



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, August 13, 2025. The meeting was held in person at Station 21, located at 9094 S Strain Ridge Road, 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 (via Zoom)
- Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer
- John Bernstein, Trustee
- Susan Hingle, Trustee (via Zoom at 6:03pm)
- Kevin R. Robling, Trustee
- Dan Vest, Trustee

Those absent were as follows:

Others present were as follows:

- Dustin Dillard, Chief (via Zoom)
- Matt Bright, Deputy Chief, EMS & Operations
- Jeffrey Combs, Assistant Chief of Administration (via Zoom)
- Bill Tusing, Deputy Chief of Logistics
- Steve Coover, Deputy Chief, Community Risk Reduction
- 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

HEADQUARTERS
3953 S KENNEDY DRIVE
BLOOMINGTON IN
812-331-1906
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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 yes, under new business, item F, we need to have 2026 budget added.

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. No public comment.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the July 9, 2025 regular meeting were presented to the board for approval.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the July 9, 2025 minutes.
Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd
Motion passed 7-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this month.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Department Updates

a. Legal Updates

Legal Counsel, Christine Bartlett stated the Special Events Contract under item 7K will be discussed later in the meeting.

b. Statistics

Deputy Chief Matt Bright updated the board the monthly statistics

	<u>JUNE 2025</u>	<u>JULY 2025</u>
TOTAL Emergency Calls	495	492
Fire Calls	10	18
<i>Structure</i>	3	3
<i>Vehicle</i>	2	4
<i>Wildland</i>	3	8
<i>Other</i>	2	3
Over Pressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	2	1
EMS Calls	297	299
<i>Medical</i>	57	205
<i>EMS Crew Assist</i>	201	49
<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	39	45
Hazardous Conditions	42	8
Service Calls	49	62
Good Intent Calls	63	67
False Alarms	31	37
Severe Weather	1	0
Special Incidents	0	0

Incidents by Township	362	381
Benton	37	36
Bloomington	45	32
Clear Creek	33	47
Indian Creek	14	8
Perry	74	112
Van Buren	132	128
Washington	27	18
Incidents – Contracted Townships	24	21
Polk	6	9
Salt Creek	18	12
Incidents by Aid Given	109	90
Bean Blossom	0	3
Bloomington City	51	40
Ellettsville	22	12
Richland Township (EFD)	32	32
Greene County	2	3
Lawrence County	1	0
Brown County	1	0
Owen County	0	0
Morgan County	0	0
AID Received - Year to Date		226

**Station 81 Response
Engine 81– 68**

Squad 81 – 0

Average Response (dispatch to arrival on scene)	8 min 16 sec	8 min 19 sec
Average Turnout (dispatch to enroute)	1 min 6 sec	1 min 0 sec
Average Time on Scene	34 min 49 sec	47 min 22 sec

August SOR (Statements of Refusal) signed: 4

Trustee Kevin Robling asked what are good intent calls? Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained they're essentially false alarms. Trustee Robling asked what are most of the false alarms? Deputy Chief Bright stated an activated alarm system is common. Trustee Robling asked if there's any issues with a particular business when it comes to false alarms. Deputy Chief Jason Allen stated MFPD hasn't had a consistent address recently.

Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained that he did the yearly rolling average from August 1, 2024-July 31, 2025 we're consistently average across the board.

Trustee Kevin Robling brought up Station 26 in regards to distance to get to N. Benton with the consistent calls. Any progress on getting able to cross at Wayport or emergency

access to I-69? Deputy Chief Bright stated access to I-69 is still a conversation. Long discussion on ambulance access to the interstate.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker stated a gentleman approached him from Salt Creek expressing his concern about the neighborhoods where certain people live and trucks not able to access their homes – narrow drives and no hydrants. How does MFPD deal with situations like that? Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained for long drives or residents having a long offset from roadways, yard lays would be utilized, which is basically a larger diameter hose that can be taken off the engine - you take it out so far and take the appliance “the Y if you will” to get more lines. Also shuttle water. Deputy Chief Bright mentioned he looked at details on Station 23 and connectivity issues with being able to report as active as possible on runs.

