

MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI,
HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

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Chesterfield, Missouri

August 8, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Board of Directors of the Monarch Fire Protection District of Saint Louis County, Chesterfield, Missouri, met at the Administration Building, of said District, 13725 Olive Boulevard, in the City of Chesterfield, County of Saint Louis, on Thursday, August 8, 2019, at 1:30 P.M. in an Open Board Meeting. At the above time and place the following Officers and Directors were in attendance.

Rick Gans - President and Director
Jean Millner - Secretary and Director*
Robin Harris - Treasurer and Director
* (Via video)

Also present: Chief Cary Spiegel
Jim McKay
Atty. Matt Hoffman

A quorum being present, Director Gans called the meeting to order and announced the Board of Directors meeting to be in session for the transaction of any and all business to be brought before it at this time.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1:35 P.M.

DIRECTOR GANS: Call to order the Open Meeting of the Monarch Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

Would you please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance?

(Whereupon, after all persons joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the following proceedings were had.)

DIRECTOR GANS: Approval of Agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda?

DIRECTOR HARRIS: I have none.

DIRECTOR MILLNER: I have none.

CHIEF SPIEGEL: I have none.

DIRECTOR GANS: All right.

Citizen Comments?

We welcome any citizen comments, at this time. If anybody would like to make a citizen comment, please raise your hand.

(No response.)

DIRECTOR GANS: Seeing none, we'll move to the President's Report and I have no report today, which takes us to the Secretary's Report.

1 Approval of Meeting Minutes.

2 Do we have Meeting Minutes for
3 approval?

4 DIRECTOR HARRIS: We do.

5 Could I act in your stead?

6 DIRECTOR MILLNER: Yes, you may.

7 DIRECTOR HARRIS: All right. In
8 that case, I move for the approval of the Open
9 Meeting Minutes from July 25th, 2019 and July 30th,
10 2019.

11 DIRECTOR GANS: I will second the
12 motion.

13 Any discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

16 DIRECTOR MILLNER: Aye.

17 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.

18 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

19 Motion passes three to nothing.

20 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I also move for
21 the approval of the Closed Meeting Minutes from
22 July 25th, 2019 and July 30th, 2019.

23 DIRECTOR GANS: I will second the
24 motion.

25 Any discussion?

1 (No response.)
2 DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?
3 DIRECTOR MILLNER: Aye.
4 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.
5 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.
6 Motion passes three to nothing.
7 DIRECTOR HARRIS: And that concludes
8 the Secretary's Report.
9 DIRECTOR GANS: Thank you.
10 On to the Treasurer's Report.
11 DIRECTOR HARRIS: We have
12 disbursements in the amount of \$379,520.10 for
13 the period.
14 We have seven checks over \$5,000.00.
15 Check number 43354 to Montgomery
16 Bank in the amount of \$5,997.49.
17 That's for a myriad of credit card
18 purchases.
19 Check number 43371 to Woodard
20 Cleaning and Restoration Services in the amount
21 of \$7,375.01.
22 That is House One water restoration
23 service and it looks like we're getting an
24 insurance reimbursement.
25 Is that correct?

1 CHIEF SPIEGEL: We got the insurance
2 payment. That's to be billed from Woodard for
3 the cleanup at House One.

4 DIRECTOR HARRIS: All right. Thank
5 you.

6 Check number 43369 to Wells
7 Landscaping and Lawn Care, Incorporated in the
8 amount of \$11,684.00 and no cents.

9 That's for some landscaping projects
10 at Headquarters and at House Four.

11 Check number 43347 to MacQueen
12 Emergency Group, in the amount of \$14,327.30.

13 That is for a variety of turnout
14 gear, boots and some lease equipment for
15 different apparatus.

16 Check number 43337 in the amount of
17 \$19,100.00 and no cents to Hochschild, Bloom &
18 Company.

19 That's for our December, 2018 audit.

20 And check number 43316 to American
21 Response Vehicles in the amount of \$260,642.00
22 and no cents.

23 And that is to purchase a new
24 ambulance and, as I do enjoy getting to say,
25 we're paying cash.

1 We're not extending this in any way,
2 shape, or form, so, --

3 Actually, when did this arrive?

4 CHIEF SPIEGEL: Chief Harper, do you
5 have the number to do the final inspection?

6 Who will take the check?

7 (No oral response.)

