

MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017

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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 Wednesday, May 3, 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.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

7:00 P.M.

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

Please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance?

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

DIRECTOR GANS: I'd like to welcome everyone to the meeting tonight and we're gonna go through our agenda, but we will be taking a break after the President's Report and then continuing the meeting after that.

Are there any changes to the agenda? Any additions, or changes to the agenda?

DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I have none.

DIRECTOR HARRIS: I have none.

DIRECTOR GANS: I have none, either.

ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: And I have none.

DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. Because we have a large number of people here tonight, we're not sure what everyone is here for, so we do have

1 on our agenda tonight, a Public Hearing, where
2 Citizen Comments would normally go.

3 And that's an opportunity for anyone
4 who would like to speak to the Board.

5 And we welcome your comments to the
6 Board.

7 And, I'll ask, at this point, by a
8 show of hands, is anyone here to address the
9 Board tonight?

10 (No response.)

11 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. I didn't
12 think so.

13 So, -- and that's fine. We -- we,
14 tonight, will be discussing an issue that the
15 Board has discussed publicly before and that is
16 a proposal, a discussion about imposing a billing
17 for residents of the District, an EMS billing for
18 residents of the District.

19 We've also discussed a possible roll
20 back that was publicized in the District's
21 newsletter that was distributed a few weeks ago
22 and also on the District's website. We've spoke
23 of it at meetings, so that's why we want to make
24 sure we give people an opportunity, if they're
25 here, to speak to the Board about that topic, or

1 any topic.

2 We want to make sure we give them a
3 chance to address the Board at this time.

4 I'm going to actually defer the
5 comments that we have received, from the public,
6 by E-mail, until after the President's Report,
7 because I know that some of you here, are now
8 here to -- to hear that part of it and that will
9 take a while.

10 So, in the interest of giving you
11 all an opportunity to be able to witness what
12 you're here for, we're going to move to the
13 President's Report.

14 And -- and I'm the president to the
15 Board, but I have asked the treasurer, Director
16 Harris to handle the oath of office for the
17 swearing-in tonight.

18 For medical reasons, I'm -- I'm
19 unable to do it. I'll leave it at that. It's
20 not a big deal.

21 But, Robin, at this -- if you will
22 take over, at this time and handle the Oath of
23 Office, I would appreciate it.

24 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Excellent.

25 Well, at this time, we are going to

1 do two things.

2 We'll start with a promotion.

3 So, I am going to come around and if
4 I could get Kevin McCullough to join me in front
5 of the dias here, --

6 And I'll have you back up just a
7 little farther and I'll get a microphone.

8 Are you excited?

9 ENGINEER McCULLOUGH: Very.

10 DIRECTOR HARRIS: That's good. If
11 you had said, "No," we were going to reverse
12 this.

13 (General chuckles.)

14 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: Robin, will you
15 stand (inaudible)

16 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I will. Actually,
17 I'm going to have you turn just a little bit so
18 he gets a good view of you. That's what we
19 really need.

20 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: Right.

21 DIRECTOR HARRIS: You want me at a
22 better angle here, but, --

23 ENGINEER McCULLOUGH: Me, too.

24 (General chuckles.)

25 DIRECTOR HARRIS: All right. Well,

1 if you would, raise your right hand and repeat
2 after me.

3 (Whereupon, the oath was administered and
4 repeated as follows:)

5 ENGINEER McCULLOUGH: I, Kevin
6 McCullough, Engineer/Paramedic, do solemnly swear
7 that I will uphold and support the Rules and
8 Regulations and Policies of the Monarch Fire
9 Protection District, its residents and visitors
10 in need, the Constitution of the State of
11 Missouri and of the United States of America.

12 I will fulfill the duties of my
13 office to the best of my ability, so help me God.

14 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Congratulations.

15 (Generous applause.)

16 DIRECTOR HARRIS: And I believe you
17 have someone that is going to pin your badge on.

18 ENGINEER McCULLOUGH: My battalion
19 chief.

20 (At this point, B. C. Schmitt pinned the
21 badge for Engineer McCullough, photos were taken
22 and congratulations were extended, after which
23 time, the following proceedings were had.)

24 DIRECTOR HARRIS: And, next, if I
25 may, could I get Steven Campa, Ryan Walk and Andy

1 Keeven to join me?

2 The good news is, you can all be
3 sworn in at the same time. First, though, I have
4 to do -- I must make a comment.

5 For those of you who aren't aware,
6 when it's raining outside and it's cold and
7 windy, it is best to wear a cap, or a hat of some
8 sort.

9 A VOICE: Yes.

10 (General chuckles.)

11 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I'm sorry.

12 Somebody knows why I said that.

13 But, if you gentlemen would, please
14 raise your right hand and repeat after me.

15 (Whereupon, the oath was administered and
16 repeated as follows:)

17 EMPLOYEES IN UNISON: I, "Steven
18 Campa" "Ryan Walk" "Andy Keeven" do solemnly
19 swear that I will uphold and support the Rules
20 and Regulations and Policies of the Monarch Fire
21 Protection District, its residents and visitors
22 in need, the Constitution of the State of
23 Missouri and of the United States of America.