Trustee John Bernstein asked how’s the new intersection at Dillman Road? Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained no dispatches since.

c. Emergency Medical Services & Operations

Deputy Chief Matt Bright updated the board on EMS & Operations

Current Situation:

- Members physicals and fit testing are underway
- Fit testing and hand out respirators/canisters for MCSO underway

Accomplishments:

- Successful water rescue and CPR save

Planned Activities:

- Work on additional grant opportunities through LEPC to upgrade hazmat equipment

Assistant Chief Danny Gillespie explained the successful water rescue with a CPR save. Called for a water rescue down by Fourwinds at the public ramp. A gentleman noticed a car inching towards the water, tried to make contact with the person in the car (getting no response), and the car goes fully into the water. The gentlemen proceeds to run to his truck hook a chain to the car; however, he didn’t have a chain long enough. With that, the gentlemen held onto the car and the floating dock until crew from Station 21 arrived. When crew arrived, two firemen were able to bust the back window, wrap a rope around it, hook it to Tac 21, and pull the vehicle out of the water. Found the patient unconscious and immediately started CPR on the boat ramp – got pulse back, Station 22 rode in with patient as well. Crews did an outstanding job.

Trustee John Bernstein asked if MFPD ambulances have always been at football games for high school? Deputy Chief Matt Bright states yes always an ambulance, but previously was IU Health.

d. Fleet

Fleet Manager Nick Powell updated the board on Fleet:

Current Situation:

- Maintenance:
 - 23 minor
 - 5 moderate
 - 2 major
 - 7 out of service for 1+days
 - Marine 21 – failed jet drive

Accomplishments:

- New Brush 21
 - The new Brush 21 is currently being built
- Pump testing, pump service, and truck service
 - All engines and ladders have been tested and serviced – all passed

Planned Activities:

- Vehicle replacement schedule
 - Built a vehicle replacement for the next 20 years

Trustee Kevin Robling asked what the two major work orders are? Fleet Manager Nick Powell explained Marine 21 and broken leaf spring for Engine 29.

Trustee Dan Vest asked are the major work orders something you can't do in house? Fleet Manager Nick Powell explained no, he tries to go with cost and time out of service.

e. Training

Assistant Chief Danny Gillespie updated the board on Training:

Current Situation:

- IDHS Local Training Grant - \$9,848.00 (manikins, helmet shields, containers)
 - Pricing an purchasing of training manikins and helmet protective shields

Accomplishments:

- Company Level Trainings on: building construction, ropes & knots, hydrants, mass casualty incidents, and oxygenation

Planned Activities:

- Driver Operator Certification Series
 - D/O Pumper – September, D/O General and Mobile Water Supply – October, D/O Aerial – November
- Company Level Trainings on: Training on Q&A, audit and review, traumatic injuries, trench rescue awareness, structural collapse, fire rescue fitness
- Meeting with BFD 8/11/25 to continue future planning for joint training

Training Hours:

- Company Training
 - July training hours – 1,475

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about history with BFD – more political issues rather than firefighters. Have we been training together more recently? Assistant Chief Danny Gillespie explained that in general we've always trained well with BFD. We may have

not done a lot of state certification courses together; however, we're strengthening that relationship.

f. Community Risk Reduction

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

Current Situation:

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course set to start August 28th

Accomplishments:

- Finalized a public education program for CPR and First Aid

Planned Activities:

- Keynote Speaker at the New Jersey Youth Conference December 4

Fire Inspections:

- Fire Safety Inspections – 46
- Re-Inspections – 7
- New Construction Inspections – 1
- Plans Review – 18

g. Financial – Claims

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented financial summary for July 2025.