8 CHIEF SPIEGEL: We won't distribute
9 the check until he gets approval.

10 EMS DEPUTY CHIEF HARPER: Nick
11 Harper, Deputy Chief.

12 I'm responding, because Director
13 Gans asked me to come up.

14 Yeah, we'll -- I'll take it with --

15 DIRECTOR GANS: Where?

16 EMS DEPUTY CHIEF HARPER: Les, --

17 DIRECTOR GANS: That's what I do.
18 I pointed. Okay.

19 EMS DEPUTY CHIEF HARPER: Yeah.

20 DIRECTOR GANS: All right.

21 EMS DEPUTY CHIEF HARPER: Okay.

22 Now, I'm confused.

23 DIRECTOR GANS: He's asking the
24 question.

25 EMS DEPUTY CHIEF HARPER: I will

1 take the check with me and we'll do a final
2 inspection and we'll pay for it, the middle of
3 next week, as long as we make the final
4 acceptance.

5 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Excellent.

6 DIRECTOR GANS: I note that that
7 was one of my check questions about the
8 disposition of the old 2237; I did get a
9 response.

10 And it was for an analysis of the
11 two reserve ambulances versus this ambulance,
12 with one of them to be sold.

13 A determination to be made about
14 which one, still.

15 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Are there any
16 other questions?

17 DIRECTOR MILLNER: I have one.

18 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

19 DIRECTOR MILLNER: I actually
20 couldn't hear what Chief Harper said in its
21 entirety.

22 Was the question answered as to when
23 we take delivery of the ambulance?

24 DIRECTOR HARRIS: That is correct.

25 We will -- well, actually, he will

1 --

2 EMS DEPUTY CHIEF HARPER: Next week.

3 DIRECTOR HARRIS: -- will take the
4 truck up and take delivery next week, --

5 DIRECTOR MILLNER: Next week.

6 DIRECTOR HARRIS: -- after the --

7 DIRECTOR MILLNER: Okay.

8 DIRECTOR HARRIS: -- final inspec-
9 tion.

10 DIRECTOR MILLNER: Okay. Thank you,
11 very much. That's all I have.

12 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Are there any
13 other questions?

14 DIRECTOR GANS: Well, I --

15 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Other than those
16 posed electronically?

17 DIRECTOR GANS: I did ask some. I
18 asked a dozen questions electronically, as is now
19 the custom, for the past couple of years.

20 And the responses were adequate.

21 I did ask for one document and the
22 timing couldn't be better, because I have the
23 document and the person who I'd want to ask more
24 questions about it, is sitting all the way to my
25 right.

1 And get --

2 (General chuckles.)

3 DIRECTOR MILLNER: I think that
4 would be me.

5 DIRECTOR GANS: That's as far as it
6 goes.

7 So, there was -- my questions were
8 about a purchase from Amazon for equipment that
9 I just reviewed.

10 We -- we had received the paperwork
11 on it, so I see on here an assess to the mounting
12 bracket and assess the drive?

13 Is -- is it -- Jim, do you have a
14 copy of this?

15 MISTER MCKAY: Not with me, no.

16 DIRECTOR GANS: All right. And
17 I'll identify you as Jim McKay.

18 You're not normally sitting there,
19 but, you are involved with I.T. here.

20 Can someone pass him a copy?

21 MS. DEPEW: I will.

22 CHIEF SPIEGEL: Now, you do.

23 DIRECTOR HARRIS: You're right.

24 MS. DEPEW: (inaudible)

25 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Oh. Actually, I

1 -- I'll keep my copy.

2 DIRECTOR GANS: All right. So the
3 first item's a mounting bracket. Right?

4 MISTER MCKAY: Uh, yes, sir.

5 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. So the
6 second one, I guess, they've really come down in
7 price, the 250 Gig saddle drive is \$58.00.
8 That's good.

9 But, the rest of them make it look
10 like we have gone to a unify network system here,
11 or did I miss it and we've unified the whole
12 time?

13 MISTER MCKAY: We have those at
14 ADMIN.

15 And now we're gonna start to roll
16 those out to the engine houses.

17 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. So, we're
18 switching our wireless, or, we're routing
19 wireless to unified?

20 MISTER MCKAY: To do -- to be
21 recorded, yes.

22 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. I'm familiar
23 with that.

24 MISTER MCKAY: Yeah. They work
25 really well here at ADMIN for a mesh network.

1 DIRECTOR GANS: Yes?

2 MISTER MCKAY: So we're going to
3 start to roll those out to the engine houses.

4 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. So, that --
5 that was unexpected on here and since I'm
6 familiar with them, I see access points.

