

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

DATE: October 18, 2021
TIME: 5:32 pm
PLACE: Sugar Grove Fire Station

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

GUESTS: Chief Perkins, Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

Roll Call – All Trustees Present

Public to Address the Board – None heard

Approval of Minutes –

It was motioned by Guddendorf and seconded by Lamela to:

‘Approve the September 27, 2021, Open Session Meeting Minutes.’

Roll call vote – All in Favor – Motion carried

It was motioned by Guddendorf and seconded by Fagel to:

‘Approve the September 27, 2021, and the Special Meeting of October 4, 2021, closed session minutes and keep them closed.’

Roll call vote – All in Favor – Motion carried

It was motioned by Cicero and seconded by Lamela to:

‘Approve the October 4, 2021, Special Open Session Meeting Minutes.’

Roll call vote – All in Favor – Motion carried

Correspondence -

Chief Perkins reached out to two asset management companies, Sawyer Falduto and PMA. Sawyer Falduto responded; chief handed out the pamphlet that was prepared by Sawyer Falduto. After much discussion it was decided to have one of the advisors at the November meeting and the other at the December meeting. Fagel questioned chief if he talked to someone from Lauterbach about asset balances and we are okay -Chief stated we received a letter back in September where Jen Martinson said we were fully collateralized -Chief forwarded the letter to the trustees so they were aware. Chief will forward to the Trustees the information he gets from PMA.

Fagel stated the Northern Illinois Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team is looking for people. There are peers of police, firefighters, EMS personnel, dispatchers and they are looking for people who would like to join and help. This is a volunteer position and if interested please contact Trustee Fagel.

**Treasurers Report –
Approval of Cash Balances and Budget vs Actual Reports**

Total Operating/Capital Funds as of Sept 2021 – \$6,454,711.20

Chief stated on the old reports it was broken down by funds – he would like to see this added back on the new reports. This will be included on next month’s reports.

Fagel questioned if we would like to see about going with some other local banks – it was decided to wait until we see what monies will be invested. Question came up about the FDIC – all the financial institutions we are in have us fully collateralized.

It was motioned by Blankenship and Seconded by Cicero to:
‘Approve the September 2021 Cash Balances and Budget vs Actual Reports.’

Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried

Approval of Expenditures –

Chase Checking – \$243,538.93, Chase HRA – \$992.55, Total Expenditures – \$244,531.48

It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Guddendorf to:
‘Approve the Expenditures for September 2021 in the amount of \$244,531.48’

Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried

Consent Agenda –

Fleet Safety Supply	Lighting package - Tahoe	\$8,749.51	
	Total District	<u>\$8,749.51</u>	
Cafeteria-Plan	\$200 per member per calendar year	\$5,000.00	yearly
Mediacom	You Tube TV - \$64.99 per month	\$779.88	yearly
Target	Bluetooth Speaker for Weight Room	\$349.99	
Bunn	Coffee Maker	\$771.04	
Stevens Silkscreening	Re-stock of RED Support or Troops T-shirts	\$2,665.50	
	Total 2%	<u>\$9,566.41</u>	
	Grand Total	<u><u>\$18,315.92</u></u>	

Attorney Flaherty stated the terminology for cafeteria-plan is not correct – Trustee Cicero stated this should be relabeled. Discussion was brought up what we receive from Mediacom.

It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Guddendorf to:
‘Approve the Consent Agenda in the amount of \$18,315.92’

Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried

Trustees Report – Trustee Cicero Stated that General Colin Powell passed away today, flags should be at half-staff.

Report of the Fire Chief – Call volume is 113 for August. Narrative Report - a compilation of all the weekly updates is also in there.

Trustee Fagel asked Chief Perkins to update on Montgomery TIF. Chief explained that Montgomery passed an ordinance approving a feasibility study for the parcels at northwest corner of Orchard and 30, behind Blackberry subdivision. This is vacant land.

Trustee Cicero asked Chief Perkins to explain the ARP - Chief Perkins stated under the American Rescue Plan, Kane County was distributed \$103,000,000, in response to the covid pandemic – the one before that was the Cares Act – this was issued to Counties for distribution to municipalities and other taxing bodies in it; under the ARP, the municipalities have already gotten theirs, so the monies Kane County received is for disbursements outside of municipalities that have already received their funding. Chief stated they are hoping that they earmark monies for Fire Districts, but they have not set up criteria. Chief will be keeping an eye on it.

Fagel stated in the report there is information on the insurance plan – Fagel stated we are grand-mothered, not grand-fathered. Cicero questioned what if this goes up 30% next year, Chief stated that we can negotiate at that point – Chief stated ACA plans go up around 10% every year, and they change the plan every one to two years, so you don't know what you will be getting. Chief stated over that last 4 years we averaged 7.9%.

Attorney's report – General Assembly holding hearings on Bills - one of the Bills is the Battalion Chiefs Bill, a lot of management groups are not in support of this and then The Open Meetings Act Cleanup Bill, that would permanently change the ability to have electronic meetings.

