



# 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, December 10, 2025. 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
Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer
John Bernstein, Trustee
Susan Hingle, Trustee
Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair
Kevin R. Robling, Trustee
Dan Vest, Trustee

Those absent were as follows:

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
Danny Gillespie, Assistant Chief of Training
Christine Bartlett, Attorney, Ferguson Law
Nick Powell, Fleet Manager
Tammy Bovenschen, Administrative Assistant
Lorie Robinson, Financial Assistant (via Zoom)
Rusty Clark, IT Assistant
Julie Thomas, County Commissioner (via Zoom)
Jeff Cockrill, County Attorney

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**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 we could allow County Commissioner Julie Thomas and County Attorney Jeff Cockrill to provide updates to the board first, so they don't have to listen to the entire meeting.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan made a motion to adjust the agenda.

Trustee Kevin Robling 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

Motion passed 7-0

## **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 November were presented to the board for approval.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the minutes.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

Motion passed 7-0

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. County Proposal to add Bean Blossom, Polk, Richland, and Salt Townships to Monroe Fire District**

County Attorney Jeff Cockrill explained that with Senate Enroll Act 1, State is pushing to consolidate services due to property tax. Trying to get that consolidation done in a timely manner to make services for everyone. State is cutting revenue for local governments. A notice on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. If the commissioners approve in 2025 it doesn't go into effect until 2027. The notice is meant to be as flexible as possible. Every township Monroe Fire doesn't currently cover is included in the notice as being added, as well as Ellettsville.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked about 2027 – Salt, Polk, and Bean Blossom and 2028 - Richland. County Attorney Cockrill stated that's the anticipation of how we would approach that. Vice-Chair Kruzan asked are there any dates for joining on the notice? County Attorney Cockrill stated no date in the advertisement, it just says we're going to have a hearing. Vice-Chair Kruzan asked when do the Commissioners get a packet with the ordinance? County Attorney Cockrill explained there's going to be a template of an ordinance. Vice-Chair Kruzan asked will Richland be listed as entering the district in January 1, 2027 or 2028? County Attorney Cockrill stated it's a drafting problem in the document. We anticipate that after talking with the Chief, we need to make that different. Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked County Commissioner Julie Thomas if the language in

the document will read Salt, Polk, and Bean Blossom January 1, 2027 and Richland January 1, 2028? County Commissioner Julie Thomas states yes, unless Richland and Ellettsville wish to create their own fire district. If they're included in Monroe Fire Protection District, her understanding is that Richland would not join until January 1, 2028.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan mentioned that County Commissioner and County Attorney continue to say "my understanding is", what does that mean? County Attorney Cockrill stated that "my understanding is" means that's his only understanding until it's approved.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked if it's safe to say County Commissioners will not attempt to admit Richland Township until January 1, 2028. County Commissioner Julie Thomas stated that is true, but that she cannot speak for her two colleagues on the board. It's what's been discussed and we do know the fiscal side of it will be important to wait until January 1, 2028 for Richland to join the fire district.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked if there is anyone working this issue on the county side or any other side that you're aware of that would recommend Richland to join January 1, 2027. County Commissioner Julie Thomas stated no, no suggestions, no recommendations, nothing along those lines and nothing from her two colleagues.

Trustee Kevin Robling explained that he went through this process with Benton Township and that it wasn't a pleasant experience. Feels like this is way quicker and less public impact. Is this process different, why is it different, and why such a hurry? County Attorney Jeff Cockrill explained the process is different. It's different due to the reasons from the State. Attorney Cockrill talked with Bean Blossom last year and they weren't very comfortable with what was going on, mostly because the community didn't understand the options/choices.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked why is SEA1 change the choices for Bean Blossom different than last year? County Attorney Jeff Cockrill explained that it changes the funding. The property tax structure and income tax component has an additional decision by County Council. Long discussion on the breakdown of miscommunication for Bean Blossom last year.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we're doing a different process now? County Commissioner Julie Thomas explained that there were cards sent out in Bean Blossom in 2024 initially, only public comment. Most didn't understand the post card or their financial options in terms of how to fund the various options. The county paid for a secondary study to be done specifically addressing what it would cost to add/join the fire district and here's what it would cost to follow Ellettsville's proposal.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we do or don't have to go through the same process as we did through Benton. County Attorney Jeff Cockrill stated that there's no legal requirement for that process. Changes were made after the first few townships. Trustee Kevin Robling asked why so quickly? Attorney Cockrill explained that a year

ago no one thought there would be changes in how things are funded.

