



West Licking Joint Fire District
851 East Broad Street
Pataskala, Ohio 43062

Board of Trustees

MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2021

Mark Van Buren opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Jersey – Dan Wetzel

Harrison – Mark Van Buren

Etna – Jeff Johnson

Kirkersville – Brian Denton

Pataskala – Tom Lee

Reynoldsburg – Stacie Baker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Wetzel motioned to approve the April 08, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Lee seconded. Vote: Denton – yes; Johnson – yes; Baker – yes; Van Buren – yes; Lee – yes; Wetzel – yes. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Mr. Denton motioned to approve the April Financial Statements and Vouchers. Mr. Baker seconded. Vote: Denton – yes; Johnson – yes; Baker – yes; Van Buren – yes; Lee – yes; Wetzel – yes. **Motion carried.**

CHIEF:

- A. Todd Magers, Chief informed the Board, the run volume is coming back up. Currently averaging 20 runs per day.
- B. Chief Magers informed the Board, T401 has passed testing and is ready to be sold.
- C. Chief Magers informed the Board, currently the District does the testing of all the firehose on the trucks. It currently takes approximately a month per station to get all of the hose done. Many of the other departments utilize an outside company to do their hose testing.

Chief Magers obtained a quote from Fire Cat to do the hose testing for West Licking. It is a 3 year contract at a cost of \$7,840.00 per year. This is \$0.32/foot, the District has approximately 24,500 feet of hose.

Mr. Lee motioned to hire Fire Cat for the next three years at a cost of \$7,840.00 per year to perform hose testing. Mr. Denton seconded. Vote: Denton – yes; Johnson – yes; Baker – yes; Van Buren – yes; Lee – yes; Wetzel – yes. **Motion carried.**

- D. Chief Magers presented to the Board, a proposal for the construction of a training (burn) building. It will consist of a lower level constructed out of two 40' containers, a container attached to the end to allow for hose movement and a container stacked on top for the simulation of a second floor. The exterior will be insulated and painted. There will be windows cut into the container and there will be moveable walls so different simulations can be done. The cost of the building will not exceed the \$100,000.00 which the District has budgeted.

Mr. Johnson inquired as to the life expectancy of the building.

Chief Magers stated it would be between 12 and 20 years.

Mr. Van Buren inquired as to length of time to construct the facility.

Chief Magers stated it would take approximately three months.

Mr. Lee motioned to construct a training (burn) building at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00. Mr. Denton seconded. Vote: Denton – yes; Johnson – yes; Baker – yes; Van Buren – yes; Lee – yes; Wetzel – yes. **Motion carried.**

- E. Chief Magers informed the Board, regarding the retire/rehire proposal he did not intend to step on anyone's toes and he appreciates everything the Board does for the District.

Mr. Van Buren stated he appreciated being give the options that were presented. The Board discussed the different options presented.

The Board decided to send this proposal to the Personnel Committee for further review and a counter proposal.

- F. Chief Magers informed the Board, concerning Station 404 personnel. Currently there are two (2) full-time firefighters assigned to Station 404. With the construction of a new Station 404 eminent the District will need to hire an additional three (3) full-time firefighters per shift, for a total of nine (9) new full-time firefighters to bring the manning up to five (5) per shift.

Chief Magers stated they met with a company, Ohio First Responders, which specializes in grant writing. The company is about 80% confident they can get the District through the SAFER grant steps and secure it for the District. This would pay for all nine (9) full-time firefighters for the first three years and possibly get the District a 3 year extension.

Ohio First Responders has presented the District with a contract to write the SAFER Grant at a cost of \$1,500.00. If the District is awarded the grant there is fee that needs to be paid to Ohio First Responders which is between 5 – 10% of the grant award. At 7% the fee would be approximately \$250,000.00 that would be paid out the General Fund it cannot come from the grant dollars.

Mr. Denton motioned to enter into a contract with Ohio First Responders to write the SAFER Grant. Mr. Wetzel seconded. Vote: Denton – yes; Johnson – yes; Baker – yes; Van Buren – yes; Lee – yes; Wetzel – yes. **Motion carried.**

ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- A. Jack Treinish, Assistant Chief informed the Board he meet with Mifflin Township regarding the purchase of their engine for the District to utilize as a reserve engine. Mifflin Township trustees agreed to the sale at a price of \$25,000.00.

Mr. Lee recused himself from the discussion.

Mr. Johnson motioned to purchase the engine from Mifflin Township for \$25,000.00. Mr. Baker seconded. Vote: Denton – yes; Johnson – yes; Baker – yes; Van Buren – yes; Lee – recused; Wetzel – yes. **Motion carried.**

- B. AC Treinish informed the Board, the District demonstrated the swift water vehicles for the City of Columbus Fire Department.
- C. AC Treinish informed the Board, during the last rain storm it was discovered water was getting into the vestibule at Station 401 lower level. After further inspection the caulking outside the door needed to be redone. This has been completed.
- D. AC Treinish informed the Board, Station 403 exhaust removal system has been installed and is working great.
- E. AC Treinish informed the Board, Station 405 needed the showers re-caulked due to settling issues.

