

**St. Matthews Fire Protection District  
Board of Trustees  
July 25, 2024  
Special Meeting**

A special meeting of the St. Matthews Fire Protection District Board of Trustees took place on July 25, 2024, at Station 48: 8126 New LaGrange Rd, Louisville, KY 40222. This meeting was considered special, due to rescheduling the established regular meeting date of July 18 and a change in the established regular meeting location.

Board members present were Chairman Rick Tonini, Secretary Kathy Wrigley, Treasurer Mike Abell, Trustee Gwendolyn Blue, Trustee Alan Lewis, Trustee Brendan Montgomery and Trustee Jim Seiler.

Also present were Chief Nicholas Clark, Deputy Chief Stuart Monohan, Assistant Chief Frank Flynn, Assistant Chief Mike Riordan, Human Resource Director Michael Frantz, Fire Marshall Stephen DunLany, Major Rick Baker, Major Emily Johnson, Captain Trevor Straub, Captain Richardson, Sergeant Chris Becker, Sergeant Matthew Peterman, Sergeant Rickie Tapp, Firefighter Isaiah Ramirez, Firefighter Christian Zoeller, Firefighter Robert Mendelsburg, Firefighter Jabin Wright, Firefighter Cody Burton, Firefighter Dominic Holly, Firefighter Jonathan Embry, Paramedic Courtney James, EMT Abigail Croft, Accountant Robin Roberts, Accountant Christine Kesler, and Administrative Assistant Erin Grant.

Chairman Rick Tonini called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

The minutes for the June 11, 2024, board meeting were approved by motion of Secretary Kathy Wrigley. Second by Trustee Jim Seiler. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mike Abell referenced the Comments to Financials distributed with the board package. He specifically highlighted the department finishing FY 23/24 \$1.6 million better than budget before adjustments. A portion of this is the \$470,000 proceeds received from the sale of Q48. Last month's discussion during the Treasurer's Report on the department's financial institution was revisited later in the meeting. Approval of the June expenditures were motioned by Treasurer Mike Abell. Second by Secretary Kathy Wrigley. Motion Carried.

**Old Business**

*Station 49 Property Purchase Update* – Chief Clark and Chief Monohan are still in the process of drafting the justification letter to be sent to the state explaining why the department should purchase the land where Station 49 is located.

**New Business**

*Citizen Life Saving Recognition* – Chief Nick Clark presented the Chief’s Commendation Award to honored guests, Dr. Tanika Taylor and Dr. Jeremy Thornewill, for their lifesaving efforts at a local tennis facility when a fellow participant collapsed, becoming unconscious and unresponsive while playing. Their actions while waiting for first responders to arrive directly contributed to the saving of their fellow citizen’s life. Dr. Thornewill was unable to be in attendance and will be presented with his award at a later time.

*Mayoral Appointee Swearing In/Oath of Office* – Secretary Kathy Wrigley administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed member, Dr. Gwendolyn Blue. Her term will run July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027.

*Election Committee Report & Property Owner Election Certification* – Secretary Kathy Wrigley presented the certified election committee report from the June 22, 2024 election of property owner trustee. Property owner Alan Lewis won the election. His term will run July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2028.

*Property Owner Swearing In/Oath of Office* – Secretary Kathy Wrigley administered the Oath of Office to newly elected member, Alan Lewis.

#### *Annual Election of Officers for the Board of Trustees*

Chairman – Nomination of Trustee Rick Tonini as Chairman of the St. Matthews Fire Protection District, by Trustee Mike Abell. Trustee Mike Abell voted to close the nominations.

Secretary – Nomination of Trustee Kathy Wrigley as Secretary of the St. Matthews Fire Protection District, by Jim Seiler. Trustee Mike Abell voted to close the nominations.

Treasurer – Nomination of Trustee Mike Abell as Treasurer of the St. Matthews Fire Protection District, by Jim Seiler. Trustee Jim Seiler voted to close the nominations.

Chairman Rick Tonini moved the election of the nominated slate.

*Bank/Investment Discussion* – Chief Nick Clark revisited discussion from the previous month’s meeting regarding the department’s interest in exploring financial institutions in an effort to get the best return on investment and customer service experience. He provided a list to the Board of financial institutions who have expressed interest and would like to take time to meet with them over the next couple of months, along with Trustee Seiler and Treasurer Abell. An update will be provided to the Board at the August 2024 meeting.