Chair Vicky Sorensen mentioned her concern that not giving the taxpayers the right to discuss this. The Fire District is going to get blamed for everything. County Commissioner Julie Thomas would point to the State Legislature as the reason for this change.

Chair Vicky Sorensen asked if a township does not join a fire district will they not have any funding at all? County Commissioner Julie Thomas explained that council could give part of LIT to a township fire department, but unsure if they have to at this time. This legislation can be changed. Original bill had EMA as the manager of Fire and EMS for the whole county.

Chair Vicky Sorensen explained that right now we contract Salt Creek and Polk Township through fire protection, if they aren't put in the fire district won't they get some funding that they're giving to us now? County Attorney Jeff Cockrill explained that the general gist of what the state did was reduce all the property taxes. He believes they would get some property tax for that and probably have a cumulative fund and standard fire fund. In 2028, if the County Council determined they're going to do the .4% LIT rate for Fire and EMS Services, it should automatically go to city fire and fire districts. Chief Dustin Dillard commented that the Bill does say the townships would have to petition County Council. 317 square miles that we protect could potentially be impacted in the equation. The equation he's talking about with fire and EMS tax says you take your square mileage times 20 plus population and that's how it breaks down the distribution.

Trustee Susan Hingle asked why we're not just waiting to make all changes in 2028, why are we pushing for others to happen in 2027? County Attorney Jeff Cockrill stated that the reason we're splitting them up is a lot of territory to take on in one year, phasing it in over a couple years is easier for the district to absorb that. County Commissioner Julie Thomas explained that after talking with Chief Dustin Dillard, Polk, Salt, and Bean Blossom could be brought in 2027, but didn't feel comfortable adding in Richland at that time.

Trustee Dan Vest commented that the State or the County is going to squeeze these townships to make them have to join a district. Who stands a gain from this? County Attorney Jeff Cockrill explained that the State has already started to squeeze. Everything we've seen is going to get worse in 2026 and 2027. It depends on the income tax. Chief Dustin Dillard explained that for fire specific, the reason this became a focus the last few sessions, the state legislatures want to get away with township government. They see the biggest resistance in monetary value in the fire department townships.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker commented that Washington Township benefited with the consolidation. We would enhance the service in Salt and Polk that we are already servicing. Only concern is are we allowing the townships enough input, or does it really matter what their input is. If this is happening state wide, comes down to whatever the county government is willing to do. Chief Dustin Dillard also mentioned that Salt and

Polk townships have been contacted since 2019. Ultimately, we would need a station on that side of the lake. We have discussed with Salt for years about building something. From an operational standpoint, we know that down the road we can make those long-term plans and increase fire protection. I don't think it'll happen as fast as the Washington Township. Bean Blossom approached us years ago. We need more firefighters in the north part of the county. Richland, we don't contract with them now. We don't know the facilities, there's no fire station there it's Ellettsville's and so is the equipment they use. Bean Blossom has a station, equipment is good.

Trustee Dan Vest asked why are we pulling Richland in? County Commissioner Julie Thomas stated there is a meeting scheduled on December 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss if Richland and Ellettsville wish to be a fire district. It makes so much sense in terms of efficiency, but that's why we have those options on the table so that we can find out what Ellettsville wishes to do.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked if there's a law that says the ordinance must happen 1/1? County Attorney Jeff Cockrill stated that it must be the first of the year due to tax purposes.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked if Ellettsville comes forward and asked to form their own district, they would be asking you all to be voting on that ordinance, right? And then you would not vote on adding them to the district? You would vote on it one way or the other? County Commissioner Julie Thomas explained that you can't do both, you can't have a district within a district – if one happened the other wouldn't. Vice-Chair Kruzan followed up, if they asked for that and said they would like to have their own district please pass that, that would make the discussion of district ordinance mute (if it's passed). County Commissioner Julie Thomas said yes, but she's unsure if it'll be passed or not.