7 MISTER MCKAY: I believe there was
8 four, total.

9 DIRECTOR GANS: What about a
10 router?

11 MISTER MCKAY: It's all routed
12 through here.

13 DIRECTOR GANS: What router are we
14 -- are we just using the access points and not
15 the -- not the router?

16 MISTER MCKAY: No.

17 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

18 MISTER MCKAY: It's all routed
19 through here. All the networks are provided
20 through here.

21 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. We can talk
22 about that later.

23 MISTER MCKAY: Okay.

24 DIRECTOR GANS: And then I see a
25 pair of binoculars. And what are those used for?

1 MISTER MCKAY: Special operations.
2 Whether it's from the banks, or look out at the
3 boats, or any of other equipment from a distance.

4 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. All of my
5 other questions were answered satisfactorily.

6 I do have a question that is related
7 that I told Michelle I was going to have for her
8 and that is about our cash balance in the
9 dispatch fund.

10 MS. DEPEW: Yes, sir.

11 DIRECTOR GANS: It's a lot.

12 MS. DEPEW: It is a lot.

13 DIRECTOR GANS: And, why?

14 MS. DEPEW: As I responded, in
15 writing, the dispatch fund is an interest bearing
16 account, so -- and the general funds doesn't need
17 the funding, just yet.

18 So, we leave it in the interest
19 bearing account, until it needs to be funded in
20 the general funds.

21 From August to December, we don't
22 get the (not clear) and to minimal deposits from
23 St. Louis County and that is when we start to
24 move funds necessary to do operating.

25 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. My question

1 is, isn't that money due to Central County?

2 MS. DEPEW: No.

3 DIRECTOR GANS: Why?

4 MS. DEPEW: It is due -- we do pay
5 Central County from the general funds, there's a
6 due-to-from, from the dispatch (not clear) --
7 from the general funds.

8 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

9 MS. DEPEW: We paid Central County
10 via the general funds,

11 DIRECTOR GANS: And so the money is
12 part in the dispatch fund.

13 MS. DEPEW: That's correct.

14 DIRECTOR GANS: Is that a practice
15 that is acceptable to the auditors?

16 And, I guess, really, is it an
17 acceptable practice?

18 MS. DEPEW: It is an acceptable
19 practice, because it's on the balance sheet.

20 On the balance sheet it's shown as
21 a due-to-from for that balance.

22 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

23 MS. DEPEW: And it's therefore when
24 the funding is needed in the general fund, we'll
25 move it to the general fund for operating

1 purposes.

2 But, Central County has been paid
3 and it is a -- an operation as pro-cash, when we
4 have not forecast inoperable funds.

5 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

6 MS. DEPEW: So it is acceptable.

7 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. Have we
8 always done that?

9 MS. DEPEW: Yes.

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

11 DIRECTOR HARRIS: You haven't
12 noticed?

13 DIRECTOR GANS: Well, that leads me
14 to put out the request for cash balances more
15 frequently than we --

16 MS. DEPEW: Than once a month?

17 DIRECTOR GANS: I don't think we're
18 getting them once a month.

19 MS. DEPEW: You're getting them with
20 the financials. They're on the back of the
21 financials.

22 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. I'll verify
23 that. So, thank you. It's something that I'm
24 surprised that I haven't asked before.

25 And that doesn't mean that I won't

1 ask again.

2 MS. DEPEW: Understood.

3 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. I don't want
4 to lose that reputation.

5 Those are all the questions I have
6 about the checks and related matters.

7 DIRECTOR HARRIS: And I have no
8 additional questions that were not answered
9 electronically.

10 Chief Spiegel, -- sorry.

11 In reviewing these disbursements,
12 they appear to be reasonable and necessary in the
13 conduct of the District's business.

14 Chief Spiegel, were these checks
15 prepared per your recommendation?

16 CHIEF SPIEGEL: Yes, they were.

17 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Do they violate
18 any state bidding statutes, or constitute
19 installment payments?

20 CHIEF SPIEGEL: None that I'm aware
21 of.

22 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I make a motion
23 that we accept the disbursements as prepared.

24 DIRECTOR GANS: I will second the
25 motion.

1 Any further discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

4 DIRECTOR MILLNER: Aye.

5 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.

6 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

7 Motion passes three to nothing.

8 DIRECTOR GANS: Continuing?

9 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Well, I will make
10 note that back in 1945, on August 6th, in an
11 effort to terminate the war in the Pacific,
12 Germany having already surrendered, the United
13 States dropped the first atom bomb on the City of
14 Hiroshima and followed up on August the 9th with
15 the second one.