24 I will fulfill the duties of my
25 office to the best of my ability, so help me God.

1 DIRECTOR HARRIS: So, at this time,
2 I think you each have selected someone to pin
3 badges on. I will move out of the way.

4 If I may, I'm going to just sit
5 here.

6 (At this point, there was generous
7 applause, the badges were pinned, photos were
8 taken and congratulations were extended.)

9 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Gentlemen, seri-
10 ously, I hope you have a long and glorious career
11 here.

12 DIRECTOR GANS: At this time, we'll
13 take a recess and we do have refreshments in the
14 lobby.

15 We are off the record.

16 (Whereupon, at 7:12 P.M., a brief recess
17 was declared, after which time, at 7:25 P.M., the
18 following proceedings were had.)

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

22 Continuing with the meeting, we had
23 moved past the Public Hearing. We had no --
24 nobody to speak, at that time, but we said we
25 would come back to that, in order to administer

1 the Oath's of Office.

2 Thank you, Director Harris for doing
3 that, --

4 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Certainly.

5 DIRECTOR GANS: -- in my place.

6 So, we're going to have some
7 discussion now about the topic that the Board has
8 on here for the Public Hearing.

9 And I'd like to begin with a
10 statement. The cost of providing emergency
11 medical services to the District have been
12 increasing at a faster rate than tax revenues.

13 Our ambulances are responding to a
14 steady increase in alarms, thus reducing their
15 projected life-span from ten years to seven
16 years.

17 The depreciation costs for these
18 ambulances is about \$350,000.00 per year.

19 The supplies to fire apparatus, as
20 well as all Monarch responding vehicles, because
21 they are all advance life support vehicles and
22 the increase in demand is experienced by all of
23 the District's ambulances and fire and rescue
24 equipment.

25 Diagnostic equipment used in our

1 ambulances is very expensive to purchase and
2 expensive to maintain.

3 A heart monitor costs about
4 \$36,000.00 and has an optimistic life-span of ten
5 years.

6 We have six of these monitors.

7 The EMS Division has 85 licensed
8 paramedics and the annual training costs for
9 these paramedics is about \$25,000.00 per year.

10 Insurance companies, the Missouri
11 State Legislature and the Medical Control
12 Agencies are aware of the additional financial
13 burden.

14 This has resulted in insurance
15 coverages, insurance coverage, laws and protocols
16 designed to assist public emergency service
17 providers recoup these costs and a myriad of
18 expenses too detailed to enumerate.

19 The potential relief of property tax
20 from the two step reduction being considered
21 totals approximately \$700,000.00.

22 The projected additional revenue the
23 District will realize from the change in
24 ambulance billing practice is approximately 1.5
25 million dollars.

1 This will result in a net revenue
2 increase of about \$800,000.00.

3 The Board's challenge for future
4 budgets must include some major capital expenses.

5 The Fire District is financially
6 healthy, but the staff is looking at medium range
7 expense projections which include property,
8 apparatus, staff and equipment.

9 Typical funding solutions might
10 include a tax increase, which we hope to avoid,
11 or a bond issue.

12 The assistant chief and his staff
13 were tasked with creating a five year projection
14 of capital costs and the Board was provided with
15 the following five year projection.

16 Rebuilding House Two, two million
17 dollars.

18 Rebuilding House Three, two million
19 dollars.

20 Replace two life -- advanced life
21 support vehicles, \$500,000.00.

22 And replace fire apparatus, one
23 million dollars, for a total of 5.5 million
24 dollars.

25 Projected revenue from the change in

1 the billing system, the net change, come to, for
2 2018, \$800,000.00; for 2019, \$825,000.00; for
3 2020, \$850,000.00; 2021, \$875,000.00 and 2022,
4 \$900,000.00.

5 And a projected assessed value
6 increase in revenues brings in another 1.25
7 million dollars for a total of 5.5 million
8 dollars.

9 Equal to each other, it would be
10 nice if the math worked out perfectly, but those
11 numbers are approximate, based on the
12 projections.

13 Going back to 2012, the Fire
14 District has held the line on, and even reduced
15 the tax burden for several years.

16 The general fund has a taxpayer
17 authorized ceiling for the residential -- for the
18 residential tax rate of 53 cents per thousand --
19 per hundred.

20 Per hundred.

21 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Per hundred.

22 DIRECTOR GANS: Yet, the actual tax
23 rate has varied between only 42 cents and 43
24 cents per hundred.

25 The ambulance fund has a taxpayer

1 authorized ceiling for a residential tax rate of
2 29 cents. Yet, the Board has set the actual rate
3 between 26 cents and 27 cents per hundred each
4 year.

