



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Of the Wentzville Fire Protection District of December 29, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Wentzville Fire Protection District was held on December 29, 2022, at Wentzville Fire District Headquarters, 502 Luetkenhaus Blvd, Wentzville, MO 63385, at 4:00 p.m.

Fire Chief John Schneider called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Forum: No one from the public was present at the Board.

Chief Schneider called roll. Three Board Members were present Director Bob Hawkins-present, Director Jennifer Houston-present, and Director Frank Grassmuck-present.

Also in attendance were Fire Marshal Chris Cuddihee, as well as Jacob Mirowitz from Mirowitz Real Estate, Chuck Green from Greenland Fire Protection, and Matt Rankey from Feathershark.

Director Hawkins motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Director Grassmuck seconded it. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

On a motion from Director Hawkins and a second from Director Houston, the Board Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2022, were approved. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

**Old Business:**

Matt Rankey from Feathershark presented two proposals for technology upgrades to the training and board rooms. Chief Schneider informed the board that the planning committee visited Feathershark's conference room to see the technology in use. Originally the discussion was to make technology upgrades district wide. After conversations at the planning level, holding off on the outlying stations was agreed upon to save money. Mr. Rankey stated that the proposal for the training room and the boardroom would be buildable technology and would integrate down the road with the outlying stations. The new system would be user-friendly and interact with various platforms. Cameras and microphones would allow presenters to be heard and seen wherever they are in the room. There was a discussion with the board. The research for this proposal has been six months in the works, and it is coming down to the wire to secure 2022 pricing and avoid a significant price increase. Each space would be under \$10,000 for equipment and installation and has been included in the 2023 Capital Improvement budget. Director Houston stated that waiting on the outlying stations is conservative, knowing the current stations will communicate with the upgrades. However, technology

upgrades' ultimate priority is keeping trucks in their zones. Director Houston supports the technology upgrade as do Director Hawkins and Grassmuck. The board agreed to move forward.

**New Business:**

Jacob Mirowitz presented a Variance Request. Mr. Mirowitz had Chuck Green Greenland Fire Protection on Zoom. Mr. Mirowitz owns 66 out of 72 condos in Georgetown. On Christmas Eve, two sprinklers burst on two decks facing north. The second-floor sprinkler burst and destroyed the unit below. Mr. Mirowitz indicated the district has been called out over 20 times in the past ten years for burst sprinkler heads and burst sprinklers have caused \$100,000 of damage for his company/residents. Mr. Mirowitz would like the board to approve removing the sprinkler heads from the decks. There was discussion regarding removing the sprinkler heads would be a direct code violation that the board could not support. The board, Chief Schneider, and Fire Marshal Cuddihee agreed to meet at the property to discuss code-compliant options to help minimize bursting sprinkler heads.

**Officers' Report:**

Chief Schneider inquired if there were any questions regarding work comp renewal. There was none so the new policy will take effective January 15<sup>th</sup>. Chief Schneider shared a letter from New Melle Fire in reference to the fatal fire our crews responded to. There was discussion regarding the meeting time for January 5<sup>th</sup>; the board can be flexible, and Chief Schneider will send out an email with a final time. He reminded the board that the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting would be in the evening and the service awards would be given. Director Hawkins stated he has a conflict for January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Assistant Chief LeDoux was absent.

Deputy Chief Scott was absent.

Fire Marshal Cuddihee invited the board to tour the retooling at GM on January 11<sup>th</sup> or January 13<sup>th</sup>. He will email the board with more details. Fire Marshal Cuddihee stated that the water heater at House 3 would be replaced on January 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a discussion on flushing the water heater annually from now on. Fire Marshal Cuddihee informed the board that the crews ran 17 freeze-ups between Christmas Eve and the Monday after.

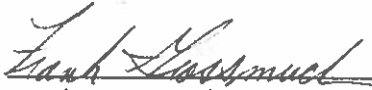
Battalion Chief Browder was absent.

Legal Counsel McLaughlin was absent.

Shop Steward Mueller was absent

Director Hawkins motioned, and Director Grassmuck seconded to suspend the regular meeting at 4:38 pm for closed session for privileged communication and personnel. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

The board returned to open session, and on a motion of Director Hawkins and a second of Director Grassmuck, the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 pm. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-aye, Director Grassmuck-aye.

  
Frank Grassmuck, Secretary

  
Stacy Krieger, Recording Secretary