Current Situation:

- 2026 New DLGF Gateway Budget Platform Training and Webinars – weekly meetings
- 2026 Budget
- Gather 2026 Budget estimate reports from the State as they become available
 - Max Levy, Excise, CVET, Property Tax Credit Loss, LIT

Accomplishments:

- Prepared the next ARPA Grant Request for Reimbursement

Planned Activities:

- ARPA Ambulance Reimbursement – Final Distributions

EMS Revenue & Collections:

- Added the active accounts receivable – best month of collections: \$27,176.78
- General Summary – could be 58% we are at 57%
- Cumulative Fund – at 64% - paid loans
- Restricted Donation – at 96% - septic field

Trustee John Bernstein asked about Station 21 mortgage, why wouldn't that be at 58% as well? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that we still have one more payment that happens at the end of December.

h. Administrative Report

Chief Dustin Dillard updated the board on Administration Report.

Current Situation:

- Finalized new payroll process documentation

- Fire Rescue International Conference
- Environmental & Historical Preservation Survey – Positive Sign for FY2024 AFG Exhaust System Grant

Accomplishments:

- DLGF Budget Workshop
- Chief appointed to Emergency Notification Task Force by the Governor

Planned Activities:

- Community Day – Station 21 – Saturday, August 23rd, 11:00am – 4:00pm
- Budget Work Session, last week of August or first week of September?

Personnel Report:

- New Hires – Full Time – 0
- New Hires – Part-Time – 0
- New Hires – Substitutes – 0
- Retirements – 0
- Promotions – 0
- Resignations – 0

Volunteer Hours: 327.25

Trustee John Bernstein asked what is first due onboarding? Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained it's a new software system that he was referring to earlier.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

a. Ambulance Special Event Contract Template

Deputy Chief Matt Bright stated MFPD has been requested to provide standby ambulance coverage at all high school football games (including Edgewood, Bloomington South & North). Chief Dillard and Deputy Chief Bright discussed last year the potential template for contract that would be used for special events. Deputy Chief Bright drafted a template and sent to Vicky, Michael, and Mark for review (due to the first high school football game and needing a quick turnaround of approval). Trustee Kevin Robling asked if legal reviewed this? Legal Council Christine Bartlett stated yes.

Trustee Dan Vest made a motion to approve the Ambulance Special Event Contract Template

Trustee John Bernstein 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Vest – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Robling – Yes.

Motion Passed 7-0

b. Air Conditioning Unit – Station 21 Upper Garage

Deputy Chief Bill Tusing explained the air conditioning unit went down earlier this summer. Due to it being such an old system, they can't even replace the freon, so that's why we're requesting a new one.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked which garage? Deputy Tusing explained it's the maintenance garage.

Trustee Dan Vest stated there's only one estimate listed per item; do you have other estimates? Chief Tusing explained no, Commercial Service does all our maintenance – we've used them since 2021.

Vicky Sorensen asked if MFPD is requesting the board to approve \$9,845.00 of the \$10,000.00? Deputy Chief Tusing explained that if we wanted a bigger unit that's what the \$10,000.00 is for.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked if we have any employees of the district working for Commercial Service? Chief Dillard stated no, not that he's aware of. Vice-Chair Kruzan elaborated that anytime this board approves money, he wants us to ensure that we're doing our due diligence. Chief Dillard adds that one of the reasons MFPD has gone with Commercial Service is they have emergency call-ins and expedited things for us – we value their services.

Trustee John Bernstein stated we should get another bid. Deputy Chief Tusing stated that he will get additional bids moving forward.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve purchase of new AC/Furnace unit and duct work needed for Station 21 upper garage utilizing Commercial Service at a cost of \$9,845.00.

Trustee Dan Vest 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Vest – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Robling – Yes.

Motion Passed 7-0

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we approve employees to have other jobs? Do we have knowledge? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that part of our Internal Controls would be the Conflict-of-Interest form that we have to fill out. It's typically for a decision maker. Chief Dustin Dillard also stated that informally we do know where the off-duty jobs are – formally, no.

c. Concrete Pad – Station 29

Deputy Chief Bill Tusing explained to the board that he had called several companies for quotes for a concrete pad to be poured at Station 29. However, the only bid he received was from Whitfield Concrete.

made a motion to request we table this until we receive two more estimates.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we could include labor and material instead of just a total cost on the job. Deputy Chief Tusing stated yes.