Long discussion on possibilities if Ellettsville decided to have their own district.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked how are we going to pay for adding these townships? What's this going to do to our finances? Vice-Chair commented that his concern with this is we don't want to lessen services for everyone else in the county. County Commissioner Julie Thomas stated that they lean heavily on Chief Dustin Dillard regarding financial wisdom of moving forward with this.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan stated that it goes back to Kevin's question, is the uncertainty of the legislature. They can only tell us what they know now and when the legislature inevitably goes back and changes some of the things they did based off the backlash they're getting from SEA1, what happens then? County Commissioner Julie Thomas explained that the issue with capricious legislature is that something weird could happen in 2030 or 2040, who knows. It makes it difficult for any planning, but we feel very strongly moving forward now with Bean Blossom, Polk, and Salt makes a great deal of sense. Based off everything we know now, going into 2028 when the LIT becomes more important as a funding mechanism than property tax. We can always remake, remodel,

fix, adjust any fire district that's been formed; however, it's hard to add something in quickly. Legislation has given a short timeline and we are working with what we have. If we wait until 2028 it's a lot of moving parts.

Trustee Kevin Robling circled back asking how we're going to pay for this? Chief Dustin Dillard explained that rates that are currently used for Salt and Polk Townships would equalize to the rates of the fire districts. Meaning, we would receive \$600,000 from Salt Township by applying the same rate while receiving a little over \$200,000 – their taxes would go up. They're paying around \$212,000 it would be around \$600,000. Polk Township paying around \$50,000 it would be a little over \$100,000. With those two townships, we would be around \$750,00 between the general fund and cumulative fund. We're around \$260,000 now. Those additional funds could be put into an account like we did for Washington and save up for a few years to then build a station in Salt. Trustee Kevin Robling asked is that a separate act to raise their taxes? Chief Dustin Dillard explained the revenues could increase. The District tax rate is identical for the whole district. Their taxes would go up.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked about Richland numbers, any estimates. You're going to need a truck, station, and staffing. Chief Dustin Dillard explained it'd need a truck company, so at least four people.

Trustee Kevin Robling commented that this isn't the boards decision, the commissioners are just here to let us know what's going on right? County Commissioner Julie Thomas stated that she's here to receive feedback and they have more things to talk about as a result. Truly appreciates all of the questions and feedback and happy to hear from the board at any point.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if the Chief, the board, and firefighters in general thought that waiting until 2028 to do all these, could we do that? County Attorney Jeff Cockrill stated yes, there is nothing in that notice that required the commissioners to approve anything. County Commissioner Julie Thomas commented that if that's the desire of the staff and the board we can change that date. County Commissioner Thomas is concerned about Bean Blossom in 2027 if they are not brought in.

Chair Vicky Sorensen thanked County Commissioner Julie Thomas and County Attorney Jeff Cockrill for their time – a lot for us to think about, but appreciate the input. County Attorney Cockrill thanked the board for their honest feedback.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked if Ellettsville and Richland do form their own district, at what point would there be an incentive for other townships to join them? Chief Dustin Dillard explained that on the south end of Bean Blossom Townships some would want to join a district with Ellettsville – everyone wants the closest fire department to come. Most of Bean Blossom want to see the station staffed. Some of the contract proposals, Ellettsville wants to possibly annex further north into Bean Blossom. More AV you're losing, the burden on the rest of the district.

Trustee Dan Vest asked at what point do the taxpayers in the townships have input? Chief Dustin Dillard stated that he didn't know as of this evening if Salt and Polk township have had any input, however Bean Blossom has had multiple meetings held in their township. Trustee Dan Vest asked if we're trying to do this behind their backs? Several members from the Monroe Fire Protection District board said no. Chief Dustin Dillard explained that it's been years since he's had conversations with tax payers out in Salt and Polk, other than talking to their trustees and boards.