5 Monarch enjoys the second lowest tax
6 rate in Saint Louis County among the 26 fire
7 districts.

8 In fact, Monarch's tax burden on its
9 residents, in terms of the rate per hundred, is
10 75 percent lower than the highest fire district
11 and nearly 50 percent lower than the average rate
12 for fire districts.

13 So, with that as the background,
14 plus the discussion that the Board has had to
15 date, we have sought public comment.

16 Chief, Assistant Chief Spiegel has
17 been the point person for comments for survey
18 results.

19 I don't know -- I -- I didn't tell
20 you I'd be asking this tonight, and I do have the
21 E-mail that you had sent us.

22 Are you able to talk a little bit
23 about what -- what we've received, in terms of
24 numbers and -- and comments and discussions that
25 you had?

1 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: Yes, sir.

2 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

3 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: The survey,
4 although the sample is small, the percentages
5 were 67 percent were categorically voting that
6 it's a good move to add residential billing.

7 And 30, the -- the balance, 33
8 percent who said no had interesting comments.

9 Comments that struck me that they
10 didn't understand -- they didn't understand the
11 "no-out-of-pocket" component.

12 So I had the -- I had the good
13 fortune of being able to speak to three of those
14 individuals on the telephone. They called me.

15 The survey, unfortunately, was
16 designed to be anonymous, so I had no means of
17 soliciting these folks, but they sought me out.

18 DIRECTOR GANS: Hm-hm.

19 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: Then we had
20 some very good conversations and all three, after
21 the conversations, resulted in them understanding
22 and agreeing it was a good move for the Board to
23 make this decision.

24 Now, I did have three trustees of
25 subdivisions call me, as well. And they were

1 representing their neighbors.

2 The same results.

3 The conversations evolved -- excuse
4 me, revolved around not understanding the out-of-
5 pocket -- out-of-pocket component.

6 So, the -- the way the legislature
7 is written and the way that we would collect,
8 that it would be essentially seamless to them,
9 other than -- other than enjoying a reduced tax,
10 --

11 DIRECTOR GANS: Hm-hm.

12 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: -- which is
13 the way the presentation is designed.

14 So, one of the conversations went
15 well and two of the conversations went great.

16 They were -- they were -- I'm
17 surprised, I guess, the way I was surprised.

18 I invited them all to come to the
19 meeting and ask their questions to the Board.
20 And, obviously, that wasn't the case.

21 The -- the survey, like I said, it
22 was a small sample, so I was disappointed in
23 that.

24 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

25 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: But I was

1 encouraged by the newsletter results, and the --

2

3 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

4 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: -- and the
5 calls that I got.

6 So, what it -- it was clear to me,
7 Rick, that those people -- the majority of the
8 people objecting to it, didn't understand the out
9 -of -- the "no-out-of-pocket" component.

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

11 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: So, I was
12 pleased with the results.

13 DIRECTOR GANS: Thank you.

14 I did receive two E-mails from
15 residents and I'm going to read those into the
16 record. They're not too long. One of them is a
17 little longer than the other.

18 This is from a resident, Kathy T.
19 She did ask that I don't read her full name into
20 the record, so I'm honoring that.

21 And she says, "I recently read an
22 April 2nd, 2017 article found in *West News*
23 *Magazine* titled 'Monarch to Study Tax Reduction
24 Plan.'

25 "The article indicated that Monarch

1 Fire Protection District will study the
2 possibility of lowering" -- lowering "its
3 property tax levy and instituting steps to charge
4 a fee for ambulance calls.

5 "As a Chesterfield resident, who
6 lives in the Monarch Fire Protection District, I
7 wanted to let you know I'm very much in favor of
8 both the study and user fees in general. Great
9 idea.

10 "I'm a limited government individual
11 who believes in the principle of paying for the
12 service I use. It's not up to others to fund me.

13 "I greatly appreciate that we have
14 this service, that all the needed infrastructure
15 is in place.

16 "I appreciate all that the Monarch
17 Fire Protection District does for the residents.

18 "As fees necessarily continue to
19 increase, however, it only makes sense, to me, to
20 help off-set these increases with a bit of a
21 small user fee rather than increasing taxes for"
22 -- for "all.

23 "I believe there have been several
24 in my neighborhood who have had the ambulance
25 come multiple times within the year. I hear the

1 sirens as they rush up the street.

2 "I'm truly grateful that a Monarch
3 ambulance is available, yet, should everyone in
4 the city have to pay for these visits via taxes?

5 "Rather, in my opinion, I believe
6 many would be grateful for the service and be
7 willing to help pay if they ever needed the
8 service themselves.

9 "I know I would be happy to pay if
10 I needed an ambulance.

11 "So, instead of raising taxes on
12 all, or, in order to lower taxes for all, the
13 user fee could help avoid these taxes for all.

14 "Again, great idea. Thank you for
15 thinking out of the box and for" taking -- for
16 "asking for our input and allowing this dialogue
17 with residents."

