



FIRE DISTRICT #1 JOHNSON COUNTY
33364 W. 191st St.
Edgerton, KS 66021

MINUTES -- Board of Directors Special Meeting
33364 W. 191st St - Edgerton, KS
June 22, 2022 at 8:00 am

A special meeting of the Fire District #1 Board of Directors was held in person and was called to order at 8:01am by Board Chairman Randy Gregorcyk.

The following staff members were present and signed in:

Fire Chief Dennis Meyers	Director Administrative Services Mary Bush
Division Chief Trig Morley	Division Chief Aaron Winkler
Battalion Chief Chris Russell	Battalion Chief EMS Colby Stanchfield
Fire Shift Personnel	Administrative Assistant Ashley Smith
Matt Magle, CPA Hollis, Kuckelman, Van De Veer, Chartered	

The following guests were present:

Ted Clemons, Johnson County Senior Management and Budget Analyst
Paul Davis, Johnson County Director/Chief Emergency Medical Services
Jim Francis, Johnson County Fire Services Administrator

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was distributed by Board Chairman Randy Gregorcyk. Board member Keith Johnson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Board member Connie Schmidt seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried 5-0.

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The roll being called, it was found to be a quorum of the following members present and participating; to-wit:

Randy Gregorcyk, Chairman	Present
Mark Burdolski, Vice Chair	Present via Phone call
Ron Conus, Secretary/Treasurer	Present
Keith Johnson	Present
Connie Schmidt	Present

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2023 Budget Discussion

Board Chairman Randy Gregorcyk stated that Chief Meyers and staff are looking for guidance on the 2023 mil levy. Chief Meyers stated that adjustments were made in the budget by suggestions from Board Secretary/Treasurer Ron Conus. Chief Meyers stated that line item increases are due to possible shortfalls from 2022. Everything is going up approximately 5%. The top priorities for the 2023 budget are to increase salaries for all staff and to increase the reserve fund.

Board Chairman Randy Gregorcyk provided an opportunity for each board member to state their priorities and concerns. Board member Connie Schmidt suggested leaving the mil levy where it is. With inflated appraisals currently, we do not know what that will look like next year. She suggested we build the reserve fund up as much as possible in case a new fire station is needed in the future. She stated that a 6% salary increase for 2023 is in the middle range and invests in the number one commodity of the Fire District; the firefighters.

Board Member Keith Johnson noted that he would not like to see the mil levy raise. He said that not knowing if that will go up, he leans towards 5-6% employee increase. He stated that the assessed evaluation is high now, what happens when that goes down? What would be done to correct that?

Board Secretary/Treasurer Ron Conus noted that as a taxpayer, he has noticed that 9 out of the last 10 years, taxes have increased. Those on fixed incomes are affected by this most. He proposed a ½ mil decrease. In addition, he noted that with the new pay plan most employees received a raise. Giving an additional raise would actually cost the district more revenue due to benefits and overhead. Chief Meyers noted that the 5% increase included benefit costs and not all employees received it. Chief Winkler stated that the new pay plan was an equalization of pay, not a raise. Some saw an increase and some did not because of where wages were.

Board Member Mark Burdolski stated that the district needs to take care of its employees. He agrees with Board Member Keith Johnson that the mil levy should stay where it is in case of a downfall of assessed evaluations.

Chief Meyers added that in the next 2-3 years, the district should start seeing revenue from the Logistics Park and that's when we can start to see the mil levy lowering. Board Secretary/Treasurer Ron Conus stated that keeping the mil rate at the current level raises taxes again because of home value increase and does not help tax payers. Board Chairman Randy Gregorcyk stated that lowering the mil levy ½ mil only saves approximately \$18 per year for the tax payer. Board Member Connie Schmidt stated that as a tax payer, when she calls for emergency services, she wants to know that police and fire departments are coming. Fire District #1 staff is some of the lowest paid in the county and we cannot do everything in one year to correct that. The board did internal equity at the June meeting. By giving a 6% salary increase, it shows how important the staff is. It is up to the staff to keep internal expenses in check such as lights, fuel, etc.

Board Chairman Randy Gregorcyk is of the opinion to keep the mil levy where it is and give a 5% increase in salary in 2023.

Chief Meyers stated that during the July monthly board meeting, the budget documents will be presented to the Board of Directors. They will be asked to vote for the budget, neutral rates and mil levy and to set dates for budget hearings.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Board Secretary/Treasurer Ron Conus moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Keith Johnson seconded the motion. All present board members voting in favor, the motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 am.

Next monthly board meeting will be held on July 12th, 2022 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held in person at Station #81, 33364 W. 191st ST. Edgerton, KS 66021.

ATTEST:

Respectfully submitted by:

FIRE DISTRICT #1 JOHNSON COUNTY

Mary Bush, Recording Secretary

Dennis Meyers, Fire Chief

The above minutes having been read and considered by the Board of Directors of Fire District #1 Johnson County, and having been found to be correct as written, or with minor changes as shown above, was approved on this 12th day of July, 2022.

APPROVED by BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FIRE DISTRICT #1 JOHNSON COUNTY