Trustee Kevin Robling commented that all Benton and other townships are receiving all these letters and meetings, or is that going to happen in 26? County Attorney Jeff Cockrill explained in his mind, assuming it gets approved in 25 doing it in 26 doesn't make a whole lot of sense. This is what the state legislators have done, we didn't make the rules on how this could happen. Attorney Cockrill explained that there are two ways for this to be done, the Commissioners can do this or the citizens can come to the Commissioners and request it. The boards concern is the quickness which the Commissioner's way is being done.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker mentioned that if we stay current potential proposal of Polk, Salt, and Bean Blossom being done separately regardless of what year, it seems to make more sense to do that than to do everybody at one time - for the reasons that you mentioned, too much to absorb. Splitting them up some way depending on what year would make more sense bringing them in. Chief Dustin Dillard explained no questions that we can provide the services for Polk, Salt, and Bean Blossom; however, we don't have answers for Richland. It takes a long time to get a fire truck, buy land, build a fire station.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we could do this without a fire station there yet – referencing how Washington Township operated originally. Chief Dustin Dillard explained that Richland already has a fire station providing protection whereas Washington didn't. The fire station there is owned by the City of Ellettsville, so we would not be able to utilize their building or their trucks. There could potentially be a reduction in service for a temporary amount of time while we establish something that currently exists there.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business this month.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

### **Department Updates**

#### **a. Legal Updates**

Legal Counsel, Christine Bartlett stated she's been working with the Chief on current issues.

#### **b. Statistics**

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

<b>TOTAL Emergency Calls</b>	<b>483</b>
Fire Calls	21
<i>Structure</i>	9
<i>Vehicle</i>	6
<i>Wildland</i>	4
<i>Other</i>	2
Over Pressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	0
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>300</b>
<i>Medical</i>	208
<i>EMS Crew Assist</i>	58
<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	34
Hazardous Conditions	18
Service Calls	63
Good Intent Calls	62
False Alarms	18
Severe Weather	1
Special Incidents	0
<b>Incidents by Township</b>	<b>348</b>
Benton	26
Bloomington	39
Clear Creek	38
Indian Creek	10
Perry	95
Van Buren	129
Washington	11
<b>Incidents – Contracted Townships</b>	<b>19</b>
Polk	3
Salt Creek	16
<b>Incidents by Aid Given</b>	<b>116</b>
Bean Blossom	2
Bloomington City	74
Ellettsville	4
Richland Township (EFD)	33
Greene County	3
Lawrence County	0
Brown County	0
Owen County	0
Morgan County	0
<b>AID Received - Year to Date</b>	<b>423</b>
<b>Station 81 Response</b>	

**Engine 81- 77****Squad 81 – 0**

Average Response (dispatch to arrival on scene)	7 min 53 sec
Average Turnout (dispatch to enroute)	1 min 01 sec
Average Time on Scene	33 min 43 sec

**August/September SOR (Statements of Refusal) signed: 8**

Trustee Kevin Robling thanked Matt Bright – good to have you back.

**c. Emergency Medical Services & Operations**

Deputy Chief updated the board on EMS & Operations

Current Situation:

- Data uploads and set up for First Due Software – the process continues
  - Continuing work with Staffing module
  - Working on asset and equipment imports
  - Working on apparatus checklists

Accomplishments:

- Attended Symposium in the Sun
- Went live with new incident reports December 1, 2025

Planned Activities:

- Continue with First Due module set ups and implement each module as appropriate
- Continue with Specifications and Equipment for Engine/Boat

Trustee John Bernstein asked do all response vehicles have the First Due process on them? Deputy Chief Matt Bright stated they will, but they do not currently. Trustee John Bernstein followed up asking if they carry it with them or is it onboard? Deputy Chief Bright explained its software that would run on the computer in the truck. Data from CAD is populated in the reports. Trustee John Bernstein asked if that will be part of the UTV/Boat as well? Deputy Chief Bright said probably not the UTV.

