



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Of the Wentzville Fire Protection District of October 19, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Wentzville Fire Protection District was held on October 19, 2023, at Wentzville Fire District Headquarters, 502 Luetkenhaus Blvd, Wentzville, MO 63385

Chief John Schneider called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Open Forum: No one from the public was present.

Chief Schneider called Roll. Three Board Members were present: Director Jennifer Houston-present, Director Frank Grassmuck-present, and Director Chad Wilson-present.

Other attendees included Deputy Chief Michael Scott, Fire Marshal Chris Cuddihee, Battalion Chief Chris Browder, Shop Steward Max Mueller, Adam Berkowitz, Kristen Jones, and Ashley Smith from Simpara.

The agenda was approved as presented on a motion of Director Houston and Director Grassmuck's second. Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye, Director Wilson-aye.

On a motion of Director Houston and second of Director Wilson, the regular meeting minutes of October 11, 2023, were approved. Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye, Director Wilson-aye.

**Old Business:**

Chief Schneider updated the board that the new hire firefighter paramedic process with the swim/practical testing was completed. Monday will be the ergonomic test. Nineteen candidates are remaining out of 26.

Chief Schieder also informed the board the Acting Captain process was completed, and individuals were named. There was discussion about the investment in the members and the need for this program. The members chosen will perform acting duties from 2024 to the end of 2027, and if an opening occurs for a captain, the pool will be used to fill the vacancy.

**New Business:**

Adam Berkowitz and his team from Simpara joined the meeting and discussed insurance renewals for 2024. Mr. Berkowitz shared with the board that the fire district received the Rosie Award for being one of America's 50 top health plans. The award is based on objectives such as adherence to transparency and ethical guidelines. This speaks to the leadership of the district. He informed the board the district will see pharmacy rebates (paid in arrears) for being self-funded. Insurance companies also receive these but don't pass them on to the consumer in saving for renewals. There was a discussion on claim usage. There was also discussion on a TPA change and changes to the stop loss company.

There will be no effect on the employees' end. Laser coverage, which is an additional component of stop-loss and, to some, a strategy to keep premiums down, was discussed. Director Houston asked about the budgeting situation since it is that time. She was informed that a placeholder is being held until stop-loss coverage can be determined. Director Houston asked to look into the option without laser coverage but an increase in the deductible. Mr. Berkowitz explained this is the starting point, and he will forward updates early next week. Simpara only works with A-rated companies. Director Houston appreciates Simparas's layer of details and working on the district's behalf to help them make decisions clearer. Mr. Berkowitz relayed that the renewal on dental with Delta is proposed to go up 6%, but Simpara has it out to market to try to keep it flat. Vision and Standard are locked for this coming year. The Simpara team informed the board that open enrollment will be available in Employee Navigator after Danielle's onsite visits.

Chief Schneider discussed the reserve engines, reporting that two of the three can no longer be used for emergency response due to cracked frames. The trucks are 2003 and 2005. Quotes to repair higher than value, warranty work was voided due to rust. This is of great concern to Captain Dwyer. Chief Schneider shared things to think about 24-36 months to build a truck, and there is not enough in the reserve fund to purchase a new truck now. The committee is working on suggestions in case a truck is needed before 2024. Chief Schneider indicated that St. Louis Bank has a lease program for trucks, and there are trucks on showroom floors, which wouldn't be the exact truck the district has. There are ways to pass resolutions to pay back if it becomes an emergency. Chief Schneider has been in contact with Chief Vineyard at O'Fallon, who does have three spares, and we can use them if we need them. Battalion Chief Browder spoke highly of Captain Dwyer's knowledge and care of the entire fleet of trucks.

Chief Schneider shared a concerned citizen complaint and his handling of the matter regarding The Midwest CERT program, which was held at Station 3 the weekend of October 13-15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Officers Report:**

Chief Schneider received a thank you from the Mayor of Dardenne Prairie for participation in Dardenne Prairie Days.

Assistant Chief LeDoux was excused.

Deputy Chief Scott reported the county training starts tomorrow. There is a meeting with FEMA on COVID reimbursements next week.

Fire Marshal Cuddihee discussed the issue with the sewage from last week at Station 1. He reported Inspector Mosher was on vacation this week, keeping him busier than normal.

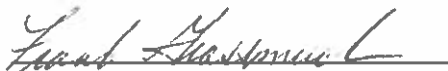
Battalion Chief Browder reported calls are 4650, which is closing in on last year. He reported training is going well. Battalion Chief Browder indicated the crews started collecting for MDA and have been out in the schools for Fire Safety.

Shop Steward Max Mueller reported the outreach group answered the Mayor's request by the UAW members for various household supplies.

Legal Counsel McLaughlin was not present.

Board Report: October 26<sup>th</sup>, which will also be the Quarterly Pension meeting. Chief Schneider shared that Director Wilson has been to all the stations on a district tour.

The board adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m. on a motion of Director Houston and seconded by Director Wilson. Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye, Director Wilson-aye.

  
Frank Grassmuck, Secretary

  
Stacy Krieger, Recording Secretary