

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, ON THE
15TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2021

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 15th day of December, 2021.

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

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

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.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes for November 3 and 17, 2021. Dr. Stegman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Stegman made a motion to pay the bills of December 8 and 15, 2021. Mr. Hilmer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Stegman made a motion to approve tuition reimbursements requests for 2022 for Christopher Franklin, Adam Hagar, Kristine Kempf, Gina Pellerito, Roman Stolarski and Tom Viviano. Mr. Hilmer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Stegman said that the Board was still reviewing the non-monetary requests from the employees and would be able to respond in January of 2022.

Chief Financial Officer Brian Bond presented the 2022 Budget. Regarding tax revenue, he said that assessed valuations are down \$33 million. That reduces the income

previously forecast from tax revenue by \$225,000. Mehlville Fire Protection District continues to be the busiest district in St. Louis County, and EMS call volume has increased significantly over the past decade, from just under 10,000 in 2010 to over 14,000 by 2020. Total responses have increased from a total of 12,616 in 2010 to 15,961 in 2020. In 2020, the District implemented significant changes including the addition of 4 EMS Battalion Chiefs, additional 6th and 7th ambulances, and a new 12-hour shift staffed by Critical Care Paramedics. The expansion in community paramedicine has helped address high utilization patients and COVID programs including testing and vaccinations. The tax revenue is based on the rates approved by the Board in September which included no voluntary reductions and will generate \$18.6 million, a \$336,000 increase over the prior year budget. Other revenue sources will add \$354,000. \$1.178 million will be transferred to the capital fund to address needs including a set-aside of \$100,000 for future construction reserves, \$287,000 for an ambulance, \$350,000 for one-half of a pumper, and \$272,000 for future fire and EMS equipment. \$900,000 will be transferred to the Pension Fund to address current year shortfalls. 2022 salaries expense reflects a \$1.2 million increase, due in part to hiring seven additional personnel, including one extra fire medic per crew, one extra CCP per 12-hour shift, and a second fire inspector. CCP certification pay will increase from \$4,000 to \$7,000. Pay rates overall will increase 5.7%. It is hoped that the personnel changes, along with the reduction in vacation slots, will reduce Unscheduled Overtime expense. Health insurance expenses are estimated to increase \$537,000 in 2022. Workers compensation expenses are expected to decrease by \$75,000. General expenditures will be budgeted with a rolling 3-year average plus itemized needs. Property and Casualty premiums will increase

\$160,000. Professional fees will increase \$75,000 related in part to the consultant fee for the GMT cost report and added services related to information transparency and employee benefits services. Dispatching fees will increase \$92,000. Total revenue in 2022 will increase \$690,000 over 2021. Expenses are forecasted to increase \$2.186 million over 2021. Those increases are primarily due to wages, health insurance, general insurance, dispatching, and medical supplies. In total, the 2022 budget forecasts \$3.181 million excess of expenditures over revenue. The General Fund reflects that expenses in excess of revenue will be \$2.681 million that will be addressed by a reduction in General Fund reserves. The District's fund balance policy requires that reserves are maintained equal to 17% of annual operating and capital expenditures. That amount would be \$4.121 million. Forecasting to the end of 2022, the General Fund's balance will be \$7.361 million, in compliance with the fund balance policy and close to in compliance at the end of 2023. The Capital Fund is budget neutral. Any capital projects are not included in the budget and would be funded through a reduction in Capital Fund reserves. The projected fund balance for the Capital Fund reserves includes about \$300,000 of undesignated reserves and \$650,000 of construction reserves that could be available for capital projects. The Pension Fund will rely on a strategic spend down of \$500,000 in reserves to address the Pension Fund deficit. The 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report identified that the District's unfunded pension liability was \$6.6 million, and the reduction in reserves over the course of 2022 will increase that unfunded pension liability. The combined deficit of \$3.181 million reflects a shortage of 10.24 cents in tax levy. While the utilization of the reserves is not desirable, the residents of the District are receiving an enhanced level of service. Future budgets will be faced with similar

challenges, and in 2022, staff will bring forward to the Board projects for increasing future revenue. Dr. Stegman made a motion to approve the 2022 Budget as presented. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hilmer made a motion that a closed meeting be held for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter 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.

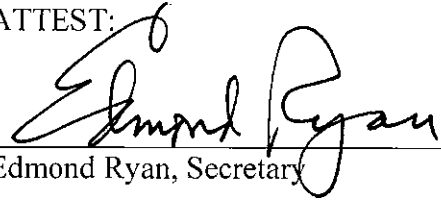
Director Ryan yea.

There being no further business, Mr. Hilmer adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.



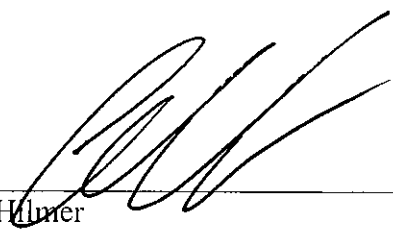
Aaron Hilmer, Chairman

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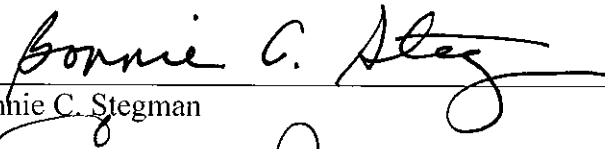


Edmond Ryan, Secretary

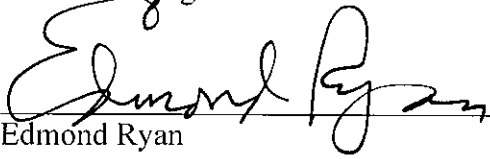
The undersigned, being all members of the Board of Directors of the Mehlville Fire Protection District, have affixed their names thereto in evidence of their consent to the meeting at the time and place indicated, and in evidence of their approval of the actions taken at the said meeting.



Aaron Hillmer



Bonnie C. Stegman



Edmond Ryan