Trustee John Bernstein asked if it's an issue in a months' time we can't get another estimate to proceed with the original estimate? Trustee Kevin Robling stated if we can't get another estimate we can't get another estimate.

Chair Vicky Sorensen asked if we put something on hold for the next month and we don't get two more bids on it, do we go ahead and give a month on it and vote? Or do we have to have a time period? Trustee Kevin Robling suggested that a month is a good while and Deputy Chief Tusing will do his due diligence, so we should keep it on the agenda.

Trustee Susan Hingle requested that we let the board know beforehand.

Legal Counsel Christine Bartlett stated that we are not to the level to require three bids.

Trustee Dan Vest made a motion to table the concrete pad discussion until more bids are received.

Trustee Kevin Robling 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Vest – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Robling – Yes.

Motion Passed 7-0

d. Snow Bar Replacement – Station 24

Deputy Chief Bill Tusing mentioned he's called in several companies and JMMA is the only one that turned in a bid.

Trustee Dan Vest asked if there was any Conflict of Interest with this company?

Deputy Chief Tusing stated that it's a company we've used before with roofing and has no relationship with anyone there. Administrative Assistant stated that she's aware her husband is a salesman for the company, but he does not own the company, nor does she have any involvement.

Trustee Dan Vest asked how many estimates did MFPD try to get? Deputy Chief Tusing stated probably half a dozen roofing companies and two gutter companies; however, no one showed up to give an estimate. JMMA is the only company that showed up.

Trustee Dan Vest made a motion to table this and will get with Deputy Chief Tusing to get more information.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Vest – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Robling – Yes.

Motion Passed 7-0

e. Generac Extended Warranty Contract

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that at the end of 2023 beginning of 2024, MFPD purchased two new generators for Station 22 and Station 23. The generators came with a two-year warranty on labor and a three-year warranty on parts. As you get closer to the end of the two years, Generac (the company the generators were purchased from) sends you an offer to extend that warranty for a 5, 7, or 10 years. Financial Assistant Robinson looked over their prices and talked to Generac as well – would not give us tax exempt offers. Generac suggested looking at someone local if MFPD is interested in the extended warranty. Deputy Chief Bill Tusing talked to a couple vendors alongside Chief Dillard and they recommend the extended warranty through Midwest Generator Solutions. The quote priced from Midwest Generator Solutions is cheaper than Generac and they offer us tax exempt status – total is \$1,990.00 for two generators for the full 10-year warranty.

Trustee Dan Vest asked if we have a breakdown of what the warranty covers? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that it's the same contract as Generac, but it's serviced by Midwest Generator Solutions.

Trustee Dan Vest asked what the initial cost of the generators were? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson stated \$9,000.00 each.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the Midwest Generator Solutions 10-year extended warranty for two generators (located at Station 22 and Station 23) in the amount of \$1,990.00.

Trustee Dan Vest 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Vest – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Robling – Yes.

Motion Passed 7-0

f. 2026 Budget

Chief Dustin Dillard explained the budget is primarily on the revenue side. Typically, we've received majority of the revenue streams and were able to forecast those; however, we have yet to receive the Franklin Peter Financial Impact Study back, so we have nothing to compare with. Chief Dillard elaborates stating the revenues that have been reported thus far are in alignment with what Legislative Services have input in the Fiscal Impact Report for Senate Enrollment Act 1. With that, property tax cap is going to reduce our revenue by about \$700,000.00. Reduction in assessed value by about \$55,000,000.00. This year is the first year our assessed value has a negative 1.5% impact. Meaning, if we increase the budget, the NLGQ rate by default will increase the property tax rate due to the loss of assessed value. Addition to that, Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson has obtained the Estimated LIT – traditionally 85% of what the certified shares come out to be. In 2025, we're receiving 4.1 million and based on the state estimate we look to bring in about 3.7 million. When we do our budget this time of year, we usually use that reduced amount because it gives us a higher property tax rate projection. When the certified shares come back our property tax rate is less than what we originally anticipated. Chief Dillard reminds the board of last year's plan of hiring nine firefighters. In 2025, MFPD reduced that to hiring six so

