

MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION  
DISTRICT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, HELD ON  
THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017

VIRGINIA L. LONG  
Court Reporting Services  
P. O. Box 803  
Chesterfield, MO 63006-0803

314.603.2287

E-mail: [vlong38@yahoo.com](mailto:vlong38@yahoo.com)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

I N D E X

<b>4:15 P.M. Open Meeting</b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
OPEN MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.....	4
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....	4
APPROVAL OF AGENDA.....	4
CITIZEN COMMENTS.....	4
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	
a. Oath of Office/Captain Towsley.....	5
b. Resignation of Director Cunningham..	8
SECRETARY'S REPORT	
a. Approval of <u>Open</u> Board Mtg. Minutes for June 22, 2017.....	14
TREASURER'S REPORT	
a. Check Disbursements Report.....	14
b. Independence Day Comments.....	18
CHIEF'S REPORT.....	20
ATTORNEY'S REPORT.....	20
NEW BUSINESS.....	20
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
a. Recognition of Heidi Sowatsky, owner of the Decorating Den.....	21
ADJOURNMENT	

MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION  
DISTRICT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, HELD ON  
THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017

Chesterfield, Missouri

July 6, 2017

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, July 6, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in an Open Board Meeting. At the above time and place the following Officers and Directors were in attendance.

Rick Gans - President/Chairman and Director  
Jane Cunningham - Secretary and Director  
Robin Harris - Treasurer and Director

Also present:                   Acting Chief Spiegel  
                                  Deputy Chief Les Crews  
                                  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.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 7:09 P.M.

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

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

8 (Whereupon, all persons joined in reciting  
9 the Pledge of Allegiance, after which time, the  
10 following proceedings were had.)

11 DIRECTOR GANS: Director Harris is on  
12 his way. He'll be here momentarily.

13 We're going to go ahead as we just  
14 did and begin the meeting without him. So he'll  
15 be joining us momentarily.

16 Next, on the agenda, we have the  
17 Approval of the Agenda.

18 Does anyone have any changes to the  
19 agenda?

20 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I have none.

21 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: I have none.

22 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. Moving on to  
23 "Citizen Comments," we do not have any citizen  
24 comments tonight.

25 So, with that, we'll move on to the

1 "President's Report."

2 And, tonight, we have a promotion  
3 and I will walk around and administer the Oath of  
4 Office to Brian Towsley, who's being promoted  
5 tonight, so give me just one second.

6 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Do you need  
7 any help? Are you okay?

8 DIRECTOR GANS: I'm good.

9 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Brian, would you  
11 join me, please?

12 This is one of the great honors, as  
13 Directors, we get to participate in.

14 Lately, it's been happening fairly  
15 often, swearing-in new firefighters and  
16 paramedics and even better than that, promoting  
17 existing firefighters and paramedics, employees  
18 of Monarch.

19 Brian, I've known for a long time.

20 We've both been here a long time.

21 And I was very pleased when the  
22 Board had the opportunity to promote you. And,  
23 in fact, we actually voted on the promotion  
24 before it was actually time to make the  
25 promotion, because there was one that we're --

1 we're pleased to see happen.

2 So, at this time, I will swear you  
3 in and if you'll bear with me here, with one  
4 hand, --

5 A VOICE: Do you want some help?

6 DIRECTOR GANS: No, I got it.

7 So, if you will repeat after me --

8 (Whereupon, Brian Towsley was duly sworn-in  
9 and repeated the following Oath of Office.)

10 CAPTAIN TOWSLEY: "I, Brian Towsley,  
11 do solemnly swear that I will uphold and support  
12 the Rules and Regulations and Policies of the  
13 Monarch Fire Protection District, its residents  
14 and visitors in need, the Constitution of the  
15 State of Missouri and of the United States of  
16 America.

17 "I will fulfill the duties of my  
18 office to the best of my ability, so help me  
19 God."

20 DIRECTOR GANS: Congratulations.

21 (Generous applause.)

22 DIRECTOR GANS: So there is  
23 something missing, at this point, however other  
24 uniformed personnel have something right here,  
25 but Brian, so I would assume that you would like

1       for someone special to pin that on.

2                   CAPTAIN TOWSLEY: Yes, sir.

3                   DIRECTOR GANS:     Would you please  
4       step forward, whoever is special, is going to pin  
5       it on.

6                   (Whereupon, Mrs. Towsley came forward and  
7       pinned the badge on her husband.)

8                   DIRECTOR GANS:     Would you like to  
9       pose for a picture while you're up there?

10                  Before we do family pictures, we'd  
11       like to have the chief officers and Director  
12       Cunningham join us up here.

13                  You'll be right back.

14                  (Referring to Mrs. Towsley.)