18 I received a second E-mail that
19 reads, "Regarding the proposed ambulance billing
20 change in policy. Your business case and
21 associated rationale is quite clear as to the
22 advantages of Monarch Fire Protection District
23 residents.

24 "And, of course, the basic cost
25 accounting principle that those who benefit from

1 resources should pay for them certainly applies
2 here.

3 "I applaud the Board for getting out
4 in front of" the -- "this significant economic
5 issue for the District's residents and defining
6 a viable alternative.

7 "The Board's continued attention to
8 conserving other people's money, that is"
9 taxpayer -- "resident taxpayers and making astute
10 financial decisions is admirable when compared to
11 other less-inclined governmental agencies."

12 And, he apologizes for not being
13 able to be here, this evening. He has another
14 commitment.

15 So, those are the comments that I
16 received and I'd ask if the two of you --

17 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: You did not
18 read the name on the second one. I don't know if
19 you intended to, or not.

20 DIRECTOR GANS: I didn't. He did
21 give me permission, so his name Larry Feurstein.

22 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

23 DIRECTOR GANS: So, --

24 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I don't have
25 any other comments.

1 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Nor, I.

2 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. At this time,
3 I will again open up the floor. If there's
4 anyone here who would like to speak, we would
5 welcome your comments at this time.

6 Yes. You need to come up --

7 MS. POTTS: Oh, okay.

8 DIRECTOR GANS: -- here and we ask
9 that you identify yourself.

10 MS. POTTS: Sure.

11 DIRECTOR GANS: Give your name to
12 the court reporter.

13 MS. POTTS: Lynn Potts. So, I'm just
14 going to make this --

15 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Welcome.

16 MS. POTTS: I don't have anything
17 prepared.

18 DIRECTOR GANS: That's fine.

19 MS. POTTS: I don't want to ramble
20 and I -- I want to try to make this as distinct
21 as possible.

22 So I was one of the individuals that
23 responded on the survey, so that's who I was.

24 Nick and I met, actually, through a
25 -- whenever we were taking piano lessons and he

1 found out I worked for Gateway Ambulance, at the
2 time. I no longer do.

3 So, I appreciate the fact, really;
4 I've been a resident for 23 years here, or 22,
5 that I think Monarch -- and now that you have an
6 open policy was a fantastic prospect.

7 As a taxpayer, I'm like, yes.

8 Then I go to work for a private
9 ambulance service. I see the budget. I see what
10 we're spending money on, what we're not spending
11 money on.

12 I see the profits. Profits. Money.
13 Big money.

14 And we're running mostly none
15 emergent calls.

16 And then I see other fire districts
17 out there, not necessarily Chesterfield, running
18 \$300,000.00 rigs with the gold lettering, two
19 paramedics in each ambulance, run a DLS call
20 versus ALS call, and I'm going, "Are you freaking
21 kidding me? No wonder I have a tax. No wonder
22 people are spending what we're spending on this
23 stuff."

24 And, you know, it kinda got to me
25 and our director, at the time, when I first

1 started Gateway, he's no longer back in the -- he
2 ran his own ambulance service. He's a paramedic
3 and an attorney.

4 And he knew the laws.

5 He knew what he was talking about
6 and everything.

7 And I said, "David, why -- why is
8 that, you know, these private departments are
9 running on a BLS call in an ambulance and a fire
10 truck?"

11 And they're driving up in this
12 equipment that's just state of the art,
13 unbelievable and yet as a private service,
14 whether its Gateway, Abbott, Christian EMS, which
15 is run by Barnes-Jewish in St. Louis.

16 There's only three privates.

17 You know, there are cities, like
18 Minneapolis. There's eight private ambulance
19 services.

20 "Why are they running these calls
21 with these unbelievable rigs where ours are a
22 hundred grand?"

23 A lot of our part time employees
24 were working for Ladue, Mehlville, Affton, North
25 County fire departments.

1 So they're -- they're firefighters,
2 working, you know, and paramedics, working for
3 the tax supported districts, who were working for
4 us part time.

5 So tells me, they've got the
6 credentials and they've got the training.

7 They're just as good.

8 But, I know private services are
9 looked down upon and those who don't work for
10 private, yet we have those paramedics working for
11 us that were also picking up part time hours.

12 So, I guess, my -- my question, or
13 concern; I'm fully 100 percent for the need to
14 charge. If we're not, we're subsidizing
15 Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance.

16 So us taxpayers are subsidizing a
17 fund that we're already funding through tax
18 dollars, other than private insurance.

19 So, I applaud you guys for finally
20 doing this. I think Monarch should've done it 20
21 years ago, because us and Valley Park are the
22 only two districts that don't charge.

23 So, I feel we need to do that, but
24 I also feel, as your open policy, you owe it to
25 the taxpayers to be open about what revenue

1 you're collecting, where that revenue is going;
2 what it's earmarked for.

3 Not to say, oh, now we're
4 collecting, so now we have a big fat budget, so
5 now we can afford -- I'm gonna say it, the West
6 County Fire direct level.