ASSISTANT CHIEF EMS:

- A. Joseph Krouse, Assistant Chief informed the Board the activity report is contained in their packet.
- B. AC Krouse informed the Board the District has received several notes and cards stating how kind the crews have been when responding to their issues.
- C. AC Krouse requested if the Board members could have their entities send the District a list of their upcoming events for the year.

ADMINISTRATOR:

- A. Laurie Mayle, Administrator informed the Board, the Phase I environmental is done for the potential Station 404 site. This shows there was a spill in the early '90's and Pandey Environmental, LLC recommends the District have a Phase II assessment done. This would be at a cost of \$13,040.00. They would drill 2 wells for sampling.

Ms. Mayle informed the Board the District received the purchase agreement from Reynoldsburg on April 26, 2021 and it has a 60 day contingency in it. She would request an extension of time to get the Phase II environmental study completed if needed.

- B. Ms. Mayle informed the Board, the Building/Land Acquisitions Committee met earlier this evening concerning the architect.

Mr. Wetzel discussed with the Board the Committee's views and stated the Committee members recommend the District go with Moody & Nolan.

Mr. Wetzel motioned the District hire Moody & Nolan as the architect for the Station 404 build. Mr. Denton seconded.

Mr. Van Buren inquired as to the compensation percentage rate.

Ms. Mayle stated her and AC Treinish would go into negotiations concerning the compensation rate for the project.

Vote: Denton – yes; Johnson – yes; Baker – yes; Van Buren – yes; Lee – yes; Wetzel – yes. **Motion carried.**

- C. Ms. Mayle informed the Board, the current lease agreement for Station 404 expires August of 2021 and she is currently negotiated a short term lease.
- D. Ms. Mayle informed the Board the District renewed with United Healthcare at a 0% increase on premiums.
- E. Ms. Mayle informed the Board Comp Management has been bought by Sedgwick and they are the District's third party administrator now.
- F. Ms. Mayle informed the Board, the District has been kicked out of group rating due to the large claims the District has had and will now be penalty rated for the next four years. So the District's yearly payment to workers' compensation will increase from about \$35,000.00 annual to \$56,915.00 and it could continue to increase over the next 4 years. Sedgwick is working on getting the District into the EM Cap program to help offset the rate increases.
- G. Ms. Mayle informed the Board, Local 3025 has requested to begin negotiations in August 2021.
- H. Ms. Mayle informed the Board, she is still in negotiations with the cell tower company.

FISCAL OFFICER:

- A. Donna Hubner, Fiscal Officer informed the Board, it is time to renew with Sedgwick as the District's third party administrator. The invoice is for \$9,050.00. This is approximately \$250 higher than the last contract renewal.

Mr. Denton motioned to pay \$9,050.00 to Sedgwick. Mr. Lee seconded. Vote: Denton – yes; Johnson – yes; Baker – yes; Van Buren – yes; Lee – yes; Wetzel – yes. **Motion carried.**

LOCAL 3025:

Tom Barnhill, President inquired with Mr. Van Buren about going into executive session to discuss the concerns of the union.

Mr. Van Buren stated he spoke with Mr. Fishel and concerning this matter and it is not an allowable reason to go into executive session. It can be discussed at a Labor Management Committee meeting.

Mr. Lee inquired as to what the issues are and do they need to be discussed now or can it wait until a Labor Management Committee meeting is scheduled.

Mr. Wetzel stated he also spoke with Mr. Fishel and was told it needs to go to the Labor Management Committee.

Mr. Barnhill stated one of the issues is BWC claims for COVID are being actively denied and the District should not deny these claims.

Ms. Mayle stated there has been 3 COVID claims with BWC – one was for a part-time employee and two for full-time employees. The part-time employee went to the Industrial Commission and was denied. The 2 full-time employees' one was approved and one was denied.

There was much discussion concerning how BWC handles the processing of claims and how information is gathered and who actual denies or approves the claims.

Mr. Barnhill requested a Labor Management Committee meeting and inquired who sits on this committee.

Mr. Van Buren stated there are three board members, Chief Magers and Ms. Mayle.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Chris Bitler with the Firefighter's Association informed the Board the Pataskala Street Fair was on for this year. The dates are August 18th through August 21, 2021. Inquire if the Board members wanted to renew their ad in the program for the Street Fair.

Mr. Van Buren stated to see him after the meeting to discuss the advertisement.

There being no further business, Mr. Van Buren adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

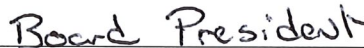


Donna M. Hubner
Fiscal Officer

APPROVED:



Board of Trustees



Title

Note: These minutes are unofficial, subject to amendment, until approved by the Fire Board Members.