

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

**DATE:** April 17, 2023  
**TIME:** 6:00 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 Moran, Attorney Flaherty

**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call** – Trustee Cicero and Trustee Guddendorf absent

**Public to Address the Board** – None heard.

**Approval of Minutes** –

It was motioned by Guddendorf and seconded by Blankenship to:  
‘Approve the March 20, 2023, minutes.’

**Roll call vote – All in Favor - Motion carried**

**Correspondence** – None

**Treasurers Report** –

Approval of Cash Balances and Budget vs Actual Reports –

It was motioned by Lamela and seconded by Blankenship to:

‘Approve the Cash Balances and Budget vs Actual for March 2023.’

**Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried**

**Approval of Expenditures** –

Question regarding...

- Modeled Physiology for Maestro – Manikin training
- Nicholas Honeysett – Fire Academy for new POC – grant reimburses.

It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Lamela to:

‘Approve the Expenditures for March 2023’

**Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried**

**Consent Agenda** –

All items on Consent Agenda are for the 2% - Cafeteria Plan

1. Wade – \$50.22
2. Sullivan – \$49.35

It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Lamela to:

‘Approve the Consent Agenda’

**Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried**

**Trustees Report –**

**Trustee Blankenship**

- House is still smoldering on Bliss – this is Elburn’s district.

**Report of the Fire Chief –**

- BC Wade went to an ESO Conference/Training in Texas
- Call volume down 36 calls this year.
- 349 calls from 01/01-03/31
- Waiting for the weather to break for concrete job.

**Attorney’s report –**

- Next month the Decennial committee – need to get the two volunteers from town – check with commissioners.
- Comply with Open Meetings Act – post meetings.
  - This can be included with the regular meetings – needs separate line item and its own agenda.
- Megan Lamb will send an ordinance this week.
- HB1625 sitting in Senate – this makes it easier for districts to dispose of surplus real property.
- HB1626 sitting in Senate – increases bidding threshold for fire districts from 20,000 to 30,000.
- HB3249 sitting in Senate – this allows an employee on PSEBA, to choose what plan they want. Currently the employer chooses the plan they can be on.
- SB1750 – passed the Senate sitting in the House – Fire District must reimburse mandatory training of an EMT or Paramedic, subject to State appropriations.
- Lift Assist Bill seems to be dead for now. Question on Lift Assist Fees – can we adopt a fee; yes, but cannot enforce it.

**Old Business –**

Grievance – table until after closed

**Draft Budget –**

- \$160,000 deficit if every line was spent.
- Budget and Appropriation on May Agenda
- Currently \$650,000 surplus this budget year due to change in personnel and revenues were up.
- 517012 – this should be new employee uniforms

**New Business –**

Dave Harrington of Sawyer/Falduto went over the Investment Performance Report

- Investment return for fund is \$15,880.00 for the month.
- Will transfer \$1,073,772.70 from Operations to Capital.
- Increase of about \$30,000 for the last two months

**It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Blankenship to:  
‘Approve the Investment Performance Report’**

**Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried**

**Sikich LLP – Engagement Letter**

- Increase of 5% - it is still 20% lower than market rates.
- We have been using Sikich for a very long time and are pleased with them.
- Reviewed by Attorney Flaherty and it is still the same form – suitable for adoption.

**It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Blankenship to:  
‘Adopt the Engagement Letter with Sikich LLP’**

**Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried**

**Lauterbach & Amen – Audit – 3yr agreement**

Three-year agreement – This gives us better pricing.

- \$9,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- \$9,250 for 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- \$9,500 for 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- We have been using them for 4 years now and they have done fine for us.
- Reviewed by Attorney Flaherty –
  - They added something that was not in the previous agreement.
    - During this contract period we cannot hire one of their employees, if so, we are to compensate L&A 100% of the person’s annual compensation.

**It was motioned by Blankenship and seconded by Lamela to:  
‘Accept the 3year Agreement with Lauterbach & Amen’**

**Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried**

**Closed Session –**

**It was motion by Blankenship and seconded by Fagel to  
‘Go into closed session 6:31pm for Discussion of Personnel and Collective Bargaining Issues.’**

**Trustees are back in open session at 7:15pm**

**It was motioned by Blankenship and seconded by Lamela to:  
‘Approve the increase in compensation for non-union employees per attached sheet.’**

**Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried**

**It was motioned by Blankenship and seconded by Lamela to:  
‘Hire one additional Firefighter from the list.’**

**Roll call vote – All in favor - Motion carried**

**All Other Matters that May Come Before the Board – None heard.**

**Motion by Blankenship and seconded by Lamela to adjourn at 7:17pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Timothy Cicero, Secretary

  
Paula Lacey, Recording Secretary