In the meantime, Chief Nick Clark proposed moving \$8 million from the department’s operating account to a 1-month treasury bond. This investment will earn greater interest income than would be earned if the funds were to remain in the operating account for the same timeframe. This figure was determined by reviewing historical monthly operating expenses and calculating the amount that would need to remain liquid in the operating account to pay daily expenses. Follow up discussion was held amongst the Board. A

motion was made by Trustee Alan Lewis to invest \$8 million into a 1-month treasury bond. Second by Trustee Jim Seiler. Motion carried.

*State Grant – Core Body Temp Monitoring* – Chief Nick Clark reported that Major Tony Cipolla has been researching core body temperature and how that affects an individual's performance. He has found that there is a lot of information on professional athletes but little on firefighters. Major Cipolla reached out to the State Fire Commission about running a pilot program for core body temp monitors, wearable devices that measure heart rate and core body temperature. The goal is to keep our employees as safe and as healthy as possible while they are operating on the training and fire ground. The State has agreed to partner with us to provide 30 monitors for the recruits currently in the AMFEMS recruit academy. This would require us to pay for the purchase up front and the State would reimburse the funds entirely at the culmination of the pilot program. At that time, the monitors would become property of STMFPD. Follow up discussion was held amongst the board speculating employee's interest in wearing the devices and developing protocol for this if they were to become part of our operations after the program. Chief Nick Clark proposed the purchase of 30 monitors at a total cost of \$24,188.28 for the pilot program, to be reimbursed by the State Fire Commission at the end of the program. A motion was made by Treasurer Mike Abell. Second by Trustee Alan Lewis. Motion carried.

### **Fire & EMS Operation Report**

*Fire Report* – Chief Nick Clark provided an update from the apparatus committee who had been tasked with the purchase of a new fire engine after the department sold Q48 in April 2024. The committee had their final meeting on Monday, July 29, 2024 where they finalized the details of a new apparatus with E-One. The department has decided to replace the quint with a rescue engine which will have a pump on it and extra storage for rescue equipment. The turnaround time is 25-30 months. Chief Clark made a proposal to pre-pay for the purchase of a new rescue engine in the amount of \$1,041,873. Pre-paying for the apparatus provides a discount of 5.5% (\$60,000 savings). Discussion was held around the advantages and disadvantages of pre-paying for the apparatus vs paying the locked purchase price at the time of delivery. Since the quoted price of \$1,097,865 for payment at delivery is locked, the Board would like to compare the savings upfront to the interest income that could be received if the department held that money until the delivery in 25-30 months. Treasurer Mike Abell made a motion to approve the purchase of the E-One rescue engine up to \$1,097,865. Further calculation will be done by the Board to determine whether the best course of action would be to pre-pay or pay at the time of delivery. Second by Trustee Jim Seiler. Motion carried.

*EMS Report* – Secretary Kathy Wrigley requested an update on the efforts being made to keep our units in our district after consistently receiving reports that our ambulances are making a large amount of runs in the urban services district. Discussion was held on what would need to be done in order to see improvement. Chief Nick Clark has committed to setting up a meeting with Director Meiman and the suburban fire districts to discuss a course of action and will report back to the Board.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Treasurer Mike Abell to go into an executive session of the board members for an update of a personnel matter. Second by Secretary Kathy Wrigley. The session began at 5:48 PM. Motion by Trustee Alan Lewis to adjourn the executive session at 5:54 PM. Second by Trustee Jim Seiler. Motion Carried. There was no decision made during executive session.

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to move the August 2024 meeting due to schedule conflicts. Trustee Jim Seiler made a motion to move the August 2024 meeting to Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 4 PM. Second by Treasurer Mike Abell. Motion carried. This meeting will now be called a Special Meeting since the date has been changed.


### **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion to be brought forth, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM. Motion by Treasurer Mike Abell. Second by Trustee Jim Seiler. Motion Carried.

The next meeting of the St. Matthews Fire Protection District Board of Trustees is now scheduled for 4:00 PM on Thursday, August 22, 2024.

The next meeting of the Jefferson County Suburban Fire Service is tentatively scheduled for January 16, 2025.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary

*Supporting documents as referenced may be obtained by contacting the  
St. Matthews Fire Protection District.*