

**SUGAR GROVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
TRUSTEE'S MEETING
OPEN MINUTES**

DATE: August 17, 2020
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Sugar Grove Fire Station

Board of Trustees: David Blankenship - President
John Guddendorf, Jr. - Secretary
Harry Davis - Treasurer
Mike Fagel – Trustee
Tim Cicero - Trustee

GUESTS: Chief Perkins, Attorney Shawn Flaherty

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call –Trustee Fagel absent

Public to Address the Board - None

Approval of Minutes-

It was motioned by Guddendorf and seconded by Davis to:

‘Approve the July 20, 2020 open session meeting minutes’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

It was motioned by Davis and seconded by Guddendorf to:

‘Approve the July 20, 2020 closed session meeting minutes and keep them closed’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Treasurers Report –

Operating Fund- \$2,731,333.34, Capital Account- \$1,445,246.53, Total - \$4,176,579.87

It was motioned by Guddendorf and seconded by Cicero to:

‘Approve the July 2020 Cash Balances and Budget vs Actual Reports’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Expenditures-

Chase Checking- \$297,028.99, Chase HRA-\$2,318.88, Total Expenditures-\$299,347.87

It was motioned by Davis and seconded by Guddendorf to:

‘Approve the Expenditures for June 2020 in the amount of \$299,347.87’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Consent Agenda

Bonnell Industries - \$1,345.33 Fire Signs

MES - \$2,903.00 – Replacement Fire Gear

U of I - \$4,100.00 – Fire Academy

ABT - \$999.00 – Replace Refrigerator in Break Room

Chicago Communications - \$14,216.83 – New StarCom Base Radio

JoJo Coture - \$1,236.00 – 3000 Face Masks (\$412 Reimbursed by Township for 1000 Masks)

Collegiate Landscape \$4,400.00 – A-1 Landscape \$1,498.00 – Discussion took place on which vendor to use for two spruce trees for the area where the training facility will go. Chief Perkins felt that A1 was cheap for two trees. Guddendorf stated the ones from Collegiate were warrantied for up to a year. Guddendorf said he made a phone call after talking to chief and a 10’- 15’ tree could cost anywhere from \$1400 to \$2000. Chief stated the one from Collegiate is a 14’ tree but at the 13’ price. Chief stated that he felt the more appropriate

price was the one from Collegiate. Guddendorf questioned if these are state certified trees. Chief Perkins did not ask that question.

Foreign Fire –

Olmsted's TV - \$566.60 – this is for 2 TVs, one being used for the CAD in the workout room.

ACE - \$1,990.45 – Gas Grill

Rescue Direct - \$348.39 – (2) TRT Helmets

It was motioned by Guddendorf and seconded by Davis to:

‘Approve the Consent Agenda for July 2020, total being \$31,757.21 (less the \$1,498 for A-1)’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Report from Chief and Command –

Monthly report in packet.

July 98 calls – down from 120 from last July.

FEMA Grant, Supplemental for COVID 19 – \$10,000, minus our share, comes out to about \$9900, will go over receipts and purchase additional items. Must pay up front, and then get reimbursed.

IEMA – there is a possibility to submit an hourly rate for ambulance, engine, and personnel for every COVID or possible COVID call. Chief will be receiving an email detailing exactly what this entails.

Bid Spec's for Training Facility – Discussion was held on the training facility bid specs. Question on when to publish – at least 10 days before accepting bid. Discussion on a penalty clause – decided on no penalty clause – Painting of facility- question on painting in cold weather – painting as per illustration and paint must be applied to paint manufacturers specifications. Time frame – 10 weeks or by mutual agreement – any extensions must be approved by BOT.

Attorney's Report – None

Old Business – Chief Perkins would like to take these off the agenda until further time when we can sit with people after the COVID crisis. Trustee Guddendorf would like to have them kept on the agenda.

Door Access – on hold

TAHPI - Trustee Cicero would like to see something on this. Guddendorf questioned if they can have a meeting through zoom. Chief will contact them and get something together, either by video or powerpoint, email.

New Business –

Memorandum of Understanding with the Kane County Fire Chiefs Fire Investigation Task Force – discussion was held on this MOU.