16 And while the devastation was
17 significant, it was not actually worse than what
18 had already occurred in the European theater with
19 fire bombing, however, because a single air craft
20 was able to do it, it brought about the early end
21 of the war and potentially saved a million U.S.
22 casualties, or allied casualties and more than
23 that in Japan.

24 And that concludes the Treasurer's
25 Report.

1 DIRECTOR GANS: Thank you.

2 Chief's Report?

3 CHIEF SPIEGEL: Yes, sir. The item
4 I have is the committee, Battalion Chief Fassler
5 and our maintenance have reviewed the asphalt
6 pavement bids and I believe they'll make a
7 recommendation.

8 DIRECTOR GANS: Good afternoon.

9 B. C. FASSLER: Good afternoon.

10 Ed Fassler, battalion chief and the
11 committee.

12 (General chuckles.)

13 B. C. FASSLER: Randy could not make
14 it. He's on site, in the field, working.

15 DIRECTOR GANS: I saw his truck.

16 B. C. FASSLER: Well, listen (not
17 clear).

18 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

19 B. C. FASSLER: So, we received
20 three bids, as you all are aware. And our
21 recommendation is for a -- a company that we've
22 -- we've used in the past, Byrne and Jones, for
23 the recommended amount, that 56,416, which was
24 the lower bid for our properties at One's, Two's,
25 Three's and Five's.

1 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

2 B. C. FASSLER: And Headquarters.

3 DIRECTOR GANS: And, as I recall,
4 this is not just asphalt?

5 B. C. FASSLER: It's "miller," it's
6 "ass --" re-laying asphalt, re-striping,
7 resurfacing, sealing.

8 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

9 B. C. FASSLER: The whole -- it's
10 not a -- not a huge property, but, --

11 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

12 B. C. FASSLER: -- a --

13 DIRECTOR GANS: A combination?

14 B. C. FASSLER: Hm-hm.

15 DIRECTOR GANS: All right. And
16 they were the low bid, you said?

17 B. C. FASSLER: Yes, they were.

18 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

19 Are there any questions about this?

20 DIRECTOR MILLNER: I have none.

21 DIRECTOR HARRIS: This is part of
22 our budgeted --

23 DIRECTOR GANS: It was.

24 CHIEF SPIEGEL: It is a bit over.
25 You budgeted 55,000. This one came in at fifty-

1 six and some change.

2 B. C. FASSLER: Yeah. A thousand.
3 A thousand --

4 DIRECTOR HARRIS: My only question.

5 DIRECTOR GANS: All right. I'll
6 make a motion to accept the bid from Byrne and
7 Jones for asphalt and related work for Houses
8 One, Two, Three, Five and Headquarters, in the
9 amount of \$56,416.00.

10 Do I hear a second?

11 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Second.

12 DIRECTOR GANS: Discussion?

13 (No response.)

14 DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

15 DIRECTOR MILLNER: Aye.

16 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.

17 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

18 Motion passes three to nothing.

19 B. C. FASSLER: Thank you.

20 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. Thank you.

21 CHIEF SPIEGEL: Thank you. That's
22 all I have.

23 DIRECTOR GANS: All right.

24 Attorney's Report?

25 ATTORNEY HOFFMAN: I do not have

1 anything on the agenda for today.

2 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

3 The next item of business is New
4 Business. Maybe, really, Unfinished Business,
5 but, nonetheless, it's business.

6 So, the meeting schedule for August
7 were actually scheduled in the wrong order.

8 That is why was an Open rather than
9 a Closed Meeting, as to what was originally
10 decided, announced, posted, but when we moved the
11 date is when we recognized that we should have
12 been having an Open Meeting, because the last
13 meeting we had was a Closed.

14 So, this Open Meeting, on the 8th,
15 will be followed by a Closed Meeting on July 14th
16 at seven o'clock.

17 These are the same dates and times.

18 VOICES: "August."

19 DIRECTOR GANS: I'm sorry. August.

20 DIRECTOR HARRIS: We knew what you
21 meant.

22 DIRECTOR GANS: Right. Thank you.
23 Everyone seemed to help me out there, too.

24 (General chuckles.)

25 DIRECTOR GANS: And they weren't on

1 the record.

2 So, we're looking at, again, August
3 14th at seven o'clock for a Closed Meeting.

4 On the 19th, August 19th, an Open
5 Meeting at seven o'clock.

6 And on the 28th, a Closed Meeting
7 that is scheduled, right now, for seven o'clock.

8 I would like to ask the Board if we
9 could meet at 6:30, instead.

10 I've got a Central County meeting
11 preceding that and if I can go from one to the
12 other, that would be nice and I think 6:30 would
13 be better than seven.

