



Monroe Fire Protection District



MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair Vicky Sorensen called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe Fire Protection District to order at 6:00p.m. EST Wednesday, April 8, 2026. The meeting was held in person at Station 25, located at 5081 N. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, Indiana and via Zoom for public to view. Public notice of the meeting had been duly made to local media by email transmission and hard copy notices had been placed in all the usual places.

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen called the roll of the board of trustees to determine members present, absent, and to identify others present via Zoom.

Present in person were as follows: Vicky Sorensen, Chair
Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair
Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer
John Bernstein, Trustee
Susan Hingle, Trustee
Kevin R. Robling, Trustee
Dan Vest, Trustee

Those absent were as follows: All members present

Others present were as follows: Dustin Dillard, Chief
Jeffrey Combs, Deputy Chief of Administration
Matt Bright, Deputy Chief, EMS & Operations
Steve Coover, Deputy Chief, Community Risk Reduction
Bill Tusing, Deputy Chief, Facilities & Logistics
Danny Gillespie, Assistant Chief of Training
Christine Bartlett, Attorney, Ferguson Law
Nick Powell, Fleet Manager
Tammy Bovenschen, Administrative Assistant
Lorie Robinson, Financial Assistant
Darrell Cooper, IT Specialist
Rita Barrow, Van Buren Township Trustee
Leigh Dillard, MFD Life Safety Educator
Kylie Bovenschen, MFD Clerical Assistant (zoom)

**HEADQUARTERS
3953 S KENNEDY DRIVE
BLOOMINGTON IN
812-331-1906
812-336-1166 (FAX)**

CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chair Vicky Sorensen asked if there were any changes or amendments to the agenda. Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen stated no changes or amendments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Vicky Sorensen explained this was the time when any member of the public could speak to the board concerning any matter not listed on the agenda.

Chair Vicky Sorensen thanked the staff for their work preparing the board information each month. She thanked IT Specialist Darrell Cooper for all of his technology work. She also thanked the board for their work each month in reviewing the packet prior to the meeting and having questions ready for the staff. She also thanked the MFD firefighters for attending the meeting on zoom.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from March were presented to the board for approval.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the minutes.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan 2nd

Motion Passed 7-0

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

a. Legal Updates

Legal Counsel, Christine Bartlett completed a few background checks and worked with administration on a new initiative.

Chief Dustin Dillard expressed members of the union got in touch with Department of Natural Resources and they're wanting to partner with DNR – H2O Heroes. Life vest stations around Lake Monroe and help provide infrastructure and life vests through donations. DNR is going to check those on a regular basis. Legal Counsel has reviewed this. Josh Fowler, Union Treasurer is working on getting those donations and envisioning getting this on the website, social media, QR codes, flyers and we'll know more in the coming weeks.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker asked if this is going to take place at Lake Monroe Beach. Chief Dustin Dillard stated it'll be at a few locations, the beach and Fairfax boat ramp.

Trustee John Bernstein asked if the intent is to borrow the life jackets. Chief Dustin Dillard explained yes, but people will end up keeping some the idea is to have a stockpile and have DNR do inventory daily.

b. Statistics

Deputy Chief Matt Bright updated the board the monthly statistics for March.

TOTAL Emergency Calls	459
Fire Calls	35
Hazardous Situation	26
Medical	278
Public Service	49
Rescue	7
No Emergency	63
Law Enforcement	1
Incidents by District Station	459
Station 21	47
Station 22/HQ	102
Station 23	6
Station 24	31
Station 25	54
Station 26	22
Station 29	169
Station 39	28
Aid in support of primary entity	
Aid given	48
Aid received	11
Aid in lieu of primary entity	
Aid given	16
Aid received	1
Aid acting as another entity	
Aid given	0
Aid received	3
Incidents by Township	64
Bean Blossom	5
Bloomington (City)	35
Ellettsville	18
Brown County	0
Greene County	6
Lawrence County	0
Morgan County	0
Owen County	0
Total Patient Transports	81
Ambulance 21	5
Ambulance 22	8
Ambulance 23	5