15                  (Whereupon, photos were made with the  
16       staff.)

17                  DIRECTOR GANS:     At this point, we're  
18       going to take a recess.     I believe we have  
19       refreshments in the lobby.

20                  Good thing, because it would've been  
21       bad if I said that and we didn't.

22                  So we're going to go into recess  
23       now.

24                  (Generous laughter.)

25                  DIRECTOR GANS:     So we're going to go

1     into recess now and we are now off the record.  
2     We'll resume in a few minutes.)

3             (Whereupon, at 7:12 P.M., a brief recess  
4     was taken, after which time, at 7:30 P.M., the  
5     following proceedings were had.)

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

9             We are on the President's Report and  
10    I do have an announcement to make.

11            It's with mixed emotions that I  
12    announce that today I received the resignation of  
13    Jane Cunningham from the Monarch Board of  
14    Directors.

15            While Jane served since 2013, while,  
16    Jane only served since 2013, she achieved a  
17    lifetime of accomplishments in her four-plus  
18    years on the Board.

19            Her efforts in the District's  
20    Workers' Compensation premium turn-around saved  
21    tax payers millions of dollars already and will  
22    continue to have an impact for years to come.

23            She was a proponent of the "Fight  
24    for Duty" program we now employ, which means a  
25    safer environment for the citizens and businesses



1 we serve and for our valuable Monarch employees.

2 The transparency portal, Jane  
3 brought to the District, because a model that  
4 other government entities have adopted, in order  
5 to provide extensive financial and other  
6 information, taxpayers have a right to know, and  
7 can easily find.

8 I first met Jane during my early  
9 days on the Board when she was a state rep.

10 She graciously accepted invitations  
11 to represent our state government and important  
12 -- and important District events.

13 Little did I know we would one day  
14 serve together on this Board.

15 I have enjoyed the time we have  
16 worked together at Monarch, where we agreed most  
17 of the time, and when we did not agree, there was  
18 healthy debate.

19 I always respected Jane's opinions  
20 and perspective as we worked through some complex  
21 issues, but as importantly, as I got to know Jane  
22 and her husband Gary, I have always enjoyed the  
23 friendship we shared.

24 Jane will be missed around here and  
25 we all wish her well.

1                   State statute calls for the  
2 remaining Board Members to appoint a Director to  
3 serve out the unexpired term of a departing Board  
4 Member and Director Harris and I will proceed to  
5 do this in due time.

6                   We'll miss you.

7                   DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I'll miss you  
8 and if you think I'm going away, you're crazy.

9                   (General chuckles.)

10                  DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I'm gonna stay  
11 --

12                  DIRECTOR GANS: That's what I like  
13 to hear.

14                  DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I'm still  
15 gonna see -- stay engaged with Monarch and with  
16 Chesterfield.

17                  DIRECTOR GANS: Good. I like that.

18                  DIRECTOR HARRIS: May I?

19                  DIRECTOR GANS: Yes, you may.

20                  DIRECTOR HARRIS: I don't have any  
21 prepared remarks, but --

22                  DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Good.

23                  (General laughter.)

24                  DIRECTOR HARRIS: -- it would've  
25 kept me completely on task, but, Jane, you have

1     been of tremendous assistance on this Board  
2     before you ever became a Director.

3                     DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM:   Hm.

4                     DIRECTOR HARRIS:    I can not express  
5     my delight when you joined me on this Board, --

6                     DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM:   Hm.

7                     DIRECTOR HARRIS:    -- just a little  
8     over four years ago.  My life became much better.  
9     The expertise you brought, the diligence and  
10    determination you brought on handling some of the  
11    issues, at a time when I think the two of us were  
12    putting in far more hours than anyone ever could  
13    imagine, trying to address issues that we thought  
14    needed assistance.

15                    DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM:  I can remember  
16    some nine hour meetings.

17                    (General chuckles.)

18                    DIRECTOR HARRIS:    It was a lot of  
19    time outside of these meetings.

20                    DIRECTOR GANS:    It's because of him.

21                    DIRECTOR HARRIS:    You know?

22                    DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM:  I -- I'm sure.

23                    (General chuckles.)

24                    DIRECTOR HARRIS:    But, you know, as  
25    -- as Rick noted, some of the things you've done

1 will have tremendous impact for years to come.

2 We're seeing some dramatic savings,  
3 primarily through Workers' Compensation and that  
4 has allowed the District to utilize that money to  
5 address other things.

6 And most people will never know what  
7 you've done, even though it was quite public,  
8 they wouldn't have paid any attention, the good  
9 news is, their taxes didn't need to go up to  
10 address those issues.

11 But, personally and professionally,  
12 I want to thank you for serving on this Board,  
13 because it made my personal life better, it made  
14 my professional life on the Board much, much  
15 better. So.

