board emails could be placed on our website. Chief Dillard stated that he will get that on our website.

Ms. Marty Hawk, County Council representative asked if we could get our meetings placed on the County's website. Mrs. Bartlett will speak with Mr. Cockerill, Monroe County attorney, to see if that can be done. Mrs. Bovenschen informed Ms. Hawk that notice of meetings are sent to Mr. Cockerill and Ms. Purdie at the Monroe County offices.

2022 BUDGET

a. General Fund

Chief Dillard went over the 2022 Budget line by line with the board. He did explain that in the 2022 budget, Benton and Washington townships are included. Chief Dillard stated that bringing Benton and Washington townships into the district we must also accommodate for staffing needs in those areas. He has also included 6 new firefighter positions, to place at the Washington Township building once completed.

Fiscal Officer Brown stated that he and Chief Dillard and Mrs. Robinson had worked for more than 4 hours recently and had reduced the original budget by over \$160,000. Chief Dillard would still like to make a few cuts in the budget and try to reduce it before the September 1st deadline.

Chair Sorensen asked what we used as our growth factor. Chief Dillard explained that the growth quotient was determined by DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance). This year it is 4.3%.

Chair Sorensen asked if Benton and Washington township revenue will come to us in 2022. Chief Dillard stated that yes, we should receive those first tax settlement payments in June 2022.

Vice-Chair Kruzan asked about the projected revenues. Chief Dillard explained that we have had some requests from residents to start our own ambulance service. This is something we are looking into doing, but will be a few years down the road. One thing the district would have to do is move from a BLS provider to an ALS provider. This will allow us to bring in increased revenue.

Vice-Chair Kruzan asked if we receive any funding from DNR or State of Indiana. Chief Dillard stated that we do not receive any funding from the

DNR or State of Indiana and we have no legal action to ask for money from them. Vice-Chair Kruzan questioned if a boat sunk and the individual was not from Monroe County our services are used, however no money can be requested by our department.

Mr. Hicks asked about the PS-LIT revenue. Chief Dillard explained that the fire district is entitled to \$0 dollars of the PS-Lit money. He explained that in previous years the PS-LIT committee stated that townships and smaller fire service providers should get together to make a proposal for PS-LIT money. This was completed; however, no money was awarded to Monroe Fire Protection District. Chief Dillard explained that the PS-LIT committee is comprised of City of Bloomington Council members, County Council members, Town of Ellettsville member and a member from Stinesville. Chief Dillard stated that we have been rejected for multiple years.

PS-LIT money funds the 911 central dispatch. Chief Dillard stated that there has been movement in the legislature over the last several years to better define the use of the PS LIT funds. Chief Dillard is optimistic that in the future the district will receive some funding. Chief Dillard explained that he has used conservative figures for determining revenue. The NAV (Net Assessed Value) for Benton and Washington townships are estimates provided by Baker Tilly.

Vice-Chair Kruzan asked if Chief Dillard could explain the difference in employees in the former townships to now. Chief Dillard went over the staffing prior to 2021 and now:

	Previous	Currently
Station 21	3	4
Station 22	3	4
Station 23	1 part time	2 full time
Station 25 - 5 - 15	3-3-2	4
Station 29	2	4
Station 39	2	3
Station 24 (Benton)	volunteers	2

Vice-Chair Kruzan asked how we derived at 3% Cost of Living increase. Chief Dillard explained that we look at years previously to determine. Vice-Chair Kruzan asked if the Union had any say in the salaries of the firefighters. Chief Dillard explained that we have a good faith negotiation with them currently.

Vice-Chair Kruzan noted that several lines are much lower than in the 2021 budget. Chief Dillard explained that we did budget high for 2021 as we did not know what some of the costs would be.

Vice-Chair Kruzan asked why we have doubled the amount for legal services. Chief Dillard explained that currently as of June 30, 2021 we have spent 95% of the legal counsel budget line. We would like to increase this line as we know that there will be expenses with the new merger.