Ambulance 29 63

Destinations

IU Health Bloomington 47
Monroe Hospital 3

Trustee Susan Hingle and Trustee Kevin Robling thanked Deputy Chief Matt Bright for the updated statistics and additional information.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked why some calls are so much longer. Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained that it depends on when the call is and the time of day. Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs went into more detail – long discussion.

c. Emergency Medical Services & Operations

Deputy Chief Matt Bright updated the board on EMS & Operations

Current Situation:

- EMT students starting ride along with our ambulance
- Began receiving new cardiac monitors, initiated set up, and preparing for distribution and training
- Arrest Save x3 (Station 29/Station 22x2)

Accomplishments:

- Reporting Software Progress

Planned Activities:

- Attend/Participate in District 8 EPPC (Emergency Preparedness Planning Conference) conference and exercise
- Operations continuity plan for reporting – emergency/non-emergency
- Work to create a variety of long-term options to address the EMS transport situation in the county
 - Plan for districtwide FT ambulance service
 - Plan for ALS integration
 - Plan for expansion into whole county if called upon/requested

Trustee Susan Hingle commented that she wants to hear the good things.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked about mass casualty exercise, is that annual? Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained it happened the last two or three years. Chief Dustin Dillard and Deputy Bright went together last year, and it was put on by the Indiana Collegiate EMS. Deputy Chief Bright stated that LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) puts on an exercise yearly as well. Long discussion on mass casualties and future preparedness.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about more information on First Due. Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained that it's the new software equipment.

d. Fleet

Fleet Manager Nick Powell updated the board on Fleet:

Current Situation:

- Maintenance:
 - 7 low priority
 - 26 medium priority
 - 6 high priority
 - OOS: 2 – Out of Service 1+ days
 - Engine 22 – currently at First Service
 - Engine 26 – would not shift; was repaired; failed connection at TCM and ECM

Accomplishments:

- Planned trip to St. Louis April 8
 - Meeting with St. Louis marine division and a trip to an emergency equipment and apparatus vendor
- HME New Fire Engine Specifications
 - Drawings, photos, and spec sheet from HME obtained
- Dodge Dakota
 - Dodge Dakota was used for training and sold for scrap
- Fleet Maintenance and Repair
 - Testing Marine 21 and returned it to active service after identifying and addressing vibration issues
 - All mowers, boats, and UTV's serviced

Planned Activities:

- Implemented ethanol free fuel plan
 - Fuel stations and logistics or ethanol free fuel distribution
- Brush 26
 - Relocate apparatus for brush/squad 26
- Marine Units
 - Develop a monthly schedule to operate the marine units on the lake

Trustee John Bernstein asked if we coordinate with DNR for a new boat? Chief Dustin Dillard explained historically DNR have a different type of watercraft than MFPD. Trustee Bernstein mentioned he thought the DNR may know the lake best. Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs stated that we invited DNR to do surface water training with us.

e. Facilities & Logistics

Deputy Chief Bill Tusing updated the board on Facilities & Logistics:

Current Situation:

- Working with Electrician on estimates for electrical issues at Station 21
- Working on Plymo-vent repair at Station 24
- Working with Station 23 to move old playground equipment to Station 21 for possible future use

Accomplishments:

- Garage door has been ordered for Station 39
- Repaired downspout damaged from storm at Station 29
- Delivered mulch and wood chips to Station 25 (donated by Bluestone Tree)

Planned Activities:

- Blow in insulation at Station 23
- Replace downstairs entry door at HQ Annex
- Replace broken/missing fence around generator at Station 29

Trustee Susan Hingle asked about the patching at Station 25. Deputy Chief Bill Tusing explained that this happened last year with settling issues, but things are finishing up nicely. Painting has started.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about electrical issues at Station 21. Deputy Chief Bill Tusing explained there are four vehicles on each side of the building that are connected to the same 20-amp circuit. We're trying to get four new lines, so that each vehicle has its own 20-amp circuit.

f. Training

Assistant Chief Danny Gillespie updated the board on Training:

Current Situation:

- Continue to work with BFD on upcoming Recruit Academy
- Reviewing all First Due Training entries for accuracy, providing feedback to personnel
- Working with Admin to purchase Conex containers through IDHS grant

Accomplishments:

- Transitioned training documentation from Image Trend to First Due – January 1st – March 14th
- Dubois County Fire School March 13-15 and March 20-22
- Vehicle Extrication Skills Days at Ken's Westside for all companies, including scenario-based response for all crews

Planned Activities:

- FDIC April 20-25
- Search & Rescue course for Rescue personnel
- Evaluating residential properties on west side of Bloomington for potential training

Training Hours:

- Company Training
 - February training hours – 2,104
 - March training hours – 2,718.75

Trustee Kevin Robling thanked Assistant Chief Danny Gillespie for the additional detail.

g. Community Risk Reduction

Deputy Chief Steve Coover updated the board on Community Risk Reduction.

Current Situation:

- CERT Class March 26-April 18
- Investigating hazardous condition in neighborhood with Monroe County Solid Waste District
- Researching an AI emergency monitoring company regarding errors in notifications

Accomplishments:

- City Hall display case program for the month of April 2026
- Fire Marshal Division attended Indiana Fire Inspectors Conference
- Fire Marshal Division attended Fire Inspector I/II/III Certification
- Events: Breakfast with the Bunny, Fire and Life Safety Officer Lecture *Inclusive Magic: Creating Moments for All Abilities* at the Indiana Fire Inspectors Conference

Planned Activities:

- Healthaplooza at Bloomington High School South April 23
- Cooperative program with the United Way/Red Cross regarding public education for disaster preparedness
- Hoosier Burn Camp teen lake outing

Fire Inspections:

- Fire Safety Inspections – 23
- Re-Inspections – 0
- New Construction Inspections – 3
- Plans Review – 0
- Consultations – 4

Trustee Susan Hingle received an alert and wanted clarification on it. Chief Dustin Dillard recommended that you shouldn't burn/have a fire tomorrow (referring to the alert Susan received about high winds, low humidity, etc.).

Trustee John Bernstein asked if the high school students participate in the Healthaplooza or just listen? Deputy Chief Steve Coover stated that's it's set for them coming as customers.

h. Financial

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented financial summary for March 2026.

Current Situation:

- GAAP Report submission reviews underway for bank reconciliations & pension contributions

- FORVIS GAAP bank account authorizations being prepared for audit access
- Discussions with other Monroe County Government Component Units regarding Hartman & Williams fees
 - Consensus being favorable for rates, ease of submission and consistency

Accomplishments:

- Researched investment opportunities for MFPD cash balances to be discussed in New Business
 - Contacted SBOA to confirm investment opportunities are allowed
- Participated in the DLGF webinar concerning Budget 2.0 launch this spring
- Received March Local Income Tax (LIT) revenue \$380,971.66

Planned Activities:

- Review our Donation Fund process in accordance with SBOA March Bulletin
- Budget 2.0 in-person training – date and location TBD
- Review internal controls and validate member affidavits

EMS Revenue & Collections:

- Added the active accounts receivable – March
- General Summary – 22.7%
- Cumulative Fund – 31%

Trustee Dan Vest asked why the collections are lower. Assistant Lorie Robinson explained it's down due to deductibles being met. Deputy Chief Matt Bright also elaborated.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked why Ambulance is in red. Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that it's personnel cost and it's tracked separately. If a firefighter runs on the ambulance that day, they get coded to the ambulance line. For now, it offsets how much our hourly pay was devoted to the ambulance service rather than just the firefighter service.

i. Administrative Report

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs updated the board Administrative Report.

Current Situation:

- Conditional offers going to 5 full-time hires to fill vacancies in 2026 budget
- Following up with candidates that request to review improvements and placements on hiring list
- Spring Cleaning for HQ

Accomplishments:

- Scheduled 9 Volunteers to attend FF 1/2 courses at 3 locations to begin fire certification process
- 90-day review of Rescue Company
- Met with Station 21 personnel to look at a sonar tool

Planned Activities:

- Hosting Indiana Chiefs at VB Township for Legislative update and other topics
- Fire Camp for local youth in categories, elementary, middle and high school
- Transitioning from 28 day to 14 day pay cycle

Personnel Report:

- New Hires – Full Time – 5
- New Hires – Part-Time – 5
- New Hires – Substitutes – 0
- Volunteers – 7
- Promotions – 0
- Resignations – 1

Volunteer Hours: 257.5

Trustee Dan Vest how many volunteers have been hired. Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs stated just this year, probably 12.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked about fuel costs and how much they've gone up. Chief Dustin Dillard stated \$16,000 for the month of March due to increase call volume paired with higher fuel prices. Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that on average it ranged from \$10,000-\$12,000 before the fuel prices went up.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked how much did we increase in budget? Chief Dustin Dillard stated we did the normal 4% and we're fine on fuel as long as it doesn't exceed \$5.00 a gallon.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about the Zoll Monitors, have they been installed? Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs stated that the monitors purchased for the District by Van Buren Township have been received and placed into service. We're still waiting on the additional ones purchased for the District by Benton Township. Once received they will be placed into service at District stations.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we can purchase fuel in advance. Chief Dustin Dillard explained that it doesn't work for MFPD. The last time it was considered was during the solar eclipse, but it's something that's discussed and looked at every few years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. AFG Exhaust Grant

Deputy Chief Matt Bright presents the AFG Exhaust System Grant. This is for new or existing exhaust, and the specifications have been prepared and sent to legal for review. The board will receive quotes next month.

Legal Counsel Christine Bartlett also mentioned that since this is Federal Procurement using Federal Grant dollars, we need to ensure that we're complying with Federal Procurement and State regulations. The State threshold was just increased last year, so we can make this purchase using quotes.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Hiring

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs recommended the following individuals for full-time career firefighter positions:

Gamble Andrews, Emma Fisher, Samuel Hamilton, Adam Kilar and David Volz

Trustee John Bernstein made a motion to approve the full-time hiring candidates

Trustee Dan Vest 2nd

Motion Passed 7-0

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs recommended the following individuals for permanent part-time positions now and then to be hired as full-time career firefighters in 2027:

Isiah Cornwell, Nathan Embree, Josiah Moore, Ty Pride and Austin Todd.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the permanent part-time candidates.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd

Motion Passed 7-0

b. Fire Gear

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs recommended the purchase of 12 sets of fire gear from MES in the amount of \$54,791.40

Discussion on the chemical content on PPE and if any manufacturer claims to be better than another on PFASS levels. Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs stated that we will be going April 14th & 15th to visit Fire Dex manufacturing facility to see how gear is made.

Fiscal Officer Baker made a motion to approve the 12 sets of gear from MES in the amount of \$54,791.40

Trustee John Bernstein 2nd

Motion Passed 7-0

c. Generator

Deputy Chief Bill Tusing recommended the purchase of a new generator for Station 26 from Midwest Generator Systems in the amount of \$14,183.00

Discussion about the components of the quote, the 5-year extended warranty and the cell service costs. Fiscal Officer Baker stated that he has a generator and it is serviced by MGS and they are a great company to work with. Vice-Chair Kruzan stated that he also uses them for service for his generator and stated the cell service is worth the cost

as they can repair remotely sometimes and saves the service call fees.

Trustee Dan Vest made a motion to purchase a generator from Midwest Generator Systems in the amount of \$14,183.00

Vice Chair Kruzan 2nd

Motion Passed 7-0

d. Investment Opportunity

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained to the board the information she had collected concerning investing some of the District's unappropriated funds.

Lengthy discussion concerning which banks had better rates, how banks could guarantee our funds over the \$250,000 FDIC limits. Financial Assistant Robinson explained that PDIF will cover all amounts over the FDIC Limits. More discussion on length of CD purchase and how many to purchase.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker expressed to the board that he would like for us to invest 1.5 million dollars from the unappropriated Rainy-Day fund into 3 twelve-month CD's with Peoples State Bank. Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson agreed with Fiscal Officer Baker that we can come back to the board in July after the next settlement and purchase a shorter-term CD with those funds.

Trustee John Bernstein made a motion to approve the investment of 1.5 million dollars from the unappropriated Rainy-Day funds in 3 twelve-month CD's at Peoples State Bank.