that they could be paired with the three hired in 2026. Currently at 8.2 million for draft #2. We're working this later this time around due to the revenue estimations. Our contractual payments go up to \$270,983.00 – 4% increase due to the NLGQ. The LIT Certified Share Revenue is down to the 3.7 million. The state estimates the vehicle/aircraft access & CVET to be \$533,800.00 - \$8,000.00 difference, but it is a decrease. We don't have any assistance to firefighter grant funds listed as revenue, but we do have a grant submitted. Miscellaneous revenue for EMS, currently left the projection at \$500,00.00. We would need to bring in approximately \$41,000.00 per month. Property tax caps last year were \$69,000.00 and this year the estimate was about \$610,000.00. Cut non-essential things from the budget that we can lower that amount needed or additional revenue raise from property taxes to make up that gap. With that, estimated property tax as listed with the estimated miscellaneous revenue (knowing the LIT revenue is likely low), we're looking at a \$0.35 tax rate which is substantially higher than what Chief Dillard agreed to do. Local Income Tax Certified Shares should be received to tell us where our tax rate is, and we'll work to make our cuts. Unsure if we can hold to the \$0.25 rate with that reduction and assessed value. We have always based that rate off the rate the district has seen. We don't want to reduce our services or operations.

Looking at the budget itself, we've included a 5% cost of living adjustment. Officer pay is where the bulk of increases are. Last year we talked about getting the base firefighter pay to an equal standing and we found that if we were in a \$5,000.00 of that salary with our benefits, the take home pay was roughly the same. The officer pay is where the gap was. Officers and Chiefs did not get a 10% raise either. This year we have an increase of longevity by \$16,000.00 – 10%. Part-time line has numerous vacancies and will likely be reduced by positions.

Substitute Emergency Overtime – 4% last year, didn't align correctly with the 10% raises.

Social Security and Unemployment Insurance – between those two, we've already reduced about \$25,400.00 based on the actuals for the last three years and what we can project costs to be.

PERF contributions for the 77 fund – at the state level mandated contribution increase of 3%, 23% by employers – \$289,000.00. Perf contribution up \$36,000.00 and the regular pension fund going up by 5% due to cost-of-living increase.

All supply lines remain at 0% increase. Small increases in services.

The orange lines are being calculated now. All the various Chiefs are entering the service contracts and estimates for 2026 for some of the responsibilities. No substantial increases in those costs.

Utilities – unsure of the full cost of Admin Building West – no concerns there currently. Already included Station 26 for budget 2025, likely need a slight adjustment if utilities increase.

Overall, the budget is at a 7.8% increase currently for a total of \$1,323,000.00. Senate Enrollment Act #1 will hold a big impact. There's a lot of changes in 2027 that we hope to be helpful to emergency service organizations. Chief Dillard reiterated that he will provide multiple drafts for the boards review. Two big ticket items are raising officer pay and 3% increase in the 77 fund.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked why is officer pay doubling? Chief Dillard explained that other fire departments and City of Bloomington do their salaries as individual salaries in the budget line per the various ranks. MFPD has traditionally always done salary plus officer pay because their salaries can be incorporated in pensions and pension contributions. There are firefighter's pensions paid based off first-class firefighter salary. Salaries are higher; however, pensions are based off the lower salary. In addition to that, when we applied cost-of-living adjustments, the cost-of-living would be added to the salary, not the officer pay. Over the years, the officer pay wasn't always increased proportionately. There's a substantial gap between our firefighters and officers. Last year we prioritized our firefighters due to turnover rate based on compensation. Some officer rates are \$3,500.00 and to get them with City of Bloomington they're at \$7,000.00. Chief Dillard stated that he will provide a side by side of BFD and MFD salaries.