**d. Fleet**

Fleet Manager Nick Powell updated the board on Fleet:

Current Situation:

- Maintenance:
  - 13 minor
  - 3 moderate
  - 0 major
  - 2 out of service for 1+days
    - Engine 41 – Pump Drive shifter

Accomplishments:

- Tire replacement schedule for Engines and Tenders complete
- Ethanol Free Fuel Account set up for a 2 cycle and straight gas

Planned Activities:

- UTV Safety Course
  - Prepare for UTV Safety course in Kentucky

Trustee Dan Vest asked how much we're saving on Ethanol Free Fuel. Fleet Manager Nick Powell stated \$6.50 per gallon.

**e. Training**

Assistant Chief Danny Gillespie updated the board on Training:

Current Situation:

- Instructor In-Service Training – December 6

Accomplishments:

- Multi-Agency training at Avon FD – Topic was Search and Rescue with instructors from Lexington Kentucky Fire Department, Indianapolis Fire Department, and Cicero Illinois Fire Department

Planned Activities:

- Ice Rescue Training – Weather dependent. Working on plan to get members certified as Ice Rescue Technicians

Training Hours:

- Company Training
  - November Training Hours – 2,237

Trustee John Bernstein asked if all firefighters are going to be certified in Cold Water? Assistant Chief Danny Gillespie explained that's the intention. It's a training that we put on every year and go through those skills, but we've never went through the state certification. Something we felt we owed to them and only make us better.

**f. Community Risk Reduction**

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

Current Situation:

- Creating a program for Citizen Fatality Notification and Family Support

Accomplishments:

- Events: Cedars Christian School Fire Prevention, Monroe County Child Conditions Summit, Highland Park Community Helpers Day, CERT Orientation

Planned Activities:

- Expand delivery of CPR and QPR to public feasibility research

Fire Inspections:

- Fire Safety Inspections – 10
- Re-Inspections – 7
- New Construction Inspections – 4
- Plans Review – 4

Trustee John Bernstein asked about the creation of Citizen Fatality Notification and Family Support, is that implied there's no current program for that? Deputy Chief Steve Coover explained it's more complex than that, but it's the best way he could put it. It's another service provided for high stress situations.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about scheduling fire truck rides and auctions with Wonder Lab, does that mean that we're auctioning items? Deputy Chief Steve Coover said that we did, and we will not be doing that again. Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we need waivers for riding in a truck. Legal Counsel Christine Bartlett stated yes, a ride along waiver.

**g. Financial – Claims**

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented financial summary for December 2025. Current Situation:

- Year-end financial projections
- Preparing year end encumbrances and Mortgage payment for Station 21 (Cum Fund)

Accomplishments:

- Received & approved the 1782 Notice from Department of Local Government Finance for 2026
- LEPC Reimbursements received in the amount of \$7,414.40 for HazMat supplies
- Donation received from Benton Township in the amount of \$236,394.00 for EMS purchases per MOU

Planned Activities:

- Year-end Fixed Asset Report

EMS Revenue & Collections:

- Added the active accounts receivable – November: \$121,339.60
- General Summary – 81%
- Cumulative Fund – 81%

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we've been charged \$700,000 in payments and received almost \$173,000 on the year? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson stated yes and due to Medicare and Medicaid adjustments, they've adjusted \$391,000 of that.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we did projections for revenue for 2025? Are we within that range? Deputy Chief Matt Bright said that he thinks we did based on the idea that we'd have a set run value – we don't think we've hit that run value. Deputy Bright will provide the total transport volume at the January meeting. Trustee Kevin Robling is curious if we're meeting those goals.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked what you're charged for in an accident – whether you choose to go to the hospital or not. Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained that you're only charged for transport.

Chief Dustin Dillard responds to Kevin Robling regarding the projections for revenue for 2025 - \$500,00 in miscellaneous and EMS revenue.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked what an unreimbursed fraud expense? Chief Dustin Dillard explained that occurred in September – a firefighter changed his bank account information, and their check was deposited into a fraudulent account. It's a national wide issue that's still ongoing. Long discussion.

