

**VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**

JUNE 27, 2022

The special meeting of the Valley Fire District Board was held on **Monday, June 27, 2022** at the Valley Fire District, 5287 Dogwood Drive, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. The following were present.

BOARD MEMBERS	FIRE DEPARTMENT	LEGAL	FIRE CLERK
Amy Anderson, Chair	Chief Riedel	David Randolph	Catherine Anson
Dan Schneider, Sr.	Asst Chief Duber		
Richard Slocum	Captain Packard		

The special board meeting of the Valley Fire District was called to order by Anderson at 3:30 PM.

1. Difficulty in Filling Shifts.

The officers discussed region-wide problems in filling shifts at various local departments along with their causes. The solutions aren't necessarily based on increased salary. The board discussed creating a full-time position at Valley Fire to help alleviate the problem. Anderson mentioned the county's health care coverage. Anderson stated that other solutions could be partnering with local entities or shutting down the department if it can't be staffed.

Anson was charged with created a comparison cost for a full-time employee and estimated health care coverage by the next meeting.

Riedel was charged with providing figures from Lakemore.

Randolph was charged with determining the township's responsibility in providing fire and EMS services to its community in case the department was shut down.

2. Board policy on PR activities that have traditionally been volunteer positions.

Anderson expressed her anger in not knowing about the board's discussion on approving pay for Memorial Day activities. She felt foolish when she thanked the personnel for showing up without knowing that they were being paid for their hours. She stated that the approval should be been done by a resolution and not considered as scheduled shift time.

While Slocum said that he takes full responsibility for the oversight in not passing a resolution at the 5/16/2022 regular meeting, he indicated that he was just one of two board members present. Slocum then recounted the events of the 5/16/2022 meeting that were not reported in that meeting's minutes:

During the Chief's report, Riedel indicated that he was unable to get many if any volunteers to attend the Memorial Day events and that he felt the only way to get attendance was to make it a paid event. Board members Slocum and Schneider discussed and agreed to pay staff for the time and asked the Chief if he thought there needed a board resolution for this. Riedel responded that he felt it was a "staffing issue" within his authority. Hearing no objection from the lawyer, Slocum and Schneider let the matter stand without a resolution.

Slocum asked Schneider if he would have voted to authorize paying the personnel, and he said that he would have.

Slocum stated that he recognized the distress that this caused Anderson and apologized to her and repeated that he believed there was no intention to hide this from Anderson.

Anderson stated that the police were volunteering on Memorial Day with the exception of two who were paid for 4 hours not the 12 Valley was paid.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Anson, Clerk

Amy Anderson, Chair