



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, February 11, 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
Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer
John Bernstein, Trustee
Susan Hingle, Trustee
Kevin R. Robling, Trustee
Dan Vest, Trustee

Those absent were as follows: Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair
Matt Bright, Deputy Chief, EMS & Operations
Danny Gillespie, Assistant Chief of Training

Others present were as follows: Dustin Dillard, Chief
Jeffrey Combs, Deputy Chief of Administration
Steve Coover, Deputy Chief, Community Risk Reduction
Christine Bartlett, Attorney, Ferguson Law
Nick Powell, Fleet Manager
Tammy Bovenschen, Administrative Assistant
Lorie Robinson, Financial Assistant
Darrell Cooper, IT Specialist

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.

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

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 January were presented to the board for approval.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker made a motion to approve the minutes.

Trustee John Bernstein 2nd

Motion passed 6-0

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Department Updates

a. Legal Updates

Legal Counsel, Christine Bartlett stated she’s continuing to monitor legislature. Keeping an eye on two township bills particularly, Senate Bill 270 – is in committee tomorrow (2/12) and Senate Bill 1315 – not scheduled but active. Both concerning townships.

b. Statistics

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs updated the board the monthly statistics for January.

TOTAL Emergency Calls	404
Fire Calls	15
Hazardous Situation	19
Medical	249
Public Service	78
Rescue	10
No Emergency	55
Law Enforcement	1

Incidents by District Station	416
Station 21	36
Station 22/HQ	126
Station 23	8
Station 24	32
Station 25	30
Station 26	22
Station 29	146
Station 39	15
Station 81	1
Ambulance 21	1
Ambulance 22	7
Ambulance 23	4
Ambulance 29	70

Total Patient Transports	82
IU Health Bloomington	24
Monroe Hospital	3

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if we normally receive more statistics? Chief Dustin Dillard explained that the new system is causing delays on what can be pulled in each report. Long discussion on data collection points in reports within the new system. Trustee Kevin Robling would like more detailed information.

c. Emergency Medical Services & Operations

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs updated the board on EMS & Operations

Current Situation:

- Data uploads and set up for First Due Software – the process continues
 - Staffing, assets and equipment, inspections and preplanning, training.
- Monitoring data transmission of reports to hospitals

Accomplishments:

- Resounding response to Winter Storm by our Staff coming in early or holding over
 - Multiple stranded motorists assisted by crews
 - Multiple IULL ambulances were stuck, and crews either assisted in removal, or in other cases transported patients to the hospital in Monroe Ambulances
- Response to multiple fatality fire – successful and immediate response by our support team services offered to all departments involved
 - Follow up session held including dispatchers

Planned Activities:

- Continue with First Due module set ups
 - Ad Hoc Reporting
- Continue with Specifications and Equipment for Engine/Boat
- Work to create a variety of long-term options to address the MES transport situation in the county
- Emergency Preparedness Coalition meeting – Seymour

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen mentioned that Deputy Chief Matt Bright was going to go over the physical information that was in the packet and will do that next month.

d. Fleet

Fleet Manager Nick Powell updated the board on Fleet:

Current Situation:

- Maintenance:
 - 16 minor

- 2 moderate
- 1 major
- 3 out of service for 1+ days
 - Engine 41 – Steering box; tie rod ends; coolant leak; pulling hard to the right
 - Engine 22 – Coolant leak; oil leak; check engine light; leaning to the right
 - Rescue 22 – Rear brakes; oil leak; fuel leak
- Equipment Warranty claims in process
 - Kussmaul charger \$689.00
 - Flir K2 sent for repair or warranty replacement

Accomplishments:

- Attended online webinar
 - Fleet Financial Management webinar presented by General Mills and Leon County Florida Sheriff's Office Fleet Managers
- Equipment and Apparatus Warranty Claims
 - Received two StreamLight Vulcan 180 flashlights under warranty claim \$400.00
 - Engine 22 required \$6,277.32 in warranty repairs from Cummins
 - Online store credit received for Intake Strainer - \$52.00
 - Kussmaul Auto ejects and covers \$1,046.00 filed in November 2025 received
- Met with Fire Service Inc
 - Discussed pricing and warranty claims
- Ford Factory Extended Warranty
 - Notification from Ford Motor Company reference reimbursement and extended coverage on failed transmission parts. Researched record to verify if eligible for reimbursement. No records were found

Trustee Kevin Robling asked what a Flir K2 is? Fleet Manager Nick Powell explained its thermal imaging camera.

Trustee John Bernstein asked how old Engine 22 is? Fleet Manager Nick Powell stated Engine 22 is about three years old. Chief Dustin Dillard commented on Rev Group Products and Fire Service Meeting to address some of the issues.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker asked about the generators. Generac generators for a service plan? Fleet Manager Nick Powell explained the service plan is not for a Generac generator.

Trustee John Bernstein asked if stations have natural gas to them? Chief Dustin Dillard explained some are natural gas and others are propane tank (Station 25 & 29).