#### **f. Administrative Report**

Chief Dustin Dillard updated the board on Administration Report.

##### **Current Situation:**

- Working with Senator Baldwin and Franklin Peters on Financial Impact of SEA1
- Working on payroll process with new First Due Software

##### **Accomplishments:**

- Open enrollment completed – finalizing all paperwork for 2026
- Completed general insurance meeting with Capstone insurance
- Commissioners held a meeting in Bean Blossom to discuss fire protection, we were on hand for FPD information

##### **Planned Activities:**

- Breakfast with Santa Event for MFD employees and families December 13<sup>th</sup> at Station 21
- Shop with a Firefighter, December 20<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Volunteer Association and Local 5343

##### **Personnel Report:**

- New Hires – Full Time – 0
- New Hires – Part-Time – 0
- New Hires – Substitutes – 1
- Retirements – 0
- Promotions – 0
- Resignations – 1

Volunteer Hours November: 250.5

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked if there were any consultants who have given a report to more align with Senator Baldwin? Chief Dustin Dillard did not ask him that, but he can. We worked with Bunker Tilly. Long discussion.

Trustee John Bernstein commented that he hopes the new First Due Software has amazing cyber security.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan mentioned that the reality and or perception that taxpayers are going to have. We are going to get caught in crossfire and people are going to be upset, which is unfortunate for this board. We need to be open to communication with taxpayers – we want to get ahead of the game. Chief Dustin Dillard stated that Bean Blossom has had the opportunities. Regarding Salt/Polk, he will reach out to them tomorrow. Starting with the township trustees. We want to be ready when those taxpayers come to us.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan mentioned what a good job we've done on writing some of the impact of the tax bills and merger early on the website. He'd like us to anticipate what are the people going to be saying. Chief Dustin Dillard suggested adding a merger tab on the website. Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan also recommended postcards to every taxpayer that will be affected, we owe it to the people.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Year-End Review of Annual Items**

#### ***Risk Management Policy***

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen stated no changes to the MFPD Risk Management Policy and no staff recommendations.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the MFPD Risk Management Policy Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

Motion Passed 7-0

#### ***Salary Ordinance 01-2025***

Chief Dustin Dillard presented the Salary Ordinance Updates for 2026. Changes based on 2026 budget are salary adjustments, Office Pay adjustments, and additional holiday. Administrative Changes are notification date for planned health insurance and ride-out pay.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked what percentage of premiums for employee health insurance? Chief Dustin Dillard stated 95%. Long discussion on percentage premiums and health insurance comparisons with Bloomington Fire Departments.

Trustee John Bernstein made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance 01-2025

Trustee Dan Vest 2<sup>nd</sup>

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Robling – No, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes

Motion Passed 6-1

#### ***MFD Board By-Laws***

Legal Counsel Christine Bartlett presented the MFD Board By-Laws and shared the proposed changes. Information only, so take the month to review everything over. The board will vote next month. If you have questions circle back with her.

Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan asked if there's anything that's going to pop up? Legal Counsel Christine Bartless explained yes, but it's something that's been discussed before – Fiscal Officer can be an employee.

#### ***MFD Personnel Handbook***

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen stated the changes that were discussed last month she included in one extensive document for the boards review.

Trustee John Bernstein made a motion to approve the MFD Personnel Handbook. Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

Motion Passed 7-0

#### ***MFD Meeting Schedule 2026***

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen stated that the MFD Meeting Schedule for 2026 is up to the board. The options for the meetings are Monroe County Courthouse, stay where we are, or the Van Buren Trustee Building that were presented last month. Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen reminded everyone that Trustee Kevin Robling did suggest rotating through the entire district; however, the board turned that down. The current rotation we have is Station 21 and Station 25.

Trustee Susan Hingle made a motion to keep the current rotation of Station 21 and Station 25 for the MFD Meeting Schedule in 2026.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2<sup>nd</sup>

Bernstein – Yes, Hingle – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Robling – No, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes

Motion Passed 6-1

#### ***Resolution 04-2025 Ambulance Service Fees***

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen stated no changes to the Resolution 04-25 Ambulance Service Fees and no staff recommendations.