7 You know. That is, I'm sorry, the
8 people in those Districts are getting ripped off.

9 They're paying a lot in taxes and
10 they're just spending that money like it's --
11 like it's water.

12 So I don't want to see us doing
13 that.

14 I don't want to see us collecting
15 and then having this windfall of money from
16 Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance and then
17 free, like, "Okay, guys, let's party.

18 "We've got this all coming in.
19 Let's --"

20 I think we need to be careful and
21 take a look at how the privates run their
22 company, because they are beholden to their
23 shareholders.

24 Your taxpayers are your
25 shareholders.

1 And I think it shouldn't be a
2 windfall for the District to go out and just
3 spend it.

4 It should be, "We're gonna reduce
5 taxes. We're going to show these taxpayers (not
6 understandable) and service."

7 I also believe strongly that certain
8 BLS calls, especially to the assistant living,
9 independent living and skilled communities, if
10 there are BLS calls, it's a nursing home
11 transport, not emergent UTI, not something like
12 a -- you know, cardiac, those can be diverted
13 over to private.

14 Not -- and I -- the reason I didn't
15 come to any of the Board Meetings when I worked
16 for Gateway Ambulance, I didn't want to feel like
17 it was conflict of interest, that we were trying
18 to get that business to be the back-up.

19 That's why I never came to the
20 meetings.

21 Now that I'm not with them anymore
22 and I -- I witnesses everything they did, we did
23 a lot of back-up, we did a lot of non-emergent
24 back-ups.

25 Abbott does, too.

1 Christian does, too.

2 And that's to take the burden off
3 the District, so your fleets aren't running out,
4 you know, in seven years. Expiring in seven
5 years.

6 But, let the privates handle some of
7 those things. Really.

8 And I don't think your -- the other
9 issue is, you've got an awful lot of those
10 residents, my mother is one of them, that moved
11 from South County to Friendship Chesterfield.

12 You know those residents are using
13 the ambulance service at the rate of probably
14 three times your average resident.

15 Now, that's gonna change, as well
16 age and place. Many of us are gonna be --
17 boomers are going to be aging in place instead of
18 going into assistant nurse skills.

19 Those users are substantially more
20 frequent users than those of us living in our own
21 residential homes.

22 Yet, those people, including my mom,
23 haven't paid, until they moved into Friendship
24 Village, a nickel, into Chesterfield's (two words
25 not understood).

1 Why is she getting a free ride?

2 You know?

3 So, I think that -- and, also, why
4 can't a private come, a service used, when
5 necessary, for a back-up?

6 Instead of saying, "Hey, we got this
7 one kind of revenue coming in, because we're
8 collecting, you know, from the insurance
9 companies, let's just staff up to handle all of
10 these non-emergency BLS calls?"

11 I'd rather that Monarch be
12 transparent and say, "No, we're not going to do
13 that," and go head and let some of these privates
14 -- and I'm not advocating letting private service
15 take over here. Because they have.

16 You know the whole U-City problem.

17 But, in some districts I think
18 privatization is probably a better thing for the
19 taxpayers.

20 I don't think it is for Monarch, for
21 sure.

22 So, I'm just -- I'm just asking, as
23 a citizen and a taxpayer and knowing enough about
24 ALS, BLS runs, what kind of monies being spent.

25 I think way over the top, on certain

1 things, that are not being spent and the private
2 world can adequately handle a call, you know, a
3 traffic, a car accident.

4 You know, I felt comfortable with a
5 two Gateway Ambulance, or an Abbott ambulance,
6 paramedics, the EMT paramedic.

7 And, by the way, you just need a EMT
8 and paramedic, right, for an ALS unit?

9 You don't need two paramedics. ALS
10 -- an ALS call can be run by a paramedic and EMT.
11 You need a special two transport unit to be a
12 paramedic and an EMT.

13 So, you know, I feel like if we're
14 going to over-do it, like that, and do over-kill,
15 also, you know, I think the taxpayers are going
16 to wake up and go, "Oh, they got all those funds.
17 Now they're just going to be spending it like
18 crazy."

19 So I'm just asking that we don't do
20 that, that we take these funds that are coming
21 from insurance companies and use it to reduce the
22 tax burden to the Monarch residents instead of
23 using that money to go out and "two paramedics
24 and fancy equipment and we're gonna want a fire
25 truck and an ambulance to a residential

1 neighborhood for a slip-and-fall, or a grocery
2 store fall."

