



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Of the Wentzville Fire Protection District of March 10, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Wentzville Fire Protection District was held on March 10, 2022, at Wentzville Fire District Headquarters, 502 Luetkenhaus Blvd, Wentzville, MO 63385.

Chief Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was suspended for Special Recognition of Lilly Ann Kerr. Lilly was a brave young lady who contacted 911 on behalf of her babysitter Kimberly. Lilly was presented with two recognition awards one from the fire district and one from the City of Wentzville. Lilly's parents were commended for teaching Lilly about calling 911.

Open Forum: No one from the public was present.

Roll Call: Chief Schneider called roll. Two Board Members were present Director Bob Hawkins-present, Director Jennifer Houston-absent, and Director Frank Grassmuck-present.

Also in attendance were Assistant Chief John LeDoux, Deputy Chief Michael Scott, Battalion Chief Chris Browder, Firefighter EMT Angel Rubio, Firefighter Paramedics Mike Szarwinski, Jordan Porter, and Blake Miller. Special Guest Lilly Kerr as well as a few of her family and friends. Mayor Nick Guccione was present as well as CPA Rick Rognan and Annabel Thorpe.

Director Hawkins made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of CPA Rognan's financial report. it was seconded by Director Grassmuck. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-absent, Director Grassmuck-aye.

CPA Rognan presented the February financials. Two months in, the benchmark is 16.7% the district is at 18.43% or 1.73% over but is trending down. Every 1% is \$152,000. Last year, the district was 7.81% over in February and ended up under at the end of the year. Historically the trend is to be over in the first half of the year and it works to even out and come in under budget. CPA Rognan reviewed the summary of revenue and expenses. He stated the district should be cautious as inflation will take a toll on this budget. CPA Rognan stated it will be likely that fuel, supplies and utilities will be over. 90.99% of tax dollars have been collected. Revenue is down \$189,000 from last year, because permits have been slower to come in. Dues and subscriptions same position as last year. He reminded the board of the saving to Insurance P&C for this year. CPA Rognan did state utilities are a concern and anticipates this category will go over along with fuel. Currently the district is under budget on fuel at 13.5%, but it is still early. CPA Rognan reported 463 calls we responded to in February this up from last year's 431 calls and up 197 from last year.

### **New Business:**

Chief Schneider discussed with the board the appointment of a Fire Chaplain. Fr. Brian Fischer who is the recommendation. He is known to many of our members. Chief Schneider and Assistant Chief LeDoux met with him several weeks ago to review his role and expectations. The board is good with the recommendation and on a motion from Director Hawkins and a second of Director Grassmuck, Fr. Brian Fischer was appointed as the District's Chaplain. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-absent, Director Grassmuck-aye. Chief Schneider would like to bring him in person to a meeting in April.

### **Old Business:**

There was discussion regarding a defined benefit pension drop. It was asked if the board wants to look at dropping a budgeted amount sooner or later and allowing Foundation Wealth to enter it into the market. The board wants to do what is best for the district and knows they need to be cautious as to timing. The board agreed to move forward and asked that Foundation Wealth can send their strategies for entering a drop into the market.

The Rebound Program was discussed. Chief Schneider indicated Rebound had no documented stats during COVID, stating they knew a lot of sports injuries were down, however, were successful in getting people in front of surgeons. A list of doctors was provided, and many are Wash U surgeons. Assistant Chief LeDoux has been working with Work Comp/MEM and has noticed they are referring members to the doctors in the old Maggie Malones complex. The Rebound people are meeting with that group as well. Director Grassmuck stated it is important to get members in faster to doctors to get members back to work faster. Chief Schneider stated Rebound is presenting to Cottleville, Affton and Valley Park next week. Director Hawkins motioned, and Director Grassmuck seconded to proceed forward with Rebound. Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-absent, Director Grassmuck-aye.

### **Officers Report:**

Chief Schneider reported he will be in school next week. Chief Schneider stated he and Assistant Chief LeDoux met with SCCAD regarding a program to identify future station needs and placement. This will be important in future growth of the district. Currently House 4 is running 2-3 times more calls than the other stations. Data needs to be collected in preparation future growth. Chief Schneider plans to invite SCCAD to a meeting to show the board the program. He stated it is very fascinating, it allows you to compare response times. Chief Schneider also stated he met with County Executive Steve Ehlmann regarding county project impacts over the last 10 years and the effect on the district. Chief Schneider is excited for next steps. He stated SCCAD is looking at this as a partnership to place stations to better impact our county.

Assistant Chief LeDoux provided an update on staffing. He also reported he will be dropping eight safety policies into Lexipol, they have been approved by Legal Counsel.

Deputy Chief Scott was tending to guests.

Fire Marshal Cuddihee was not present.


Battalion Chief Browder was with our guest.

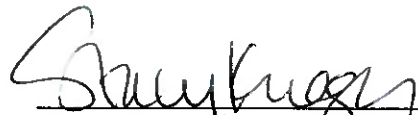
Legal Counsel McLaughlin was not present.

Shop Steward was not present.

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

On a motion of Director Hawkins and a second of Director Grassmuck, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.  
Director Hawkins-aye, Director Houston-absent, Director Grassmuck-aye.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Grassmuck, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Krieger, Recording Secretary