It was motioned by Guddendorf and seconded by Davis to:

‘Authorize the MOU with the KCFITF’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Employee/Trustee Communications – Trustee Blankenship wanted to put this out as an understanding – not to quell people's questions. Blankenship stated he believes the Board is going over their duties and micromanaging. Blankenship stated he does not want anyone to ever feel like you cannot come to a Board member, but there are rules and regulations that need to be followed, unless there are severe circumstances. Attorney Flaherty stated they put together a resolution reaffirming employee procedure, to follow labor contract, policy on complaints, and how things should be handled, there is a chain of command. Blankenship stated he is a firm believer you should be able to voice your concerns but follow the chain of command. Discussion continued. Trustee Davis stated he would make a motion to accept the resolution. Trustee Cicero stated that Trustee Fagel sent a letter that he would like read at the meeting. Trustee Guddendorf read the letter.

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The letter from Trustee Fagel will be attached to these minutes. Discussion continued... Davis stated he was in favor of passing the resolution. Cicero questioned if this is really passing something, as all it is doing is reaffirming. Flaherty stated we are adopting a resolution.

It was motioned by Davis and seconded by Guddendorf to:

'Adopt Resolution 2020- as presented, and make it part of the process moving forward'

**The resolution # will be the next number in the series. As it was not included in the packet, it did not have a number.

Roll Call Vote – Davis – Yes, Guddendorf – Yes, Blankenship – Yes, Cicero – Nay. Motion passes.

Trustee Cicero stated with all respect, his Nay is because just getting it on Friday, he has not had time to diagnose it. He will talk to Shawn about what this involves.

Automatic Aid Response for Auto Extrications and Structure Fires – Trustee Cicero said this came because of the auto extrication that took 30 minutes. Cicero questioned what the response is – Chief said an engine, chief and an ambulance. Discussion continued how calls are handled for extrications.

Policy on Coverage of Town with Two Sugar Grove Ambulances Committed on Calls – Trustee Cicero stated he also asked that this be on the agenda. Discussion was held on policy coverage.

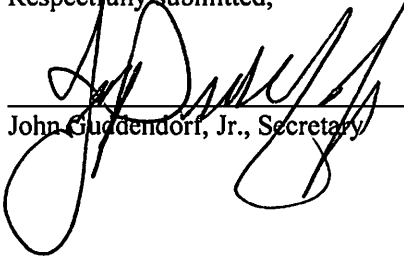
ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

None heard.

Trustee Cicero would like the bid packets sent to the Trustees.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John Guddendorf, Jr., Secretary



Paula Lacey, Recording Secretary

I formally request that this be read into the minutes of the August 17, 2020 meeting due to my hospitalization.

To Members of the Board of Trustees, Members of The District and the Citizens we serve:

Some of my initial deep concerns after reading the proposal received on Friday, August 14,2020 regarding trustee/employee communications are that it may:

- Act to Stifle communications
- Prevent Open discussion
- Impede Important dialogue
- Interfere with all of our Fiduciary responsibilities
- Effectively mask any concerns about ANY member of the organization, from Chief officers,staff, to recently hired probationary members.
- Impede any allegations of misconduct of any type (sexual, hostile environment, etc.)
- Hide Waste, Fraud, abuse of any type
- Mask EEO concerns
- Eliminate a full 360-degree view of the entire organization
- The list of potential elements could be much larger.

Just a cursory reading of the Illinois Whistleblower Act (740ILCS 174) may have certain parallels where there is a cause for concern. Although not specific, there certainly are parallels that may be drawn by reading highlighted sections:

(740 ILCS 174/10)

Sec. 10. Certain policies prohibited. **An employer may not make, adopt, or enforce any rule, regulation, or policy preventing an employee from disclosing information to a government or law enforcement agency if the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation.**
(Source: P.A. 93-544, eff. 1-1-04.)

(740 ILCS 174/15)

Sec. 15. Retaliation for certain disclosures prohibited.
(a) **An employer may not retaliate against an employee who discloses information in a court, an administrative hearing, or before a legislative commission or committee, or in any other proceeding, where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation.**

If certainly not the exact letter of the law above, then the intent is abundantly clear.

Is this in the best public interest?

We would be better served to allow unfettered communications to flow so as to make sure we are able to fully view information presented to us in a clear and open manner.

This will allow for the protection of the individual(s) that may wish to remain anonymous for their own protection of their livelihood and safety.

It would be my sincere request that the matter be tabled at this time.

Respectfully,


Michael J. Fage August 17, 2020

Member of the Board of Trustees, Sugar Grove Fire Protection District 2011-2022