3 You know. I just -- that's the
4 kinda of stuff I look at I go, that's waste,
5 waste, waste. It's not necessary.

6 I think if the privates can do it,
7 why can't the tax supported districts do it?

8 DIRECTOR GANS: Thank you.

9 MS. POTTS: So.

10 DIRECTOR GANS: I appreciate it.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. POTTS: Sure.

13 DIRECTOR GANS: All right. At this
14 time, -- at this time a discussion has been held,
15 previously.

16 We have heard public comments.

17 At this time, I invite any further
18 discussion that the Board might wish to have.

19 If not, then I would like to read
20 the Resolution that's being prepared to deal with
21 the resident billing.

22 Unfortunately, we can't, in the same
23 stroke of the pen, lower the tax rate. That's an
24 event that takes place at a defined moment when
25 tax rates are set -- are set in September by the

1 Board.

2 After a budget is prepared, tax
3 rates are set, but I can assure those who are
4 here, those who will read about this, that the
5 Board will be reducing the tax rate by the
6 proposed two cents per hundred, in September.

7 And that's an act that will come
8 later.

9 So, this is a Resolution of the
10 Board of Directors of the Monarch Fire Protection
11 District of St. Louis County, Missouri, regarding
12 ambulance service billing fees.

13 "WHEREAS the Board of Directors of
14 the Monarch Fire Protection District has
15 determined that it is in the best interest of the
16 residents of the Monarch Fire Protection District
17 to reconsider the Board's policy regarding
18 ambulance billing fees and

19 "WHEREAS the Board of Directors of
20 the Monarch Fire Protection District has spent
21 considerable time and effort reviewing the
22 financial condition of the Monarch Fire
23 Protection District and has determined that the
24 Fire Protection District will assess a fee for
25 ambulance service and will file a claim for

1 ambulances services provided to its residents but
2 in doing so will only obligate the residents to
3 pay that amount which is covered under their
4 insurance policies because it will treat the
5 taxes paid by residents as payment of the
6 otherwise co-payments and deductibles due from
7 residents and

8 "WHEREAS the Board of Directors of
9 the Monarch Fire Protection District herein
10 declares that the taxes which the residents pay
11 to the Fire Protection District fully and
12 adequately compensate the District for the amount
13 which would otherwise be collectible from the
14 resident as a co-payment, deductible, or other
15 expense and therefore the Board of Directors of
16 the Monarch Fire Protection District declare that
17 they shall not attempt to collect any fees from
18 the residents for the costs associated with
19 ambulance service beyond those which are paid by
20 the residents insurance providers and

21 "WHEREAS the Board of Directors of
22 the Monarch Fire Protection District has
23 determined that it is in the best interest of the
24 residents of the Monarch Fire Protection District
25 to require all non-residents who receive

1 ambulance services from the District to pay in
2 full all fees associated with providing such
3 services including the co-payments and
4 deductibles associated with non-residents
5 insurance policies and

6 "WHEREAS the Board of Directors of
7 the Monarch Fire Protection District has
8 determined that it is in the best interest of the
9 residents of the District to require that all
10 persons receiving ambulance service must provide
11 the necessary insurance information and
12 appropriate documentation so that the Monarch
13 Fire Protection District can file a claim against
14 the appropriate insurance carrier.

15 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the
16 Board of Directors of the Monarch Fire Protection
17 District as follows:

18 1. That the Monarch Fire Protection
19 District does hereby declare that fees for
20 ambulance services shall be assessed whenever the
21 District provides such services to any person
22 subject to the limitations and qualifications set
23 below.

24 2. Residents of the Monarch Fire
25 Protection District provide financial support of

1 the District through the payment of annual real
2 estate and personal property taxes.

3 Accordingly, when a resident
4 receives ambulance service, the District shall
5 only collect the amount of money which is payable
6 under the residents insurance policy.

7 The resident shall not have any
8 other obligation such as a co-payment or
9 deductible.

10 3. Non-residents have not paid any
11 taxes to the Monarch Fire Protection District.
12 Therefore, non-residents who receive ambulance
13 service shall be assessed a fee for such services
14 and shall be obligated to pay the full amount of
15 the fee including but not limited to the amount
16 otherwise covered by applicable insurance."

17 I, hereby, make a motion to pass
18 Resolution 517 as just read.

19 Do I hear a second?

20 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Second.

21 DIRECTOR GANS: Discussion?

22 (No response.)

23 DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

24 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Aye.

25 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.

1 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

2 Motion passes three to nothing.

3 Moving on with the agenda, we move
4 to the Secretary's Report.

5 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you,
6 Mister President.

7 I move for the approval of the Open
8 Meeting Minutes of April 19th, 2017.

9 DIRECTOR GANS: Any discussion? I
10 will --

11 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: We need a
12 second.

13 DIRECTOR GANS: Sorry. Second.
14 Second the 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: Thank you.

25 On to the Treasurer's Report.

1 DIRECTOR HARRIS: We have disburse-
2 ments in the amount of \$75,698.12 for the period.

3 We have two checks over \$5,000.00.

4 Check number 39512 to Ogletree,
5 Deakins, Nash, Smoak and Stewart in the amount of
6 \$5,314.00 for legal services.

7 We also have check number 39481 to
8 DFND Technologies, LLC, in the amount of
9 \$11,718.50 for uniforms.

10 Are there any questions?

11 DIRECTOR GANS: Yes. I have
12 questions about the checks.

13 On red page number six, the check
14 you just read to DFND, is that a different name
15 than we heard before?

16 DEPUTY CHIEF CREWS: That is the new
17 T-shirts that we're wearing. It's a -- made out
18 of a fabric that's a little on the higher end,
19 but it's less likely to melt, for a lighter term,
20 --

21 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

22 DEPUTY CHIEF CREWS: -- for the
23 firefighters. It's a safer shirt and it's more
24 expensive. So that's why --

25 DIRECTOR GANS: So is that a T-

1 shirt, or a polo shirt?