Trustee Kevin Robling thanked Fleet Manager Nick Powell for being so proactive.

e. Training

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs updated the board on Training:

Current Situation:

- Ice Rescue Training
 - MFD crews are completing their skills training now with testing to follow provided by MFD instructor group who recently completed certification
- ICS 300 & 400 class hosted by BFD
 - ICS 300 – February 2nd – 4th
 - ICS 400 – February 17th – 18th
- Ordering Ruth Lee Manikins
 - 22lbs, 154lbs, 198lbs – will be used for Search & Rescue training

Accomplishments:

- Winter Fire School
 - 16 members attended – 250 total training hours over 3 days
- Indiana Pipeline Safety Program
 - January 27th at Bloomington Convention Center
- Onboarding 4 new part-time firefighters

Planned Activities:

- FDIC April 20-25
- Company Level Training: Vehicle Accident Scene Size Up, Vehicle Stabilization: Cribbing, Vehicle Stabilization: Struts & Airbags, Vehicle Extrication Skills

Training Hours:

- Company Training
 - December Training Hours – 2,564
 - January Training Hours – ImageTrend report writer down, unable to complete

f. Community Risk Reduction

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

Current Situation:

- Working with Monroe County Sheriff's Office on Arson case
- Collaborating with Meadows Hospital regarding Spice/K2 vaping pods psychosis prevention presentation to be delivered regionally

Accomplishments:

- Thank you letter from the public:
 - *My husband, two dogs, and I want to thank you and the fire crews for the fantastic job they did extinguishing the fire and saving the majority of our home. You guys swooped in with such efficiency and professionalism. In a really helpless and seemingly hopeless moment, you all brought some relief to our nightmare. We can't really put into words just how grateful we*

are that you all wake up each day willing to put your own lives at risk for others. We are truly impressed and just can't thank you enough. I hope you will pass along our gratitude to the rest of the crew.

- Events: CPR course for district residents and Sherwood Oaks Church

Planned Activities:

- Teach Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations to Indiana National Guard
- CPR/First Aid Course to Department of Natural Resources

Fire Inspections:

- Fire Safety Inspections – 20
- Re-Inspections – 0
- New Construction Inspections – 8
- Plans Review – 10

Trustee John Bernstein asked about Consulting for an AI powered Search and Rescue. Deputy Chief Steve Coover explained it's an organization that he's dealt with out of Israel. When they have collapses, they enter data into AI, and it calculates. Predominantly used for structure collapses.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker asked if we have any training for children when it comes to ice/frozen water? Deputy Chief Steven Coover explained that we do not and have only had one ice incident in the last five years where a child was involved.

g. Financial – Claims

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented financial summary for January 2026.

Current Situation:

- Wrapping up the Annual Financial Report with Root Advisors – Due February 28th
- Preparing 2025 documents for audit and archives

Accomplishments:

- Worked with Attorney Bartlett and Chief Dillard to finalize our Federal Debarment Certification. This is an audit required Attestation for Vendors with whom we choose to spend more than \$25,000 annually in Federal Funding
 - The Recipient of Federal assistance funds certifies that it is in compliance with the requirements of 2 C.F.R Part 180 and that neither it, its principals, nor its subcontractors are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency
- Prepared and submitted the Gateway Debt Management Report

Planned Activities:

- Participate in the Batchelor Middle School Reality Store on March 13

representing MFPD
EMS Revenue & Collections:

- Added the EMS collections activity from 2024 to the summary
- General Summary – 7%
- Cumulative Fund – 33%

Trustee John Bernstein asked what the Reality Store is? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that it's to help prepare students for the real world. Students will have fake money to spend throughout the day based off cards they've drawn (it may be a card indicating they have a wife and two kids, or another card could indicate they have a home with a pet). Batchelor Middle School asked for individuals from the community to help.

Chair Vicky Sorensen thanked Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen and Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson for staying on top of things while exciting life updates are happening in their personal lives (welcoming a new baby grandson).

h. Administrative Report

Chief Dustin Dillard updated the board on Current Situation and Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs updated the board on Accomplishments and Planned Activities.

Current Situation:

- Continuing updates to senior chief job descriptions based on 2026 organizational changes to increase efficiency
- Working on 2026 Run Cards and EMS Updates with Monroe County Dispatch
- Continue to monitor house and senate bills with potential impact to the fire district

Accomplishments:

- Hiring process written examination conducted
 - 205 candidates
 - 127 tested
 - 115 proceed to applications
- Met with Bean Blossom Stinesville Volunteer Firefighters to begin the next of the process of merging
- Monroe County Fire Chief meeting

Planned Activities:

- Hiring Process application review and interviews
- Instruct fire department finances at the Indiana Fire Chief's Academy
- Attend Reality Store at Batchelor Middle School

Personnel Report:

- New Hires – Full Time – 0
- New Hires – Part-Time – 0
- New Hires – Substitutes – 4

- Retirements – 1
- Promotions – 0
- Resignations – 0

Volunteer Hours January: 168.5

Trustee Susan Hingle asked if any of these duties or changes are pay worthy? Chief Dustin Dillard stated no.

Long discussion on ALS and BLS ambulances.