Vice-Chair Kruzan asked if the district used the fuel tanks at the county highway garage. Chief Dillard explained that we did look into that, however if a fire is happening on the far northeast side of town and we need to fuel an engine, it would take much longer, since the truck would have to go back to the county garage for fuel. Assistant Chief Bomgardner has suggested purchasing tanks to place at the stations, however the liability is a factor as to why Chief Dillard isn't in favor of doing this. Chief Dillard explained that our stations are geographically placed around the county, and we use the fleet system so that our trucks can purchase at almost any pump in town.

Chair Sorensen wanted Chief Dillard to explain the different PERF lines again. Chief Dillard explained that during the merger, each department had different PERF plans, MFD firefighters are all in the 1977 PERF fund, however Van Buren and NMFT were in civilian PERF. All full time employees were offered to move into the 1977 fund if they would like, however some stayed with the civilian PERF. Any new firefighter that is hired by the district must be 1977 eligible.

Vice-Chair Kruzan asked if we need to start planning for revenue shortfalls if the annexation would be passed. Chief Dillard stated that the worst case scenario by 2025 the district may lose \$510,000, which is about 4% of our overall budget. We can begin to adjust numbers over the next few years to accommodate any shortfalls. Chief Dillard also stated that as we bring in miscellaneous revenue that will off set our shortfalls.

Chair Sorensen thanked Chief Dillard, Fiscal Officer Ed Brown, Financial Administrative Assistant Mrs. Robinson and Administrative Assistant Mrs. Bovenschen for the work we complete to make the board of trustees job easier.

b. Cumulative Fund

Chief Dillard went over the Cumulative fund and the explanations. We would like to rename a few lines:

1. Misc. Equipment 8780 to Misc, Equipment and Capital Outlays.
2. Gear to Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
3. PSLIT to Remodel

Chief Dillard also stated that the Station 21 mortgage, Rescue 22, and Engine 22 are exact payments based on the amortization schedules. We would also like to pay off the Quint loan at the end of 2021.

Chief Dillard stated that he would like to stay on schedule to purchase 2 small vehicles for the district next year. He explained that the gear purchases (PPE) is on a rotation. We have over 100 sets of gear, each set expires in 10 years, and must be replaced. We have a schedule to replace a certain number of gear each year so that we are not purchasing large quantity's all at once.

Chair Sorensen asked if there were any questions concerning the cumulative fund.

Chair Sorensen stated that she appreciated the dedication put in by our staff to help the public understand all that the district does. She stated that while she was the township trustee she went before the PS LIT board and was told that the townships need to get together and combine their requests. That is exactly what the townships have done and still no money is given to the district from these funds. Chair Sorensen stated that many taxpayers don't understand that firefighter gear is only good for 10 years.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Sorensen reminded everyone that our next regular monthly meeting will be on Tuesday August 10, 2021 6:00pm via Zoom.

ADJOURN

Chair Sorensen called for a motion to adjourn.
Vice-Chair Kruzan made a motion to adjourn at 7:35pm

Dated: August 10, 2021

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Vicky Sorensen

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Vicky Sorensen, Chair

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Mark Kruzan

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Mark, Kruzan, Vice-Chair

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C. Ed Brown

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C. Ed Brown, Fiscal Officer

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Christina Courtright

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Christina Courtright, Trustee

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Dan Vest

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Daniel Vest, Trustee

Nye:

Vicky Sorensen, Chair

Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair

C. Ed Brown, Fiscal Officer

Christina Courtright, Trustee

Daniel Vest, Trustee

Copy furnished:

Mrs. Vicky Sorensen, Chair
Ms. Christina Courtright, Trustee
Mr. Daniel Vest, Trustee
Mr. George Cornwell, Deputy Chief
Mrs. Christine Bartlett, Legal Counsel
Station No. 21, Bulletin Board
Station No. 24, Bulletin Board
Station No. 29, Bulletin Board

Mr. C. Ed Brown, Fiscal Officer
Mr. Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair
Mr. Dustin Dillard, Fire Chief
Mr. David Ferguson, Legal Counsel
Station No. 22, Bulletin Board
Station No. 23, Bulletin Board
Station No. 25, Bulletin Board
Station No. 19, Bulletin Board