

**St. Matthews Fire Protection District
Board of Trustees
June 23, 2025
Special Meeting**

A special meeting of the St. Matthews Fire Protection District Board of Trustees took place on June 23, 2025, at Station 46: 240 Sears Ave, Louisville, KY 40207. This meeting was considered special, due to rescheduling the established regular meeting day and time of the third Thursday at 4:00 PM.

Board members present were Chairman Rick Tonini, Secretary Kathy Wrigley, Treasurer Mike Abell, Trustee Dr. 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, Major David Joels, Captain Aaron Nilsson, Captain David Cole, Captain Joe Bewley, Captain Nick Heilmann, Captain Ryan Helton, Sergeant Derek Andriakos, Sergeant Jared Schlosnagle, Sergeant Rickie Tapp, Sergeant Derrick Clarkson, Firefighter Christian Zoeller, Firefighter Steven Lona, Firefighter Anthony Perrone, Firefighter Allie Stahl, Firefighter Jabin Wright, Firefighter Josh Martinez, Firefighter Cody Dunaway, Firefighter Evan Shields, Firefighter Chris Wright, Paramedic Jesse Scharff, Attorney Mark Leach, and Administrative Assistant Erin Grant.

Chairman Rick Tonini called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

The minutes for the May 15, 2025 board meeting were approved by motion of Secretary Kathy Wrigley. Second by Trustee Jim Seiler. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Abell provided the treasurer's report and referenced the Comments to Financials distributed with the board package. He specifically noted that the department is under budget for the fiscal year. Treasurer Abell also reported that the Stock Yards Bank credit cards have officially been closed and informed the board members of the balance in the operating account. Treasurer Abell made a motion to move the balance in the operating account at Stock Yards Bank, less the daily minimum balance requirement, to the operating account held at Independence Bank with the purpose of receiving a higher interest rate. Second by Trustee Alan Lewis. Motion Carried.

Approval of the May expenditures were motioned by Trustee Brendan Montgomery. Second by Trustee Jim Seiler. Motion Carried.

Old Business

Trustee Election Committee – The firefighter/district representative trustee election will be on Saturday, June 28th from 11:00AM-2:00PM. Absentee voting will be held on 6/24 from 7:00-9:00PM, 6/25 from 7:00-9:00AM, and 6/26 from 7:00-9:00PM.

Secretary Kathy Wrigley is in the process of being reappointed by Mayor Greenberg for a final term.

New Business

Metro EMS Meeting - An EMS Meeting was recently held with participation from the suburban fire districts, Metro EMS, State Representatives Nemes and Hodgson, Metro Government officials, and Mayor Greenberg and his staff, to address issues involving Louisville Metro and the suburban agencies.

Chief Clark reported positive takeaways that emerged from the meeting:

1. Louisville Metro has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to contract with a third-party ambulance provider to serve the Urban Services District.
2. Plans are underway to add nurses to the dispatch center to assist in call triage, improving decision-making on when and where ambulances should be dispatched.
3. 18 newly hired EMTs are completing the academy alongside 8 lateral hires, with the goal of increasing ambulance coverage on the streets.

The implementation of these initiatives would significantly help preserve and prioritize EMS resources within the St. Matthews district.

Preliminary Budget FY 2025/2026 – The budget for FY 2025/2026 was presented again for the benefit of the board members who were not in attendance at last month's meeting.

Key Budget Highlights:

- **Revenue:** There was a 0% increase to gross income from previous year. Approximately \$70,000 in new revenue.
- **Tax Rate:** A proposed increase from \$0.15 to \$0.185. This would generate an additional \$3.3 million in revenue.
- **Personnel & Staffing:** The district plans to implement a 24/72 schedule across all suppression & EMS personnel. This would require hiring 16 additional suppression personnel. The estimated personnel cost increase is \$3 million, which includes salaries, benefits, gear, and uniforms. Recruitment will include lateral hires and possibly a modified academy for new hires. Projected implementation of the new schedule will be the first quarter of 2026.
- **Personnel Compensation:** The change to 24/72 schedule includes an effective pay increase (around 30%) for suppression employees due to reduced hours while maintaining annual salary. A 3% COLA increase for EMS staff is included. The vacation hours will be adjusted proportionally.
- **Operational Expenses:** Physicals/immunizations and uniforms/gear are increased to accommodate new hires. Capital expenditures include a Station 48 remodel and EMS equipment upgrades.

Follow up discussion was held amongst the board members about the proposed move to a 24/72 schedule. Chief Clark explained that the department sees this as a long-term investment in personnel health, morale, and recruitment. It is modeled after successful implementation in other departments, areas in Florida for example. There is also an anticipated reduction in overtime and sick leave usage. Concerns were raised about potential complacency due to extended time off, difficulty of reversing the change once implemented, and ensuring quality of fit of new hires with department culture. Chief Clark emphasized that fit, accountability, and department culture would be protected through a robust hiring and evaluation process. Additional concern was expressed about the tax rate increase. Chief Clark emphasized that a tax increase was going to be necessary regardless due to rising operational costs. He recognized the board's past fiscal stewardship for maintaining the tax rate for so long and enabling this opportunity.

Positive comments from personnel were voiced emphasizing the mental and physical health benefits of the schedule and the opportunity for additional time spent with family.

Trustee Brendan Montgomery made a motion to approve the FY 2025/2026 budget as presented. Second by Alan Lewis. A roll call vote was conducted. The budget was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Fire & EMS Operation Report

EMS Report – The 24/72 trial schedule for the EMS division will start Saturday, July 5th.

Trustee Alan Lewis presented Chief Clark and the department with two commemorative wall hangings in recognition of the approved shift change.

Treasurer Mike Abell was recognized for his 8 years of service on the Board of Trustees. His consistent leadership and valuable financial oversight helped guide the department through transitional periods and contributed significantly to its growth and success.

Attorney Mark Leach notified the Board that he is reviewing the by-laws and will be distributing the recommended changes for approval at the August 2025 meeting.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Alan Lewis to go into an executive session of the board members for discussion of a legal matter & a personnel matter. Second by Treasurer Mike Abell. Motion Carried. The session began at 6:11 PM. Motion by Trustee Alan Lewis to adjourn the executive session at 6:51 PM. Second by Trustee Brendan Montgomery. Motion Carried. There was no decision made during executive session. There will be a Special Called Meeting on Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 9 AM. The meeting will be held at St. Matthews City Hall, located at 3940 Grandview Avenue, Louisville, KY 40207.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion to be brought forth, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 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 scheduled for 4:00 PM on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

The next meeting of the Jefferson County Suburban Fire Service is scheduled for July 9, 2025.


Chairman


Secretary

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