#### **b. Fixed Asset Report – removal of items**

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson discussed at the November Board meeting, there were many items that need to be removed from the Fixed Asset report. The Hartman & Williams GAAP Accountant spoke with the State Board of Accountants, and both agree we may show these items as a retirement/reduction in capital assets for 2025 Annual Report by removing the Asset Acquisition Cost and the Accumulated Depreciation resulting in a net effect of \$0.00.

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson requested approval to remove these items representing original acquisition costs of \$1,820,102.96 and having an accumulated

depreciation of the same.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the removal of items from the Fixed Asset Report.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

Motion Passed 7-0

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Year-End Encumbrances**

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that the list of encumbrances is subject to change as December rolls along. The Board or Chief had approved purchases, repairs, or contracts to be made from the Cumulative and General Funds. Due to delays in fulfillment, we were unable to receive and pay for some items ordered before the end of the year. Peters & Franklin contract is still being utilized. Appropriations for purchase requests, contracts, and sales orders placed and or executed in 2025 but not yet fulfilled or expended may be encumbered into the 2026 Budget with Board approval.

There will be no vote on this tonight, this is just for informational purposes.

## **FINANCIALS**

### **a. Financial – Claims**

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented claims November 2025. Total claims - \$321,331.06.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the claims for November 2025.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

Motion Passed 7-0

### **b. Payroll**

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen presented the November monthly payrolls for approval on 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

Motion Passed 7-0

### **c. Financial – Statement**

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

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

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

Motion Passed 7-0

Administration Assistant Tammy Bovenschen asked if next year the board would like a packet made. We had also discussed tablets, is that something anyone would be interested in? The agenda will always be printed.

- Chair Vicky Sorensen – tablet
- Vice-Chair Mark Kruzan – tablet
- Fiscal Officer Michael Baker – nothing needed
- Trustee Dan Vest – tablet
- Trustee Susan Hingle – nothing needed
- Trustee John Bernstein – tablet
- Trustee Kevin Robling – paper

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

No additional comments.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

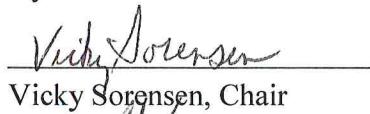
Chair Vicky Sorensen stated that the next meeting will be in person on January 14, 2026, at Station 21, located at 9094 S Strain Ridge Road, Bloomington, Indiana. The meeting will also be held via zoom.

#### **ADJOURN**

Chair Vicky Sorensen made a motion to adjourn at 8:35p.m.

Minutes approved by the board of trustees on January 14, 2026:

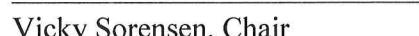
Aye:

  
Vicky Sorensen, Chair

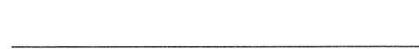
Mark, Kruzan, Vice-Chair

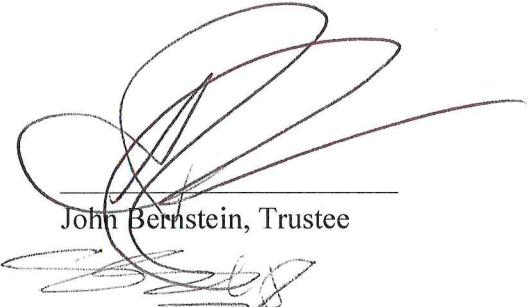
  
Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer

Nye:

  
Vicky Sorensen, Chair

Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair

  
Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer



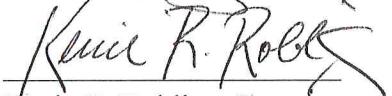
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John Bernstein, Trustee



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Susan Hingle, Trustee



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Kevin R. Robling, Trustee

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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

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John Bernstein, Trustee

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Susan Hingle, Trustee

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Kevin R. Robling, Trustee

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Dan Vest, Trustee

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