16 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: It's been my  
17 honor and my privilege.

18 And with regard to Work Comp, it  
19 took a whole team. It took the Board with a  
20 vision that it took the staff with a commitment  
21 to be safe, to come to work safe and to go home  
22 safe.

23 And that makes everybody happier.

24 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Well, and you  
25 know, in -- in that --

1                   DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM:     And saves  
2 money.

3                   DIRECTOR HARRIS:        -- in that  
4 particular issue, I -- I, actually, I thank  
5 everyone who works here, but it took somebody to  
6 --

7                   DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Kick us in the  
8 butt.

9                   DIRECTOR HARRIS:     Well, something  
10 like that.

11                   (General chuckles.)

12                   DIRECTOR HARRIS:     I was going to  
13 say, you know, grab the flag and lead the charge.

14                   So, while I -- I have always  
15 commended everyone at Monarch for their  
16 contributions, you led the way on that program  
17 and among other's.

18                   It has been tremendous things that  
19 makes, I think, everyone's life at Monarch and in  
20 the District better, whether they know it, or  
21 not. So.

22                   DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM:     And it's  
23 effective, for the record, the end of this month,  
24 so I'll be continuing until the last meeting of  
25 this month.

1                   And that's when I will no longer  
2     have a residence within the District.

3                   DIRECTOR GANS: All right.

4                   DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Hm-hm.

5                   DIRECTOR GANS: Well, thank you.

6                   And, ironically, we're moving on to  
7     your report.

8                   That concludes the President's  
9     Report. On to the Secretary's Report.

10                  DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I move for the  
11     approval of the Open Meeting Minutes of June  
12     22nd, 2017.

13                  DIRECTOR GANS: I will second the  
14     motion.

15                  Any discussion?

16                  (No response.)

17                  DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

18                  DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Aye.

19                  DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.

20                  DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

21                  Motion passes three to nothing.

22                  DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: That's all I  
23     have.

24                  DIRECTOR GANS: All right. On to  
25     the Treasurer's Report.

1                   DIRECTOR     HARRIS:           We     have  
2     disbursements in the amount of \$44,987.22 for the  
3     period.

4                   We have one check over \$5,000.00.

5                   Check   number   39802   to   Ogletree,  
6     Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, in the amount of  
7     \$7,281.00 for legal services.

8                   Are there any questions?

9                   DIRECTOR GANS:   Well, we're starting  
10    a new era around here.   I am going to refrain  
11    from asking questions about the check register,  
12    primarily due to a -- a comment in the management  
13    report, of the most recent audit, in which the  
14    District was advised that a more thorough  
15    examination of the invoices and check -- and  
16    checks, should be provided.

17                   And in order to respond to that,  
18    although the questions that we -- that I ask are  
19    on the public record and they're in writing,  
20    eventually,   I'm   responding   by   asking   the  
21    questions by E-mail, of the controller, the chief  
22    and other staff, mainly the controller and chief,  
23    which I did earlier today, by E-mail, the  
24    District's E-mail.

25                   Most of it is available to the

1 public upon request and that information can be  
2 obtained, upon request, of the custodian of  
3 records, the chief of the District. The acting  
4 chief, at this point.

5 But I will no longer be asking  
6 questions about checks in public meetings.

7 Or, I should say, I rarely will be  
8 doing so, but, instead my questions have, today,  
9 already been answered. Those were available.

10 I will make a brief comment about  
11 this at every meeting, because I want that on the  
12 record.

13 I want it to be known that since  
14 1998 I've been asking about checks. I've been  
15 asking invoices. I thought it was a service to  
16 the public to do it in a public meeting.

17 But, the auditors have changed my  
18 mind about that and in -- in response, I'm  
19 changing my process.

20 So I have no public questions.

21 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I kind of miss  
22 that.

23 (General chuckles.)

24 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I -- I don't  
25 expect it to last.



1 (General chuckles.)

2 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Well, because I've  
3 actually read that E-mail and gone over this, --  
4 do you have any questions?

5 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: No, I don't.  
6 I read his. I thought they were good questions.

7 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I have no  
8 questions.

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

12 Chief Spiegel, were these checks  
13 prepared per your recommendation?

14 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: Yes, they  
15 were.

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

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

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

23 DIRECTOR GANS: I will second the  
24 motion.

25 Any discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

3 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Aye.

4 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.

5 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

6 Motion passes three to nothing.

7 DIRECTOR HARRIS: One quick comment.

8 Tuesday was the 4th of July. Many  
9 of celebrated with fireworks, the independence of  
10 our nation in 1776.

11 And as I speak to younger  
12 generations, I note that many of them struggle  
13 with the dates.

14 I, also, wanted to comment on the  
15 fact that in the three days leading up to that,  
16 in 1863, was the Battle of Gettysburg.

