

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, ON THE
18TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2013

The Board of Directors of the Mehlville Fire Protection District of St. Louis County, Missouri, met at the Mehlville Conference Room, 11020 Mueller Road, St. Louis County, Missouri, on the 18th day of December, 2013.

Present at the meeting were:

Aaron Hilmer, Chairman and Director of the Board;

Bonnie C. Stegman, Treasurer and Director of the Board;

Edmond Ryan, Secretary and Director of the Board; and

Daniel LaFata, Assistant Chief of the Mehlville Fire Protection District.

Brian Hendricks, Fire Chief of the Mehlville Fire Protection District, was absent.

Mr. Hilmer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and announced the Board to be in session for the transaction of business.

Mrs. Stegman made a motion to approve the bills of December 4 and 18, 2013.

Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes of October 2, 16, 22 and 30, 2013. Mrs. Stegman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hilmer recognized District resident John Judd.

Mr. Judd: "I thank you very much. My name is John Judd. I am a resident of the Mehlville Fire Protection District. My point to our Board and our administration is to respectfully ask you to formally oppose the city-county merger and quickly ... now is not the time to be neutral, because the merger is happening. I submit to you, economic development departments, merged, done. Sustainability effort, need to get a copy of that

agreement. Bomb and arson squad, done. This is not governmental, but it shows you what their plan is. The RCGA became the RGA. Metro Air Support, done. This is a real danger to our residents of our fire district. Chief Fitch and Chief Dodson would like to merge crime statistics, and that can really have implications to our local residents. And then I'd like to make you aware of House Concurrent Resolution #25, which I do have the copies for our Board and our administration, and House Concurrent Resolution set up the joint interim committee on Saint Louis area metropolitan governance and taxation. That's broad enough. Our concern, of course, that one topic would be the merger. And they were, according to the resolution, to form a study and Cathy Enz once told me the studies can also be called the fixes in studies when they're commissioned by a joint interim committee. So they've been meeting, and the way we have to lobby the joint interim committee is to ask the joint interim committee to not recommend merger. So I have for your convenience given you the email addresses of each of our state senators of our District and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 state reps that have part of our Mehlville Fire District. Now, the incarnation of the merger bill this year, we already know what it is, and it's on your handout here, SJR 33, that is the 2014 incarnation."

Mr. Hilmer: "Do we know who sponsored the bill?"

Mr. Judd: "Yes, the same state senator who sponsors it every single year. Her name is Senator Maria Chappelle-Nadal."

Mr. Hilmer: "And she's from the city, correct?"

Mr. Judd: "No, she has an entirely St. Louis County district, but she sponsors it every year. So we have the Senate bill to oppose, and now we just sit back and wait to see if there's a House bill. But just a few more points, and I do appreciate your ... We

don't know how they want to affect our fire district. We have a very fine fire district here, and we all do a great job in our fire district here. But we have no idea ... and let me tell you why ... because Mayor Slay and Charles Dooley are having their merger meetings in secret. The press isn't invited to their merger meetings, so the unknown is we don't know what they have in store for our fire districts of St. Louis County. And as you can see where I'm going here is I really have to believe that the City of St. Louis is looking for a rich uncle to pay their bills, and I don't need to say much more about that. Another point is I don't know if you have any representation in the halls of Jefferson City in the beginning of January, but if you do I would definitely put that on your representation's radar screen that they want to be opposing all the merger bills that come across during this year. And our group is very grassroots – we even have a spelling mistake on our literature, so that shows you how grassroots we are. So we just ask you to join with us, and again our single goal is, of our citizens against the merger, when the gavel goes down at the end of the session in May, that this General Assembly will not have placed the merger on the 2014 ballot.”

Mr. Hilmer: “And is that the path that it would go, that it would go on a statewide ballot?”

Mr. Judd: “Yes, I think that I give our worthy opponents credit enough to know if it was just the city and the county voting on it, it's dead, this thing is over. 70% of County voters oppose this thing.”

Mrs. Stegman: “And what's the rationale that they can take it statewide when it affects the County?”

Mr. Judd: "Because the governance establishing the City and the County from 1876 is constitutional, so if you want to repeal that governance establishing both the City and the County and the St. Louis County as a county, you go statewide and you put it on a statewide ballot. Well, if it gets on a ballot, it's over, because folks out state, 'I don't see any problem,' we're done, we're history. And plus, our worthy opponents also have millions upon millions of dollars to educate the voters through snazzy TV commercials – 'City/County merger Good. Vote Yes.' – so our only hope for 2014 is to keep it off the ballot, and that's what we ask you to join with us, and I'd be willing to answer any questions from anyone that might have any questions. More questions and more points that need to be made about it."

Mr. Hilmer: "So that would be the same thing as when they eradicated the police board, there was a constitutional thing in the city, that's why it had to go to a statewide vote, is that right?"

Mr. Judd: "Well, it was the state statute, so that's why when, either way a state statute or a section of the constitution it goes to a statewide ballot, and they couldn't get it through the General Assembly ..."

Mr. Hilmer: "So you don't think this would get through the General Assembly, you just think they may put it on the ballot, is that correct?"

Mr. Judd: "No, the General Assembly can't pass a bill, they have to pass a constitutional amendment, that's why it's an SJR, and SJRs all go to the people for a vote. So it's not a bill that goes to Nixon's desk, and he has to decide whether to sign or veto it. An SJR goes to all the voters of the State of Missouri, and you can see what

happened to city police board control, voters, God love them, they don't know what they're doing.