Vice Chair Mark Kruzan 2nd

Motion Passed 7-0

e. Fire Engine

Fleet Manager Nick Powell presented quotes for a new fire engine. He explained the need for new fire truck, the changes coming from EPA rules for firetruck engines and the differences in the quotes he received.

Trustee Dan Vest asked questions about which trucks are we replacing? What would become of the older trucks? Is there anything wrong with the older trucks? Why can we not replace the motor?

Fiscal Officer Baker asked if there would be a need for a new firetruck with Bean Blossom joining the District in 2027.

Fleet Manager Powell explained that the need for new engines is not something new, we have been working on the specifications for almost a year and a half. The quotes received are staying with a motor that is already established and not first year production. The trucks that remove from service will go into reserve status and be utilized for several more years in that capacity.

Fleet Manager Nick Powell explained that he is seeking approval tonight to purchase from 911 Fleet & Fire an HME Ahrens-Fox 1871 Pumper in the amount of \$1,038,500.00. Cost for this has been budgeted and is in the Cum fund.

Trustee John Bernstein made a motion to approve the purchase of a new HME Ahrens-Fox 1871 Pumper fire truck from 911 Fleet & Fire in the amount of \$1,038,500.00.
Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd
Motion Passed 7-0

Chair Sorensen noted that Van Buren Trustee Rita Barrow will be purchasing an identical fire truck from 911 Fleet & Fire for the Monroe Fire Protection District. The board of trustees thanked Trustee Barrow for her continued support of Monroe Fire Protection District.

f. Mower

Fleet Manager Nick Powell presented the board with quotes for a new mower for Station 21. Fleet Manager Powell requests the purchase of a Kawasaki Hustler 60" Fastrak from Richard's Small Engines in the amount of \$7,499.29.

Trustee Dan Vest made a motion to approve the purchase from Richard's Small Engines for a 60" Kawasaki Hustler Fastrak for \$7,499.29
Trustee John Bernstein 2nd
Motion passed 7-0

FINANCIALS

a. Financial – Claims

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented claims March 2026. Total claims - \$333,809.33

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan made a motion to approve the claims for March 2026.
Trustee Kevin Robling 2nd
Motion Passed 7-0

b. Payroll

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen presented the March monthly payrolls for approval on 1st, 15th and 28th

- March 1st Trustee Quarterly payroll - \$6,108.51
- March 15th payroll – totaling \$347,285.94
 - 28 Day
- March 30th payroll – totaling \$277,629.31

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan made a motion to approve March payrolls.
Trustee Kevin Robling 2nd
Motion Passed 7-0

c. Financial – Statement

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented the financial statement to the board for March approval.

Trustee John Bernstein made a motion to approve the financial statement for March.
Trustee Kevin Robling 2nd
Motion Passed 7-0

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

NEXT MEETING

Chair Vicky Sorensen stated that the next meeting will be in person May 13, 2026, at Station 21, located at 9094 S Strain Ridge Road Bloomington, Indiana. The meeting will also be held via zoom.


ADJOURN

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to adjourn at 8:30p.m.

Minutes approved by the board of trustees on May 13, 2026:


Aye:

Nay:




Vicky Sorensen, Chair

Vicky Sorensen, Chair




Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair

Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair



Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer

Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer



John Bernstein, Trustee

John Bernstein, Trustee



Susan Hingle, Trustee

Susan Hingle, Trustee

Kevin R. Robling, Trustee

Kevin R. Robling, Trustee

Dan Vest, Trustee

Dan Vest, Trustee

Copy furnished:

Mrs. Vicky Sorensen, Chair

Mr. Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer

Ms. Susan Hingle, Trustee

Mr. Daniel Vest, Trustee

Mr. David Ferguson, Legal Counsel

Headquarters, Bulletin Board

Station No. 22, Bulletin Board

Station No. 24, Bulletin Board

Station No. 26, Bulletin Board

Station No. 39, Bulletin Board

Mr. Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair

Mr. John Bernstein, Trustee

Mr. Kevin R. Robling, Trustee

Mr. Dustin Dillard, Fire Chief

Mrs. Christine Bartlett, Legal Counsel

Station No. 21, Bulletin Board

Station No. 23, Bulletin Board

Station No. 25, Bulletin Board

Station No. 29, Bulletin Board