17 And while most of us are familiar  
18 with the Battle, it was a major push by the  
19 Confederate Army to sort of end-run around the  
20 Army of the Potomac, and I think actually attack  
21 Washington D.C. was part of their concept, which  
22 would have divided this nation, probably, on a  
23 permanent bases.

24 While there was several turning  
25 points in the battle, one was the fact that a --

1 an officer decided to keep a vantage point that  
2 had just been relieved of men that were  
3 apparently needed elsewhere.

4 He realized that by sitting atop  
5 Little Roundtop, he could oversee the entire  
6 battlefield and it was critical.

7 He maintained a post there with men  
8 under his control and denied it to the  
9 Confederates which gave better information than  
10 to the Union Army.

11 There was also a massive attack; I  
12 think it's charge, along about a one mile front  
13 and there would have been a major flanking motion  
14 by the Confederate Calvary, but due to the  
15 audacity of a young man who was leading 400  
16 Michigan Calvary, facing -- of course, he didn't  
17 realize it was J.E.B. Stewart, one of the finest  
18 commanders of Calvary of the day, with 4,000  
19 soldiers all mounted.

20 He repeatedly charged and convinced  
21 J.E.B. Stewart that he need not continue his  
22 efforts, so they turned back.

23 But, fortunately, after the third  
24 day, the battle ended. The Union succeeded in  
25 deflecting that effort.

1                   So, I did want to make a quick  
2     comment. It's one that we all have heard of the  
3     Battle of Gettysburg, but so often forget  
4     anything about it.

5                   And that concludes the Treasurer's  
6     Report.

7                   DIRECTOR GANS: All right. Thank  
8     you.

9                   On to the Chief's Report.

10                  ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: I don't have  
11     anything, this evening.

12                  DIRECTOR GANS: All right.

13                  Under the Attorney's Report?

14                  MISTER HOFFMAN: Sir, I don't have a  
15     report, this evening.

16                  DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. Any New  
17     Business?

18                  (No response.)

19                  DIRECTOR GANS: Any Unfinished  
20     Business?

21                  (No response.)

22                  DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I just wanted  
23     to say something.

24                  It is still Unfinished, but on-  
25     going.

1 I just wanted to recognize Heidi  
2 Sowatsky.

3 Did I say her name correctly?

4 How do you say --

5 DEPUTY CHIEF HARPER: Sowatsky.

6 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Sowatsky?  
7 Sowatsky.

8 She owns a company called the  
9 Decorating Den and this room and the lobby were  
10 in great need of painting and re-doing.

11 And we're always looking to save  
12 money here at Monarch and so I just put a note up  
13 and said, "Is there a decorator who wants to  
14 volunteer and help us?"

15 And so she did.

16 And she came in and looked at  
17 everything, picked these colors and we're also  
18 going to be replacing the carpet as funds are  
19 available to do that and some of those on our  
20 staff have been painting.

21 But, it is a welcomed change and I  
22 just want to really recognize Heidi for helping  
23 us on that.

24 And you'll need to get her spelling  
25 for us, to be correct, with the Decorating Den;

1       just recognize her.

2                       And we will be in a future  
3       newsletter, because it really served us well and  
4       it was very good of her to give us her time and  
5       talent.

6                       DIRECTOR GANS: Thank you. And it  
7       looks great. I think we all agree on that. It  
8       needed a --

9                       DIRECTOR HARRIS: It was --

10                      DIRECTOR GANS: -- needed a refresh.

11                      DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Oh. Badly.

12                      DIRECTOR GANS: We built this  
13       building before I came on the Board. Not much  
14       before, but it probably hasn't been decorated in  
15       all that time.

16                      So, this -- this was it.

17                      Any other Unfinished Business?

18                      (No response.)

19                      DIRECTOR GANS: Hearing none, I will  
20       make a motion to adjourn.

21                      DIRECTOR HARRIS: Second.

22                      DIRECTOR GANS: Any discussion?

23                      (No response.)

24                      DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

25                      DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Aye.

1 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.

2 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

3 Motion passes three to nothing.

4 We are adjourned and off the record.

5 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned as  
6 described above.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

STATE OF MISSOURI                    )  
  )  SS  
COUNTY OF ST. CHARLES            )

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Virginia L. Long, Notary Public  
and professional court reporter, within and for  
the State of Missouri, County of St. Charles, do  
hereby certify that there came before me at that  
time and in that place first aforesaid, those  
persons and matters herein described and has been  
transcribed into typewritten form by me and is  
now herewith returned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand and seal this 6th day of July, 2017.

My commission expires June 23, 2020.

---

Notary Public within and  
for the State of Missouri