Mr. Hilmer: "That's why they're voters."

Mr. Judd: "They see it on the ballot, they vote for it – 'it's on my ballot, I gotta vote for it' – Boom, it's over. So, it's SJR 33, and that's what I'd like you to take a look at it. And again, we hope you can as individuals and as a body oppose this."

Mrs. Stegman: "John, on that Better Together, they talk about everything except school districts. Well, will that really be true if they merge it, that school districts wouldn't be combined?"

Mr. Judd: "Again, this is the point of their secret meetings that even the press isn't invited to, or the public. We don't know what they have for plans to merge districts, but if you asked our hardworking firefighters here, they don't probably want to be part of the greater St. Louis City/St. Louis County mega fire district. It takes away our local control, because we're doing a good job here in Mehlville. So, we're just going to take it one section at a time and try to keep it off the ballot as we go forward. And the last thing about Better Together is that Charles Dooley is amazing because he can come to a press conference regarding Better Together, and he can stand up there it has nothing to do with merger – that guy is just wonderful how he can stand there and say that Better Together has nothing to do with the merger. So Charles is a very interesting fellow."

Mr. Hilmer: "Well thanks for coming up, John."

Assistant Chief LaFata presented the tuition reimbursement request from Captain Kevin Reis to continue pursuit of his bachelor's degree at Maryville University. Captain Reis expects to complete his degree in 2014. Mrs. Stegman made a motion to approve

Captain Reis's tuition reimbursement request. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Assistant Chief LaFata distributed proposed changes to the Employee Manual of Policies and Procedures (EMoPP).

Chief Financial Officer presented a draft of the 2014 budget. The preliminary budget was presented in September when the 2014 tax rates were set. Additional information has been received regarding health insurance premiums, property and casualty premiums, workers' compensation premiums, and staffing changes. Regarding revenue and transfers, with the substantial decrease in the assessment of the property values, there is a substantial reduction in tax revenue available to support operations and capital expenditures for 2014. Looking at the tax rates, with no voluntary reductions, \$16.4 million will be generated from tax revenue, which is a net \$420,000 decrease over the prior year budget. Other revenue sources reflect a decrease. The budget transfer \$1.3 million to the capital fund to address specific capital expenditures, including \$650,000 for a pumper, \$180,000 for an ambulance, \$100,000 reserve for future construction, and \$105,000 reserve for future fire apparatus. \$350,000 will be transferred to the Pension Fund to address current year shortfalls and reserve approximately \$300,000 for future disability payments.

On the expense side, salary expense reflects a decrease of \$113,000, primarily due to the attrition of three employees. In addition, there are no increases to rates of pay other than employees who will have step increases. Unscheduled overtime has been increased by \$50,000 to address utilization due to the employee attrition. Workers compensation has increased \$132,000. \$287,000 will be utilized for debt service. The

2014 budget forecasts \$620,000 less in total revenue than the 2013 budget. To address that reduction the budget also forecasts \$465,000 less in total expenditures. The budget forecasts in total \$627,000 of excess revenue over expenditures. The excess is allocated to the three major funds: \$283,000 will be funding future disability payment obligations, \$262,000 will be funding future unknown dispatching expenses, and \$71,000 in the General Fund will be used to address unforeseen expenses. Mrs. Stegman made a motion to approve the 2014 budget. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

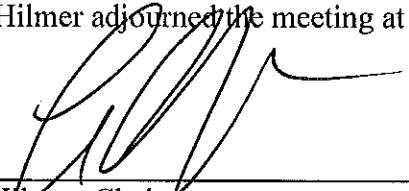
Mr. Hilmer then made a motion that a closed meeting be held for the purpose of discussing personnel matters immediately following the adjournment of the regular meeting. Mr. Hilmer, as part of said motion, moved that said closed meeting not be open to members of the general public under the provisions of Chapter 610 of the Missouri Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Sunshine Act. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan. A roll call vote on said motion was taken.

Director Hilmer yea.

Director Stegman yea.

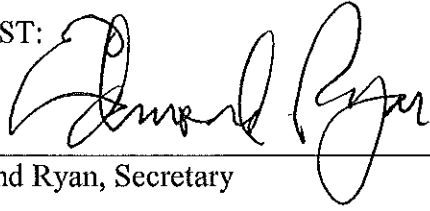
Director Ryan yea.

There being no further business, Mr. Hilmer adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.



Aaron Hilmer, Chairman

ATTEST:

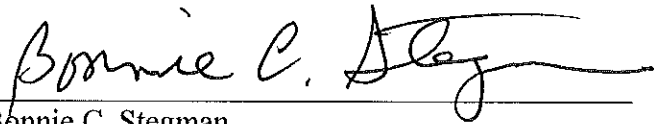


Edmond Ryan, Secretary

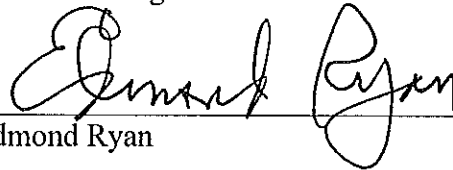
The undersigned, being all members of the Board of Directors of the Mehlville Fire Protection District, have affixed their names thereto in evidence of their consent to the meeting at the time and place indicated, and in evidence of their approval of the actions taken at the said meeting.



Aaron Hilmer



Bonnie C. Stegman



Edmond Ryan