14 Is that okay?

15 DIRECTOR HARRIS: What was the date?

16 DIRECTOR GANS: The 28th.

17 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Should not be a
18 problem for me.

19 DIRECTOR GANS: Jean, are you able
20 to look?

21 DIRECTOR MILLNER: August 28th, we're
22 moving from seven to six-thirty?

23 DIRECTOR GANS: Yes.

24 DIRECTOR MILLNER: That's fine with
25 me.

1 DIRECTOR GANS: Anybody else who
2 wants to go to Central County with me is invited.

3 See how the real work gets done.

4 (General chuckles.)

5 DIRECTOR GANS: Are you asking a
6 question?

7 MS. DEPEW: I would like to also
8 state that you guys have a Pension Meeting on
9 August 14th.

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Thank you. You're
11 right. Following the Closed Meeting. What was
12 an Open is now the Closed Meeting.

13 MS. DEPEW: That is correct.

14 DIRECTOR GANS: All right.

15 Robin?

16 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I'm double-
17 checking a few things. Give me just a minute.

18 DIRECTOR GANS: All right.

19 Let's, also, while he's looking,
20 talk about when we're looking at budget
21 workshops.

22 I note that we received the
23 preliminary budget today.

24 MS. DEPEW: Correct.

25 DIRECTOR GANS: So, may I assume

1 that you all are ready, the staff is ready for
2 meetings, now?

3 Question?

4 MS. DEPEW: I think that's a fair
5 assumption.

6 We're still waiting on the post
7 C.O.E.'s from St. Louis County for revenues.
8 That means we might have a slight fluctuation.

9 But, entirely, the chief has met
10 with staff and department heads and the "capital"
11 listing is included, as a -- as well as any
12 discussions.

13 So, yes, I believe we're comfortable
14 in starting our conversations and trying to hold
15 those meetings.

16 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

17 MS. DEPEW: The budget starts -- the
18 tax rates and budget need to be passed by October
19 1st.

20 DIRECTOR GANS: Right.

21 MS. DEPEW: And we'll back into
22 that.

23 DIRECTOR GANS: So, in trying to
24 piggyback those on meetings, we already have a
25 piggyback on the 14th.

1 So, I'm going to suggest that we try
2 to piggyback it with the 19th. August 19th.

3 Perhaps, doing that prior to the
4 meeting.

5 We don't have to decide that right
6 this minute, but, --

7 DIRECTOR HARRIS: The 28th is fine.
8 Actually, any time you might wish to hold the
9 meeting.

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. Let's do
11 6:30, then.

12 So, the Closed Meeting, on the 28th,
13 will be at 6:30 P.M.

14 The Board will have a budget
15 workshop sometime this month. Possibly, even
16 likely, the 19th.

17 That will be decided, probably, by
18 email between the Board Members, copied to the
19 public file, but it will be posted, because it
20 will be a meeting of the Board.

21 It will be considered a workshop.
22 It's open to the public.

23 Those are the August Meetings, as
24 they stand today.

25 Is there any other New Business, or

1 Unfinished Business?

2 CHIEF SPIEGEL: Just a question.

3 DIRECTOR GANS: Yes?

4 CHIEF SPIEGEL: On the workshop, --

5 DIRECTOR GANS: Yes.

6 CHIEF SPIEGEL: -- did you say
7 you're going to agree to that by email?

8 DIRECTOR GANS: Yes.

9 CHIEF SPIEGEL: The Directors --

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Yeah. We're not
11 going to commit to that, yet.

12 I -- I want a chance to go through
13 the preliminary budget. And rather than taking
14 up the time now, we'll -- we'll figure that out.

15 And there may be two workshops. We
16 typically have a preliminary one at our first
17 one, revisions, and then meet again.

18 So, there'll probably be two.

19 A second one in September, most
20 likely.

21 All right. Is there any other New
22 or Unfinished Business?

23 Rh: I have none.

24 DIRECTOR GANS: All right. We do
25 not intend to hold a Closed Meeting, so this will

1 be it.

2 At this time, I make a motion to
3 adjourn.

4 Rh: Second.

5 DIRECTOR GANS: Discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

8 DIRECTOR MILLNER: Aye.

9 Rh: Aye.

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

11 Motion passes.

12 We are adjourned.

13 (Whereupon, at 1:56 P.M., the Board
14 adjourned the Meeting as described above.

15 Please note that the foregoing
16 Minutes were recorded by the Monarch Fire
17 Protection District and transcribed by Virginia
18 L. Long.)

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