2 DEPUTY CHIEF CREWS: It's a T-shirt.

3 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. So this was
4 something that was ordered by, not all, but quite
5 a few as part of the clothing allowance?

6 DEPUTY CHIEF CREWS: Yes.

7 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. And they --
8 that supplier replaced who?

9 DEPUTY CHIEF CREWS: It's an
10 additional supplier. It did not replace anyone.

11 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. Thank you.

12 Moving on to red page number eight,
13 invoice number 477 to Grainger.

14 I would like to see that invoice.

15 Who has those, tonight, since we
16 don't have Michelle here?

17 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: They're right
18 here.

19 DIRECTOR GANS: All right, Michelle.

20 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: Let's see how
21 good they are.

22 DIRECTOR GANS: All right. And
23 while -- we'll keep going while you get -- find
24 that and pass it down.

25 On red page number nine, invoice 132

1 to Mail Finance for April billing.

2 I don't recognize that one.

3 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: I'm sorry.
4 Which one was that?

5 DIRECTOR GANS: I mean, I don't --
6 are they coming extra faster than you -- that's
7 132 --

8 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: Well, what
9 were you asking?

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Red page nine, 130
11 -- invoice 132, Mail Finance.

12 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: Oh, boy. I
13 guess, I'll have to -- I'll have to get that for
14 you.

15 DIRECTOR GANS: All right. And I
16 really have you on your toes here.

17 (General chuckles.)

18 DIRECTOR GANS: Give me one sec.
19 All right. That can go back. Thank
20 you.

21 (Referring to the invoice from DFND
22 Technology.)

23 DIRECTOR GANS: All right. Red page
24 number ten, invoice number 341.

25 Are we going to receive a spread

1 sheet, or documentation on the distribution of
2 the District's credit card?

3 I don't find it to be excessive, but
4 there are a number of items on here that I had
5 asked to be provided to us each time with more
6 detail.

7 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: Yes, sir.
8 Sorry. I'll get that to you this week.

9 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

10 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I believe it was
11 the flood that impacted the District, just prior
12 to the meeting here.

13 DIRECTOR GANS: Don't make excuses
14 for them.

15 (General laughter.)

16 DIRECTOR GANS: Red page number 12.
17 This will be in it.

18 Red page number 12, invoice 1247,
19 Sentec for EMS supplies. That's a company I
20 recommend.

21 DEPUTY CHIEF HARPER: Nick Harper,
22 deputy chief.

23 Those are supplies that we use on an
24 on-going bases. We just ordered some fetal heart
25 tone monitors and that -- that's who we ordered

1 those from and those -- there are adapters,
2 arguing the pieces that we ordered from Sentec.
3 That's why it's such a small amount.

4 But, it's to enhance the operation
5 of those fetal heart tone monitors.

6 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. Thank you.

7 DEPUTY CHIEF HARPER: Hm-hm.

8 DIRECTOR GANS: That should be all
9 I have, but don't go too far.

10 Red page number 13, invoice 1028 is
11 for File Maker Pro Software.

12 And I know File Maker Pro is
13 something we use, but remind me what we use that
14 for.

15 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: Roger Herin,
16 fire marshal.

17 File Maker Pro is what we use for
18 inspections. We use it for run cards and several
19 other things.

20 We're upgrading that and -- and
21 doing a revamp of our data base.

22 DIRECTOR GANS: So, is this an
23 annual license, or is this an upgrade in the
24 software?

25 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: This is an

1 upgrade.

2 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. So this
3 doesn't happen every year.

4 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: No.

5 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

6 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: No, this is
7 part of one of the capital items that we put in
8 for to upgrade our data base, to make it --

9 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

10 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: -- make it
11 relational.

12 DIRECTOR GANS: Stay there.

13 The same page, invoice 185, Tech
14 Electronics. Our new great phone system and
15 surveillance and security, --

16 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: Yeah.

17 DIRECTOR GANS: -- we're paying for
18 a repair already. How can that be?

19 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: The repair was
20 to an existing fire alarm system that we -- that
21 we had some previous -- before we purchased the
22 new system.

23 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

24 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: This isn't part
25 of the new system. This is the old.

1 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay. You were
2 ready for that one, I bet.

3 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: Yes.

4 DIRECTOR GANS: I had -- you're
5 okay, now.

6 FIRE MARSHAL HERIN: Thanks.

7 DIRECTOR GANS: Red page -- the same
8 one, page 13, we have a college reimbursement.
9 I've been provided that information.

