

**MINUTES OF THE
THIRTEEN HUNDRED and SIXTH (1306th) MEETING
OF THE
EUREKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES
STATE OF MISSOURI**

February 27, 2024

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Board of Directors of Eureka Fire Protection District of St. Louis and Jefferson Counties, Eureka, Missouri met at the office of said District, Fire Station 1 – Meeting Room; 4849 Highway 109, Eureka, Missouri 63025, on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 1730 hours (5:30 p.m.). At the above time and place there were present:

ROLL

Charles L. Brown	-- Treasurer and Director
Patrick Feder	-- Chairman and Director
Gregory Lee Mathison, Jr.	-- Secretary and Director

Fire Chief Greg Brown

Guests in physical attendance -

Monica Kelsey, Safe Haven Baby Box (via zoom)
Fire Chief Hendricks, Mehlville Fire Protection District
Rachel Anderson, Tri-County Birth Right

Members of the District Staff

QUORUM

A quorum being present, the Chairman called the meeting to order and announced the Board of Directors meeting to be in session for the transaction of public business to be brought before it at this time. The Chairman also confirmed that the posted agenda for the meeting contained instructions for accessing the meeting electronically and that the agenda was posted and made available to the public more than 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

The Chairman inquired as to whether there were any amendments to the Tentative Agenda for the meeting. Chief Brown reported the following additions to the tentative agenda:

III. Pension Issues: none.

IV. Communications: none.

V. Public Comments: none.

VI. Shop Steward Remarks: none.

VII. Budget: none.

VIII. Old Business: none.

IX. New Business: none.

On motion made by Director Mathison and seconded by Director Brown the Tentative Agenda was accepted as the Final Approved Agenda.

I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

The Chairman called for acceptance or rejection of the meeting minutes for the February 13, 2024 Board of Director meetings, Open Meeting and Closed Meeting.

District Counsel Butler did not provide an advance copy of the minutes and was late to the meeting. Later in the meeting, and after his arrival, he requested that the Board table the review and approval of the meeting minutes for the February 13, 2024 Open and Closed meetings of the Board of Directors under the next Board meeting.

Following discussion, and on motion by Director Brown, seconded by Director Mathison, the review and approval of the Minutes of the February 13, 2024 Open and Closed meetings were tabled by the Board.

The Board of Directors being present and voting affirmatively, the motion was adopted and approved. The roll call vote was as follows:

Director Charles L. Brown	- Aye
Director Pat Feder	- Aye

Director Gregory Lee Mathison, Jr. - Aye

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Safe Haven Baby Box

Chief Brown introduced Monica Kelsey with Safe Haven Baby Box attending the meeting via zoom and also Rachel Anderson with Tri-County Birth Right. Fire Chief Hendricks with Mehlville Fire Protection District also attended the meeting.

Monica Kelsey make a presentation to the Board and provided an overview of the Safe Haven Baby Box program, and answered questions from the Board.

Rachel Anderson with Tri-County Birth Right addressed the Board and offered comments in support of the Safe Haven Baby Box program.

A general discussion was held.

Director Mathison stated that he believes that the Safe Haven Baby Box is a good program, but based upon what was presented he believes that no one has identified a specific need of the local community, the specific reason why that District will undertake the burden to participate in the program, and a detailed break-down of the financial costs of the program and the time that District personnel will devote to the program on an on-going basis.

Chief Hendricks, Ms. Anderson, and Ms Kelsey all stated that community partners normally provide donations and support for a Safe Haven Baby Box. Director Mathison responded that he cannot support moving forward without a full understanding of the cost and a detailed outside funding source. The other Board members agreed.

During prior discussions, the estimated cost for a new Safe Haven Baby Box was stated to be \$20,000 plus an annual \$500 annual fee for the electronic monitoring. During follow-up discussion, Ms. Kelsey introduced the fact that the District will have to enter into a long-term lease agreement and it will cover the maintenance of the box, but the lease fees can add up to an additional \$20,000. Director Mathison and the other Board members expressed concern about not knowing about the lease fee in advance of the meeting.

Director Mathison stated that it was very unclear as to what District resources will have to be devoted to the program on an ongoing basis, including financial resources and personnel resources. He stated that he has great reservations about the program. He also stated that he had concerns talking about the project publicly without knowing that 100% of the costs of the project will be covered by outside sources and possible negative public relations for the District if the project is "canceled" due to the lack of outside funding.

Assistant Shop Steward Stegmann inquired to the Board regarding a prior request for \$4,000 in funding for new fire equipment and asked why the Board would consider spending money a new baby box project. The Board explained that it is not approving the spending of District funds on the baby box project.

After further discussion, Director Feder made a motion to authorize District staff to proceed to explore the total costs of the installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box, including any and all lease fees; to also explore and detail any donation amounts to cover the costs; that the Board will require 100% of all costs for the project to be identified and funded by outside sources prior to any final vote to approve or deny the project; and a commitment by the Board that no District funds will be spent on the project if it is finally approved at a later date.

The motion was seconded by Director Brown.