Cumulative Fund – one idea is to free up as much Cumulative Fund as possible so that if we need to move any operational equipment or capital in the General Fund to the Cumulative Fund, we'll be able to. We have one apparatus to be paid off in 2026 and another in 2027. The Station 21 remodel to be paid off at the end of 2027. Chief Dillard would like to budget based on Cumulative cash on hand and the revenue to be collected in 2026 to pay all three of those items off next year.

Small vehicles we've changed that line from \$140,000 to \$160,000 based on the cost that we've seen for the vehicle itself and the equipment that's going on it.

Miscellaneous Capital Outlays – going from \$177,000 to \$223,000. Traditionally in the past, that line was used for loans, station renovations, and equipment that breaks.

Overall, the Cumulative Fund sees a 10.64% increase over 2025 and 4% was the NLGQ, so an additional 6% to the Cumulative Fund which is cash on hand. Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson stated she hasn't put this in the gateway yet.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about Station 26 construction, he doesn't see a number under 26 proposed. Chief Dillard stated that it's paid off and finished.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked if we have results for Franklin Peter? Chief Dustin Dillard stated no, not at this time. Vice-Chair Kruzan followed up asking how will that

information impact what's being discussed now? Chief Dillard explained it's a checks and balance – we're getting information from the state and County, we want to see what the direct study into our specific situation looks like and compare those two. Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson mentioned the concerns of the Certified Net Assessed Value drop being reduced this year. Property tax caps have a direct correlation to the number of tenant owned homes in Monroe County, so they never had a tax cap before. Now if you own a home that you rent, you get a 2% reduction which has had a dramatic effect on Monroe County. As well as additional credits for those over 65 and the overall legislations.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked what the percent increase of the general fund was last time? Chief Dillard stated 13.09% increase in the budget.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked what the condition of Rainy-Day Fund is? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson stated there will be a conversation later tonight regarding a possible new apparatus - \$3,000,000.00. Vice-Chair Kruzan asked how much can we take from Rainy-Day? Elaborating on how he wants to ensure we are not shifting the burden and wants to know what a 0% increase budget would look like. In addition to that, he'd like to see a budget with a 2.5% - 2.7% increase would like look – essentially cost-of-living.

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson mentioned that over the last two or three years when we've had successful grants, we've built our cash balance from 10% to 30%.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked about Ambulance Service Revenue – Net. Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson stated that MFPD would like to see \$500,000.00.

Trustee Kevin Robling commented that he's curious why we would double up the payments in the Cumulative Fund. Chief Dustin Dillard explained there are two components. There's going to be some relief in property tax in the state. LIT goes away in 2027. The County would have to pass a new LIT for Fire & EMS for us to recover any of the LIT. We have to lobby the County to pass an income tax, two weeks before the general election. Everything changes on the income tax side in 2027 - if we don't get the rate that we need to maintain these balances, bringing up those funds gives us opportunities to move those items out of the General Fund into the Cumulative Fund.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker mentioned the current projected revenue. Is the situation likely to change and have more staffing and revenue? Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained that Lifeline is actively working to be dispatched like everyone in the County. When that happens, we should receive more transport calls. Fiscal Officer Baker followed up asking if cutting back staff and potential hires in the future, would they lessen the ability to be able to operate the other two ambulances on a full-time basis (without pulling personnel from the station to do it)? Deputy Chief Bright explained that anything that would cut that revenue could potentially impact. Right

now, we're staffing one truck – the other ambulance responses that you see occur when we're completely out of everything. We dispatch trucks when needed.

Long discussion on ambulance calls/dispatches.

Trustee Dan Vest asked about cost-of-living, how did we get 5% when the County is 3.5%. Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained the studies that the County did over the past two years had increases of 8% - 13% where MFPD held theirs at 4%. Over the last two to three years, the other positions have fallen behind the County based on the MLGQ.

Trustee Dan Vest asked about longevity – County no longer offers longevity unless you're grandfathered in. Do you still offer longevity to new hires? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson stated that we do offer longevity for new hires, and it plays a role in certified salaries for our firefighters as well.