Old Business –

Vacant Property Lease for Farming, etc. – A/C Parson stated when he took the lease to Mr. Nichols, he was already informed by other farmers that the district was going to charge a fee to farm the property. - Mr. Nichols said farming the property is not worth the amount we are asking – he will pay \$1700. Trustee Blankenship questioned who offered the property to other farmers. Trustee Fagel stated that he talked to three farmers that he was recommended to call, if they would be interested in farming those 10 acres. Discussion was held on why one trustee would take it upon himself to talk to other farmers before A/C Parson talked to Mr. Nichols, without the knowledge of the other Trustees.

It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Cicero to:

‘Accept the \$170 an acre per year, from Mr. Nichols, for this season’

Roll call vote – Blankenship Yes, Cicero Yes, Fagel Yes,
Guddendorf No, Lamela Yes – Motion carried

Airport Response, Fees, Inspections, Training, Update Airport Contract and Review –

No new updates

Chief Perkins checked with Chief Tanner of West Chicago about the ARFF class; they contract that out, so he forwarded chiefs information to the company they use. Chief Perkins does not have it budgeted for this year.

Training Facility – Chief Perkins and BC Lopez met with Trustee Bonnie; he believes the village board does not want live burns – they are still concerned about the aesthetics and would like to see brick and mortar, something that looks like the fire station. Chief asked Bonnie about the property on Heartland; Bonnie was unsure about it but will find out. Discussion on the bid that went out; Attorney Flaherty stated that the board should vote to terminate the bid.

It was motioned by Guddendorf and seconded by Cicero to:

‘Terminate the bid process and reject all bids’

Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried

Discussion held on combining training with Oswego – BC Lopez has been in contact with their training officer. Property on Hankes – They want the training completed by February 2022 – Perkins stated he will be reaching out to them; they could never get it completed by February.

Trustee Fagel stated that Dave Blankenship suggested that he write a letter to the Village about fees and annexation. Fagel read that letter (attached). Guddendorf stated that he liked the letter but Fagel needed to take out the part about annexing in parcels with the village – let the parcel owners decide that. Discussion continued on what should be in the letter. Fagel will strike out the part about annexing.

Ambulance Billing – Chief Perkins stated there are two ordinances for the ambulance fees – there was an adjustment made on the GEMT report which brought our numbers down. After some discussion it was decided we should have the fees coincide with the GEMT report.

It was motioned by Lamela and seconded by Guddendorf to:

‘Approve Ordinance 2021-02 Revised Schedule of Fees for Emergency Medical Services for \$2350.’

Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried

Outside Consultant – Trustee Guddendorf questioned if these people will come in and give a presentation. Trustee Fagel stated yes, we could. Trustee Guddendorf stated they should have a direction where they want to go before someone comes in. Discussion continued on what the outside consultant does and the cost. Flaherty stated have someone come in and discuss what it is they do. Fagel asked the trustees to check what dates they have available before the next meeting to have a special meeting, get those dates to him as soon as possible; Fagel will then contact the vendors and have them come out.

Remote Meetings – Trustee Fagel had Attorney Flaherty prepare an ordinance that is in compliance with the existing law. Trustee Blankenship stated this has been brought up numerous times and declined by the board - if you cannot make it in person and there is a quorum that is all that is needed. Discussion continued on the remote meeting – with emphasis on video remote only, with no phone participation at all.

It was motioned by Lamela and seconded by Cicero to:

‘Approve Remote Participation – Eliminating Audio Only Participation’

Roll call vote – Blankenship No, Cicero Yes, Fagel Yes, Guddendorf No, Lamela Yes – Motion carried

Revised Organizational Chart – Trustee Fagel handed out a new organizational chart. Trustee Blankenship questioned why this is being handed out now, when some of this is not in place yet. Chief asked if this is just an example – it is not in effect yet. Blankenship stated that we should hold off on this for now. Flaherty stated he agrees, this should not go into place until the other positions are filled.

New Business –

Surplus Property –

Chief Perkins stated that he would like the Board to declare the following as surplus equipment:

56 Motorola HT1250 Portable Radios – 11 Motorola 6 Bank Portable Radio Chargers

Discussion took place on whether the district should keep all or some of the radios as back-up. Fagel questioned what if the district lost StarCom - The radios the district has now are dual band, they can continue

to use them. Trustee Lamela believes keeping these can create a false safety. It was determined that the surplus radios are obsolete with little or no parts/batteries available for them.