Trustee John Bernstein asked if this is going to be problematic down the road? Chief Dustin Dillard stated no we don't think so, we want to eventually be an ALS provider. Long discussion.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker asked if there's a county rule/law? Chief Dustin Dillard explained that EMS was just made critical service, but no rule/laws are in place at this time. Legislative may demand county to take charge. Either way, we need rules or guidance.

Trustee Susan Hingle asked about EOC, is there a unified communication tool? Chief Dustin Dillard explained that WebEOC (virtual EOC – very beneficial) which does get set up, National Guard out helping get stranded motorists. Whole county implemented this structure in result of the eclipse. Long discussion. Overall communication in these types of situations are at their best.

Chief Dustin Dillard mentioned that Ellettsville and Richland have proposed a fire territory and misinformation has been put out. Lots of discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Year End Encumbrances

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented the Year End Encumbrances for 2025 to the board and requested appropriation for purchase requests, contracts and sales orders placed and/or executed in 2025 but not yet filled may be encumbered into the 2026 budget.

Trustee Kevin Robling made motion to approve encumbrances from 2025 General and Cum Funds into the 2026 budget.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd

Motion Passed 6-0

b. Salary Ordinance – scrivener's errors

Chief Dustin Dillard presents the scrivener's errors:

- Section 3 – Officer Pay
 - Assistant Chiefs (2)
 - Fire Marshal (2)
 - Chauffeurs (12) – should be \$5,500.00

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance – scrivener’s errors.

Trustee John Bernstein 2nd

Motion Passed 6-0

NEW BUSINESS

a. Fire Gear Purchase

Chief Dustin Dillard presented the Fire Gear Purchase to the board. Captain Mark Mahurin has taken over the fire gear quarter master role. Inspected things himself and ensured we have the right records. Second set of gear is for those coming off probation. We replace 25 sets of gear each year for the 10-year limit from FPA. Needing 18 sets now and in the Fall, we’ll need 7 more sets.

MFPD is requesting to purchase 18 new sets of gear a year for a total of \$82,187.10. Plus, the 7 sets a year that we’ve recovered out of last year’s budget.

Trustee Dan Vest asked why there aren’t any other quotes? Chief Dustin Dillard explained that they’re pretty much sole sourced. To purchase Aereflex you need to go through MES. We shop for new gear types every 5 years. Unique with their regional agreements.

Trustee Dan Vest would like to see more than 1 quote.

Trustee Dan Vest made a motion to approve purchase of 18 new sets of gear for a total of \$82,187.10.

Trustee Kevin Robling 2nd

Motion Passed 6-0

b. Zoll Monitors

Chief Dustin Dillard asked to table it until next month since Deputy Chief Matt Bright isn’t present.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to table the Zoll Monitors until next month.

Trustee John Bernstein 2nd

Motion Passed 6-0

FINANCIALS

a. Financial – Claims

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented claims January 2026. Total claims - \$749,770.25. Financial Assistant Robinson mentioned that the total claims were high due to paying Station 21 mortgage in full.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the claims for January 2026.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd

Motion Passed 6-0

b. Payroll

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen presented the January monthly payrolls for approval on 15th and 30th (with an additional pay for Volunteers on the 15th).

- January 15th payroll – totaling \$227,745.38
- January 15th volunteers – totaling \$4,007.45
- January 30th payroll – totaling \$341,541,20
 - 28 Day

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

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd
Motion Passed 6-0

c. Financial – Statement

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

Trustee Dan Vest made a motion to approve the financial statement for January.
Trustee Kevin Robling 2nd
Motion Passed 6-0

Trustee Susan Hingle asked if the AAR from the tornado is complete? Chief Dustin Dillard explained no, personnel scheduled on light duty should have it completed soon. Chief Dillard will send out to the board.

Currently working on After Action Report from the snowstorm.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

No additional comment.

NEXT MEETING


Chair Vicky Sorensen stated that the next meeting will be in person on March 11, 2026, at Station 21, located at 9094 S Strain Ridge Road Bloomington, Indiana. The meeting will also be held via zoom.

ADJOURN

Chair Vicky Sorenson made a motion to adjourn at 7:08p.m.

Minutes approved by the board of trustees on March 11, 2026:

Aye:



Vicky Sorensen, Chair

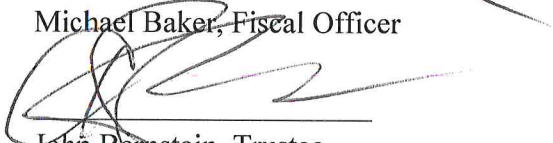
Nye:

Vicky Sorensen, Chair

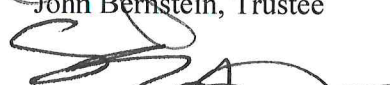
Mark, Kruzan, Vice-Chair



Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer



John Bernstein, Trustee



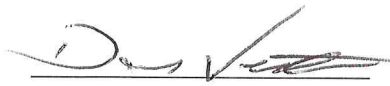
Susan Hingle, Trustee



Kevin R. Robling, Trustee



Dan Vest, Trustee



Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair

Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer

John Bernstein, Trustee

Susan Hingle, Trustee

Kevin R. Robling, 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