10 And, also, the insert to the
11 question about the roll-off dumpster is for
12 training and our training tower that was Waste
13 Connections, so that's been answered by E-mail by
14 Deputy Chief Echeles.

15 And he also answered, by E-mail, my
16 question on red page 14, invoice 758, W.H.P.
17 Training Towers and that was to replace some of
18 the burned doors and other equipment on the
19 training tower.

20 Those are all of my questions.

21 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: I have none.

22 DIRECTOR HARRIS: And I only had
23 one, beyond what you've already asked.

24 And that was on red page five, two-
25 thirds of the way down, invoice 160, Central

1 County 911.

2 It's \$1235.14, but what --

3

4 DIRECTOR GANS: I can answer that,
5 also.

6 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Oh, okay. I'll
7 bet you could.

8 DIRECTOR GANS: Well, we're -- we
9 pay them the big money.

10 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Right.

11 DIRECTOR GANS: And so tax dollars
12 still roll in, --

13 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Okay.

14 DIRECTOR GANS: -- so people who are
15 making their payments late are still generating
16 revenue for the District and revenue for the
17 dispatch agency.

18 So there'll be small checks like
19 that through the summer.

20 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Okay. Then those
21 are all of my questions.

22 In reviewing these disbursements --

23 DIRECTOR GANS: Wait. One sec.

24 Did you get an answer on the one
25 question? You were looking up one of them,

1 still.

2 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: I've got to
3 research it.

4 DIRECTOR GANS: Okay.

5 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: I'll get you
6 the detail on the credit card and then the other
7 question.

8 DIRECTOR GANS: It's the other one?
9 I know the credit card is coming.

10 All right. I'm -- I'm good to
11 proceed. I just need you to get that one for me,
12 though.

13 DIRECTOR HARRIS: All right. In
14 reviewing these disbursements, they appear to be
15 reasonable and necessary in the conduct of the
16 District's business.

17 Chief Spiegel, were these checks
18 prepared per your recommendation?

19 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: Yes, they
20 were.

21 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Do they violate
22 any state bidding statutes or constitute
23 installment payments?

24 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: None that I'm
25 aware of.

1 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I make a motion
2 that we accept the disbursements as prepared.

3 DIRECTOR GANS: I will second the
4 motion.

5 Any discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

8 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Aye.

9 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

11 Motion passes three to nothing.

12 DIRECTOR HARRIS: I do have just a
13 couple of quick comments.

14 Some of you may have been there, in
15 the rain, in the cold and the wind.

16 Today was the dedication of the
17 Chesterfield Veterans Memorial.

18 For the part of the service, that I
19 was able to attend, prior to coming here, was
20 excellent and potentially an appropriate day, as
21 many people who have served had to endure
22 conditions far worse than the rain and the wind
23 that was out there today.

24 Also, this week, in 1863 was the
25 Battle of Chancellorsville and very nearly a

1 turning point in the war between the states in
2 which the Confederates outnumbered approximately
3 two to one through some very strategic moves
4 defeated the much larger army and were hoping to
5 totally break them. They did not.

6 They did force them to retreat.

7 Had that battle been completely
8 overwhelming and the Army of the Potomac fled
9 instead of performing a strategic withdrawal, we
10 might all speak with a southern accent today. At
11 least here in Missouri.

12 But, I actually recently visited the
13 area, just coincidentally, and when you go and look
14 at the conditions, they were finding for their
15 battle, while I can't use the descriptors that
16 these young men and older men put into their
17 notes, but it was a very grim battle lasting
18 several days with very little sleep.

19 And that concludes the Treasurer's
20 Report.

21 DIRECTOR GANS: Thank you.

22 Moving on to the Chief's Report.

23 ACTING CHIEF SPIEGEL: I have
24 nothing, this evening.

25 DIRECTOR GANS: All right.

1 On to the Attorney's Report.

2 MISTER HOFFMAN: I do not have a
3 report, this evening.

4 DIRECTOR GANS: Is there any New
5 Business?

6 (No response.)

7 DIRECTOR GANS: Hearing none, any
8 Unfinished Business?

9 (No response.)

10 DIRECTOR GANS: Hearing none, I make
11 a motion to adjourn.

12 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Second.

13 DIRECTOR GANS: Discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 DIRECTOR GANS: All in favor?

16 DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM: Aye.

17 DIRECTOR HARRIS: Aye.

18 DIRECTOR GANS: Aye.

19 We are -- motion passes. We are
20 adjourned and off the record.

21 (Whereupon, at 8:00 P.M., the Meeting was
22 adjourned as described above.)

23

24

25

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Julie M. Senoj, Notary Public and professional court reporter, within and for the State of Missouri, County of St. Louis, 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 Virginia L. Long and is now herewith returned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 3rd day of May, 2017.

My commission expires March 20, 2021.

Notary Public within and
for the State of Missouri