It was motioned by Blankenship and seconded by Guddendorf to:

‘Declare the 56 Motorola HT1250 Portable Radios and 11 Motorola 6 Bank Portable Radio Chargers as surplus’

Roll call vote – Blankenship Yes, Cicero No, Fagel No, Guddendorf Yes, Lamela Yes – Motion carried

It was motioned by Cicero and seconded by Lamela to:

‘Go into closed session at 7:01 pm’

Roll call vote – Blankenship Yes, Cicero Yes, Fagel Yes, Guddendorf No, Lamela Yes – Motion carried

It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Lamela to:

‘Go into open session at 7:59 pm’

It was motioned by Lamela and seconded by Guddendorf to:

‘Open the March 15, 2021 - April 19, 2021 - May 17, 2021 - and September 27, 2021, closed session minutes’

No other action was taken in closed session.

ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Trustee Cicero stated that he respectfully resigns from the Board. He thought they were making progress as a Board, but now he feels like it is a hamster wheel going round and round. It is sad, he feels sorry for everyone; he thanked Shawn for all his time, and Harry and all the current Board members. He feels like it is one way, whether it is his way or the other board members way, at the end of the day he feels like it is a losing battle. He wishes the best for everyone; he would like everyone to look at their job responsibilities, from the POCs, to the Board, to the Battalion Chiefs, to the Fire Chief, to the Administrative Assistant; Everyone. He has a challenge coin that says do the right thing, and the right thing is for the citizens, and who is protecting them. The Firefighters are on the front line, they deserve the world from everyone inside this place. He believes this is making him a worse fireman, knowing what is going on behind closed doors; it sucks that we have the final decision for them, because they work their A**** off for everything, and their voices should be heard, and they should not be afraid to talk, and they should get what they want. He wants it to go up the chain and then go back down, and everyone is informed; he likes to know what is going on, and he apologizes for the last meeting, where he was told he was asking too many questions. He hopes they go with McGrath, he did not talk with McGrath, he read the appropriate stuff, at the end of the day, he likes what they can do for this place. Trustee Guddendorf stated that he does also. Cicero stated that it was presented in June, someone ripped the paperwork up, that tells him that he is one way and the fact he can't read something, baffles him, that tells him this is not a five-person board when they don't get everything they want. If there are questions, ask them, don't beat around the bush, don't write it off. This reminds him of something Shawn said six months ago – this board constantly goes around in circles and does not follow through with things – this is not just in the past 2 ½ years, it has been for the past 5, 10, 15, 20, from what he has heard – he has heard the word s***-show in the past week from two members, they don't want to be a part of it and this is the s***-show they are talking about. He does not want to be a part of it either – hopefully he is going to be made lieutenant in the next couple months and he is going to treat his men with the upmost respect, and this is pulling him down too much. Maybe this is a full-time job as John says, and he cannot do that. McGrath is giving an overview, they don't say do this or do that, it ultimately comes down to the board, it is less homework the chief has to do for us, it is less homework we have to do as a Board, it gives us the supplies to make this a better place to work at, and make people smile, and not have them leave. The firefighters are

going for a contract in a few months, and he wished he could be here for that. Two months ago, he said this was the perfect spot for a full-time firefighter to be in, so he can know what the guys want, what the Chief wants, what the secretaries want, what the attorney wants, know what the Board wants. Trustee Cicero stated he will write up something. Trustee Fagel asked Trustee Cicero to change his mind. Trustee Cicero stated he can't. Trustee Cicero stated he wants the best for everybody. He said it takes more than one meeting a month, and he believes that McGrath can help this place out. Trustee Guddendorf stated he is sad to see him go. Trustee Fagel stated he is sad to see him go – he asked if it was something he failed to do. Trustee Guddendorf stated it is a lot of work, he didn't realize it when he came on board either. Trustee Fagel said he let him down. Trustee Cicero stated no one let him down – it was just the constant un-agreeance – he knows that this happens but when they fail everyone, when they don't follow through, it is not acceptable – he said for the board to read job descriptions – dive into those – hold people accountable. He is not saying to get rid of people – they need guidance – show them how to fix it. Cicero stated he wished everyone luck and his phone is always on. Trustee Fagel stated that this is a sad day for the Board, a sad day for the department – Tim will be sadly missed. Cicero stated vote for McGrath – he is not resigning because he has something to do with McGrath, he knows that was said, but he has nothing to do with McGrath – he read both proposals, he read it all – he told the board to read it – he thinks this is something that should be done every five years – they are so knowledgeable. Trustee Fagel asked Trustee Cicero if he would like to go back into closed session and visit McGrath – Cicero stated no, he does not want to make people more upset – they are already upset because we brought it up – he wishes John would have suggested McGrath last meeting, because now they just keep pushing it off – the consultants are coming the next two months, so now we are looking at January, February. He said they are only making themselves look bad, because they keep pushing it off. Fagel said he is speechless – he said Cicero is an asset to the Board, to the department, to the members; without him being here, his voice is silent, and we cannot have that; his voice is critically important, and he can't think of a better person on this board.

It was motioned by Guddendorf and seconded by Cicero to:
'Adjourn at 8:15 pm'

All in favor – Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Cicero, Secretary

Paula Lacey, Recording Secretary