The Board of Directors being present and voting affirmatively, the Motion was adopted and approved. The roll call vote was as follows:

Director Charles L. Brown	- Aye
Director Patrick Feder	- Aye
Director Gregory Lee Mathison, Jr.	- Aye

III. PENSION BOARD

No items were presented.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman next called for discussion of Communications.

A. Thank You Card from Harriott Vaucher

Fire Chief Brown provided a copy of a Thank You Card from Harriett Vaucher.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Chairman next called for Public Comments.

No items were presented.

VI. SHOP STEWARD REMARKS

The Chairman next called for any remarks from the Shop Steward.

Shop Steward Merry did not attend the meeting. Assistant Shop Steward Stegmann did not present anything to the Board, but attended the meeting.

VII. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. Treasurer's Report

The Chairman next called for a discussion of financial matters. A financial report was presented to the Board of Directors for review of general revenue checking, capital improvement checking fund, medical self-insurance fund, escrow balances, preliminary check register with attachments, and account payable invoices. Following a brief discussion, a motion was duly made by Director Brown, and seconded by Director Mathison, and the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

**RESOLUTION
ADOPTING THE TREASURER'S REPORT
OF THE
EUREKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
February 13, 2024**

“BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Directors of the Eureka Fire Protection District of St. Louis and Jefferson Counties, Missouri, that the Treasurer's Report submitted to the Board of Directors, February 13, 2024, is hereby approved and accepted, including the payment of bills presented, with corrections if any; and,

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that said Report be appended to these Minutes and incorporated herein by reference, and that the disbursements, payment of bills, and transfers of funds therein approved be made by the appropriate, District Officers.”

The Board of Directors being present and voting affirmatively, the Resolution was adopted and approved. The roll call vote was as follows:

Director Charles L. Brown	- Aye
Director Pat Feder	- Aye
Director Gregory Lee Mathison, Jr.	- Aye

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

No items were presented to the Board.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There being no further Old Business matters, the Chairman then requested the presentation of any New Business.

A. Draft of the update to the Fire Prevention Code

Fire Marshal Pallarito provided a draft of the changes to the Fire Code for review. He stated that he was not asking for approval at this meeting, but for the Board to review and approve at the next meeting. He addressed questions from the Board concerning the changes to the fire code, including sprinklers and attic heat monitors in commercial buildings and multi-family housing units. He also address the increase in the fee for use permits.

A general discussion was held concerning some of the information.

The Board did not hold a vote.

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Thereafter, on motion duly made by Director Brown, seconded by Director Mathison, and unanimously adopted, it was decided that there shall be a closed meeting of the board of directors, with closed records and closed vote, to be held for the discussion pursuant to RSMo. Section 610.021 (1) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys; RSMo. Section 610.0.021(3), Hiring, Firing, Discipline or Promoting of Particular Employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded; and RSMo. Section 610.021(23), Preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of a public governmental body or its representatives for negotiations with employee groups, to occur immediately after "new business" or at such time during the meeting as convenient to the meeting.

The Board of Directors being present and voting affirmatively, the Motion was adopted and approved. The roll call vote was as follows:

Director Charles L. Brown	- Aye
Director Patrick Feder	- Aye
Director Gregory Lee Mathison, Jr.	- Aye

Based upon the foregoing vote, the public session of the meeting of the Board of Directors adjourned at 6:55 p.m. and a Closed Meeting was held.

RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION

The public portion of the meeting reconvened at 7:43 pm.

THE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED AND PROVIDED NOTICE THAT THE BOARD VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION LETTER OF FIREFIGHTER/EMTP JOSH SCHNABLE.

The Board of Directors being present and voting affirmatively, the roll call vote was as follows:

Director Charles L. Brown	- Aye
Director Pat Feder	- Aye
Gregory Lee Mathison, Jr.	- Aye

THE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED AND PROVIDED NOTICE THAT THE BOARD VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE TO OFFER FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A FIREFIGHTER TO DAVID MATSIK.

The Board of Directors being present and voting affirmatively, the roll call vote was as follows:

Director Charles L. Brown	- Aye
Director Pat Feder	- Aye

Gregory Lee Mathison, Jr.

- Aye

THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT NO OTHER OFFICIAL VOTES OR OFFICIAL ACTIONS WERE TAKEN BY THE BOARD IN CLOSED SESSION AT THE FEBRUARY 27, 2024 CLOSED MEETING REQUIRING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Therefore, there being no other or further business to come before the Board, the Chairman stated that the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 1730 hours, Fire Station 1, Meeting Room, 4849 Highway 109, Eureka Fire Protection District, Eureka, Missouri.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Director Mathison, seconded by Director Brown, and unanimously approved, the Chairman adjourned the general public meeting of the Board of Directors at 1948 hours (7:48 p.m.).

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory Lee Mathison, Secretary,
Board of Directors


Approved:



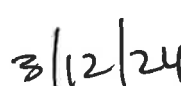
Charles L. Brown, Director



Date



Patrick Feder, Director



Date



Gregory Lee Mathison, Jr.



Date