Trustee Dan Vest asked if you can provide a salary scale – what would a brand-new hire start off at? Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen stated that base salary for a new hire (once they're out of probation) is \$72,820.00 is for 2025. We're looking to move that to \$76,461.00.

Chief Dustin Dillard stated that officer pay is separate from the salaries and breaks down base salaries and increase in officers.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked how many officers are there? Chief Dustin Dillard explained the following:

- 18 Chauffer's at \$1,500.00/each
- 15 Sergent's at \$2,500.00/each
- 16 Lieutenant Captains at \$3,500.00/each
- 8 House Captain's at \$7,500.00/each
- Fire Marshall at \$10,000.00
- Battalion Chief at \$10,000.00
- Assistant Chief at \$12,500.00
- Deputy Chief at \$15,000.00
- Fire Chief at \$20,000.00

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if the officers are current? Chief Dillard said yes. Trustee Robling asked if someone was going from \$12,500.00 to \$25,000.00? Chief Dillard explained that he doesn't have the sheet with him at the moment, but not everyone doubles. Most of the lower ranks double and the upper ranks increase. The bulk of the ranks are at the lower levels, so a vast majority of the officers would see double.

Trustee Dan Vest reiterated that he'd like a salary scale at the work session.

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that Binding Units must be submitted by September 1st and if not completed, could cause penalty. Having it completely entered in the Gateway, so that County Council can view on the 11th would be ideal by September 1st (if we can't, hopefully the auditor will be able to tweak any adjustments as needed before the 1st). Earlier the better.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion for two work sessions - Monday, August 25th & Friday, August 28th at 3:00pm at Station 21 (for both).

Chief Dustin Dillard commented on the discussion about estimates on officer pays. Chief Dillard explained that the line in there on officer pays is double for all the officer pays, \$120,000.00 of that is in the Lieutenant category. Salary ordinances will get mocked up for side-by-side review.

Long discussion on Officer pay and breakdowns of pay for each rank.

FINANCIALS

a. Financial – Claims

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented claims for July 2025 for a total of \$402,944.60

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the claims for August 2025 as presented.

Trustee Dan Vest 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Vest – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Robling – Yes.

Motion Passed 7-0

b. Payroll

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen presented the July monthly payrolls for approval on 15th, 17th (which included volunteer pay), and 30th, 2025.

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen explained that on the 17th there was a minor issue on the payroll. A gentlemen changed his checking account and didn't provide all the correct information. With that, his check came back, and we had to reissue a new check.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the payrolls for July 2025 as presented.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Vest – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Robling – Yes.

Motion Passed 7-0

c. Financial – Statement

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

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the financial statement.

Trustee Dan Vest 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Vest – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Robling – Yes.

Motion Passed 7-0

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Trustee Susan Hingle thanked Battalion Chief Jason Allen for his time and education.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Vicky Sorensen stated that the next meeting will be in person on September 10, 2025, at Station 21, located at 9094 S Strain Ridge Road, Bloomington, Indiana. The meeting will also be held via zoom.

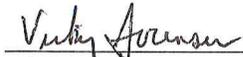
ADJOURN

Chair Vicky Sorensen made a motion to adjourn at 8:01p.m.

Minutes approved by the board of trustees on October 8, 2025:

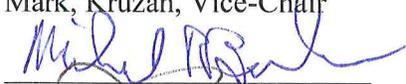
Aye:

Nye:



Vicky Sorensen, Chair

Vicky Sorensen, Chair

Mark, Kruzan, Vice-Chair


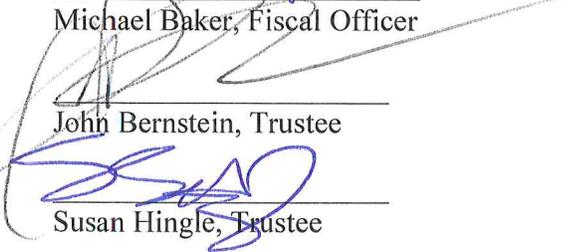
Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer

Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair

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. 29, 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. 39, Bulletin Board