

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, ON THE  
23RD DAY OF DECEMBER, 2020

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 23rd day of December, 2020.

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.

Dr. Stegman made a motion to pay the bills of December 9, 16 and 22, 2020. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes of November 4 and 18, 2020. Dr. Stegman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Chief Financial Officer Brian Bond presented the November, 2020 Financial Statements. The District received \$1,000 of 2019 tax revenue, bringing the total to \$19.3 million, 97.2% of calculated tax revenue for the year. Cash equivalent resources are \$19.3 million, down from 2019 primarily due to construction of the burn tower. The General Fund is slightly ahead of the 2020 budget. Areas of excess include COVID-19 related expenses including overtime wages, public education and medical supplies. The Pension Fund is on course with the 2020 budget. Dr. Stegman made a motion to approve

the November, 2020 Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Bond discussed the 2021 budget. He presented a graph showing that in 2010, the District had 9,674 EMS calls, while in 2019, the District had 14,608 EMS calls. Total responses have increased from 12,616 in 2010 to 16,859 in 2019. To respond to the increase in EMS calls and the implementation of the Critical Care Paramedic program with its enhanced levels of patient care, the District has implemented several changes to EMS services in 2020 including hiring four EMS Battalion Chiefs, adding a seventh ambulance covered by 12-hour shift paramedics during peak call times, and delivering community paramedicine to high utilization patients. To continue to deliver the same level of EMS service as well as expand into EMS pilot projects, the 2021 budget has been prepared to determine the amount of revenue available to meet the operating and capital expenditures for 2021, excluding a portion of the terminated defined benefit plan obligations that will be funded through a strategic spenddown of pension services. The 2021 Budget has been developed with the following material premises:

- Tax revenue, based on rates approved by the Board, is projected at \$18.268 million, a \$96,000 increase over 2020.
- Other revenue, which reflects a \$211,000 increase, includes decreased interest income and permit fees, \$520,000 more in EMS billings due to participation in the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) Cost Reimbursement program, and \$175,000 additional revenue related to the MO Medicaid pilot project, and fees for COVID-related services.

- \$894,000 will be transferred to the Capital Fund to address 2021 capital expenditures including \$100,000 for construction reserves for future renovation of Engine Houses #6 and #7, \$281,000 for one new ambulance and related equipment, \$300,000 for one-half of a pumper, \$141,000 reserved for future fire and EMS equipment, and \$45,000 for a staff vehicle.
- \$1.119 million will be transferred to the Pension Fund to address current year shortfalls of \$447,000 in the defined contribution pension plan and address \$865,000 of benefit payments and expenses related to the terminated defined benefit pension plan.
- 2021 Salaries expense reflects increases due to the 12-hour paramedics, step increases, hiring a community paramedic for the pilot projects, and 1.3% pay increase.
- Unscheduled overtime shows a \$150,000 increase related to the impact of COVID-19.
- Health insurance rates and the implementation of a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) resulted in a \$326,000 increase.
- Workers Compensation expense reflects an \$81,000 increase.
- Administrative, General Overhead, Professional Fees and Other Expenditures have been determined, as usual, based on rolling 3 year averages, current year forecasted expenditures, and itemized needs for 2021. Property and Casualty insurance premiums have increased \$101,000. The projected Medical Supplies budget reflects a \$122,000 increase. Biannual election expense will be \$40,000.
- Dispatching expenses reflects a \$33,000 increase.

- The terminated defined benefit plan payments reflect a \$57,000 decrease due to two disabled participants' eligibility for Social Security.

The 2021 Budget forecasts a \$1.408 million excess of expense over revenue. The deficit in the General fund will be addressed through a reduction of General Fund reserves. The Capital Fund is budget neutral. Any previously discussed capital projects are not included in the 2021 budget and would be funded through a reduction of Capital Fund reserves. The Pension Fund deficit of \$200,000 will be addressed by a strategic spenddown of \$200,000. Many factors worked against the 2021 budget, but District residents are receiving an enhanced level of service. 2022 will be a reassessment year that will hopefully provide additional tax revenue, but future budgets will be faced with similar challenges. Recommendations for increasing future revenue will be brought to the Board in 2021.

Mr. Hilmer asked that the statistics regarding call volume be updated to include data back to 2005.

Dr. Stegman made a motion to approve the 2021 Budget as presented. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Chief Hendricks updated the Board on the District's mobile integrated health initiatives. As the District's population ages and healthcare emphasizes home care over hospital visits or long term care, the District has been investing in mobile integrated healthcare programs. In 2021, the District will be involved in the ET3 pilot program which provides Medicare Fee-for-Service patients options to be transported to an alternative destination or receive treatment in place rather than be transported to the ER. In addition, the District will be participating in the Missouri Medicaid pilot which will

focus on high utilizers. Mehlville Mobile community paramedics have provided over 2,000 COVID-19 tests for first responders, and the District has been paid \$65,170. The District expects to have involvement in COVID-19 vaccination programs. Anthem virtual visits are expected to increase. Home visits for some high utilizers have been resumed. Chief Hendricks said that the District's commitment to mobile integrated health programs was unique in the St. Louis area. Mr. Hilmer pointed out that the District's operations had broadened dramatically since 2005.

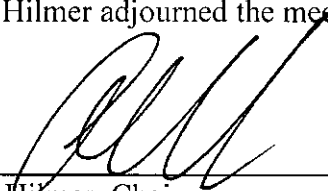
Mr. Hilmer made a motion that a closed meeting be held for the purpose of discussing legal and personnel matters immediately following the adjournment of the regular meeting. Mr. Hilmer, as part of said motion, moved that said closed meeting not be open to members of the general public under the provisions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

Director Hilmer yea.

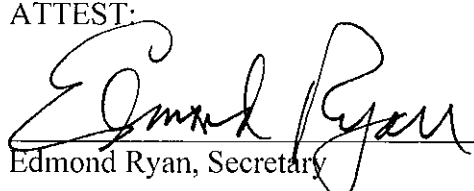
Director Stegman yea.

Director Ryan yea.

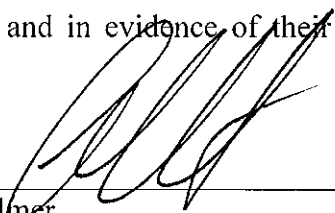
There being no further business, Mr. Hilmer adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

  
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Aaron Hilmer, Chairman

ATTEST:

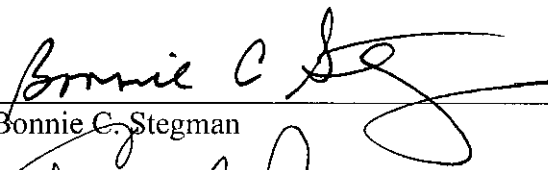
  
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Edmond Ryan, Secretary

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.



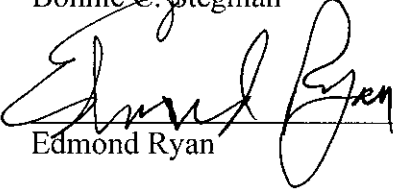
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Aaron Hillmer



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Bonnie C. Stegman



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Edmond Ryan