

VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

November 20, 2023

The regular meeting of the Valley Fire District Board was held on **Monday, November 20, 2023** at the Valley Fire District, 5287 Dogwood Drive, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. The following were present.

BOARD MEMBERS	OFFICERS	OFFICERS	FIRE CLERK
Amy Anderson	Chief Riedel	Lt. Levitt	Catherine Anson
Dan Schneider, Sr	Asst Chief Duber	Lt. Sebastian	LEGAL COUNSEL
Richard Slocum	Capt. Packard		Christopher Parker

The regular board meeting of the Valley Fire District was called to order by Anderson at 5:31 PM.

Announcements. Anderson announced the passing of Lee Spencer and Danny Todea. In good news, Russ Morgan’s cancer is in remission. A donation of \$50 in honor of George Fisher was received.

Approval of Minutes.
MOTION by Schneider, seconded by Anderson to approve minutes of the **October 16, 2023** regular meeting. Voting: Schneider, Anderson Yes; Slocum Abstain. **[20231120-01]**

Purchase Orders: (Items at \$2,500 or more must be signed by the board). MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the purchase orders. Voting: All Yes. **[20231120-02]**

PO	#	ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NAME	\$AMOUNT
61	2023	1000-220-341-0000	TELEPHONE	1,000.00
62	2023	1000-220-230-0000	WORKERS COMP	3,500.00

Financials and Approval of Bank Reconciliation. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the bank reconciliation. Voting: All Yes. **[20231120-03]**

Approval of Payroll. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve **Pay #12 of November 14, 2023.** Voting: All Yes. **[20231120-04]**

Life Force Closures. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the Life Force closures. Voting: All Yes. **[20231120-05]**

Approval for Payment of Bills. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the payment of bills. Voting: All Yes. **[20231120-06]**

- Other Business.**
- **Life Force Closure.** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the Life Force closure. Voting: All Yes. **[20231120-07]**
 - **ARPA Grant.** The ARPA grant through the Ohio Department of Public Safety was awarded at the reduced amount of \$34,193.79 as retention bonuses for those still employed who worked as of July 2022. The award document and worksheet were distributed to the board prior to the meeting and signed at the meeting.
 - **Review of EMS rates.** With no change in area rates since the last meeting and with Valley rates close to the top tier, the EMS rates will be reviewed in March 2024 for possible changes.
 - **New Copier Lease.** A proposal for a new copier was distributed to the board prior to the meeting with three options. The current lease expires in January. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the lease of the Kyocera copier through Visual Edge IT. Voting: All Yes. **[20231120-08]**
 - **2024 Temporary Appropriations.** The clerk distributed a draft of the 2024 Temporary Appropriations to the board prior to the meeting. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve 2024 Temporary Appropriations as submitted. Voting: All Yes. **[20231120-09]**

Reports.

- Riedel.**
- The paperwork for reimbursement for the SCBA compressor purchased for the FEMA grants has been submitted and a direct deposit should be received this month.
 - Our insurance provider will be scheduling a risk management survey of the fire department buildings and policies.
 - A new light bar has been ordered for Car 2 as the old one can no longer be repaired.
 - He recommended for hire Daniel McAllister as a Paramedic/Firefighter 2. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the hire. Voting: All Yes. **[20231120-10]**

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Duber.

- The M1 Turbo Module for Medic 1 has been repaired and the vehicle is back in service.
- He has completed the post award AFG paperwork for payment.

Packard.

- We have one extra Knox box.
- We have only one shift where there is one person scheduled and no shifts that are empty.

Moledor.

- Since the last meeting there have been 11 inspections completed.
- The T-shirt order has arrived and is ready to be distributed.

Sebastian.

- The fire extinguisher from Engine 1 has been recharged following a fire incident.
- He is using the last of the money awarded by the EMS grant.

Levitt.

- He spoke with Lifeline and they anticipate the new squad will be ready for delivery the second quarter of 2024.
- **Complaint against Anderson.** Anderson called on Lt. Levitt to start the discussion on the complaint he brought forward. He responded that it wasn't his complaint, he was simply following established protocol. The complaint involved negative comments made by Anderson at a meeting held at another fire station. Anderson clarified her comments and talked about her successful work over the years for the district and her dissatisfaction with the constant complaints, negativity, and requests for more money. She opened the floor from comments from those employees in attendance allowing an opportunity for everyone to speak. Several members present stated that the complaint was not about money but about the perceived negativity and disrespect for members of the department exhibited by her in public and at board meetings. Slocum and Schneider expressed their support for the employees of the District.

Boston Heights Council Person Fenn.

- Fenn reported that council member Ron Antal has won the election for mayor of Boston Heights. Fenn stated that the council is happy with the fire/ems agreement and that the relationship between Boston Heights and the District will continue.

Legal Counsel.

- Christopher Parker, substituting for Al Schrader at tonight's meeting, distributed a draft of a resolution regarding testing for marijuana use since it will become legal on December 7. The resolution is to prevent the use of cannabis by employees. No action is needed at this time and the document should form the basis for future discussion.

Slocum.

- He has served as a board member for 15 years and spoke of his appreciation for members of the department in helping family members and neighbors. He is dropping off the board as the at-large member as he has been elected to serve on the Peninsula Council. He has been proud to serve as a member of the board.

Anderson.

- The Share-A-Christmas food drive at Costco has been set up by the Chief and will be held from 10:00 to 2:00 on Saturday, December 2. The new trailer park manager has provided a better list for the distribution.

Executive Session. MOTION by Anderson, seconded by Slocum, to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues with the Chief and Assistant Chief remaining. Anson called roll.

Anderson. Yes Slocum. Yes Schneider. Yes

Motion passed. The trustees entered executive session at 6:34 PM. [20231120-11]

MOTION by Anderson, seconded by Slocum, to enter regular session. Anson called roll.

Anderson. Yes Slocum. Yes Schneider. Yes

Motion passed. The trustees reconvened at 7:02 PM with no action taken during the session. [20231120-12]

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There being no further business, Slocum moved to adjourn at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Anson, Clerk

Amy Anderson, Chair