

NORTH COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
WEEKLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 26, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. Board members present (with social distancing, and conference call in place) were Director Mr. Tiberghien; Director Mrs. Austin; Director Mr. Anthony; Chief Keith Goldstein; Battalion Chief Mark Kuehl; Medical Officer Jennifer Swatek (not present); Shop Stewart Kurt Lubiewski (not present); District Counsel Dan Bruntrager. Director Mr. Tiberghien called for all in attendance to stand, and remove their hats, and silence their cell phones for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Chief Goldstein presented the minutes from September 19, 2023, Open Session. Director Mr. Anthony made a motion, seconded by Director Mr. Tiberghien to approve the minutes of the Open Session from September 16, 2023, as presented. Ayes: Director Mr. Tiberghien, Director Mr. Anthony, Director Mrs. Austin.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Chief Goldstein presented the Agenda for September 26, 2023, Open Session, Director Mr. Anthony made a motion, seconded by Director Mrs. Austin, to approve the September 26, 2023, Open Session agenda as presented. Ayes: Director Mr. Tiberghien, Director Mr. Anthony, Director Mrs. Austin.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF THE WARRANTS: Chief Goldstein presented the Warrants/Board of Directors Payroll for September 26, 2023. General Revenue: \$3,173.45; Bond (Capital Projects 2020): \$10,192.96; Dispatch (Communications) \$.00; Health and Welfare: \$73.29; Pension: \$00; Debt Service (Bond Retirement): \$00; EMS: \$00.; **for a total of \$13,439.70**, Director Mr. Anthony made a motion, seconded by Director Mrs. Austin to approve the Warrants/Board of Directors Payroll for September 26, 2023, as presented. Ayes: Director Mr. Tiberghien, Director Mr. Anthony, Director Mrs. Austin.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chief Goldstein had nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Chief Goldstein reported on the updates on the new building projects. Chief Goldstein reported that there will be no Board Meeting on October 31, 2023, due to five (5) Tuesdays.

NEW BUSINESS: Chief Goldstein turned the 2023 Defeasance over to District Bond Counsel Shannon Creighton, and Martin Ghafoori with the Seifel Group. Martin spoke about the district's debt services fund having additional monies in it, and that we should pay down some of the debt. Martin also spoke about the debt service fund stating that this fund can "only" pay off bonds. Bond Counsel spoke about what a defeasance is, and how it works. Bond Counsel stated that she has prepared all the necessary documents to execute the process including a Resolution. Currently Director Mr. Tiberghien asked if anyone had any questions regarding the defeasance and explained that this only helps the district and citizens for future bonds.

Ordinances: None.

Resolutions: R-2023-06 is a resolution for setting the 2023 Defeasance related to Districts Debt Service Funds. Director Mr. Anthony made a motion, seconded by Director Mrs. Austin, to approve R-2023-06. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFEASING A PORTION OF THE DISTRICT'S

OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING AND IMPROVEMENT
BONDS, PAYING CERTAIN COSTS OF SUCH DEFEASANCE, AND
AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. Ayes: Director Mr.
Tiberghien, Director Mr. Anthony, Director Mrs. Austin.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Goldstein reported that he attended the City of Jennings Council Meeting on Monday September 25, 2023, with Battalion Chief Mark Kuehl, and Director Mrs. Austin to speak about Resolution 2023-03 related to Senate Bill 870. Chief Goldstein stated that he didn't know he was going to get disrespected by the Mayor and a few Council Members. Chief Goldstein stated that he kept his composure and would not engage the negativity. Chief Goldstein announced that we will be doing a BackStoppers BBQ on October 7, 2023, at Bellefontaine Road and Chambers Road. Chief Goldstein turned the floor over to Battalion Chief Eric (Rick) Seppelt to present and negotiate the Battalion Chief three (3) year contact proposal. There was a lengthy discussion related to this topic, and the Board asked if they could meet on October 3, 2023, regular board meeting to give their discussion. Chief Goldstein also explained that he was also asking for the Office Managers pay package to be approved the same night. Chief Goldstein stated that he did speak with the District Accountant on this issue, and he didn't see an issue with it.

BATTALION CHIEF'S REPORT: Battalion Chief Mark Kuehl had nothing to report.

MEDICAL OFFICERS REPORT: No Report

SHOP REPORT: Shop Steward Kurt Lubiewski not present.

LAWYERS REPORT: No Report.

ACCOUNTANT REPORT: No Report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT: Director Mrs. Austin wished everyone a "Good Evening", and reported that she, and Director Mr. Tiberghien attended the BFN Town Hall, and thanked Police Chief Ihler for presenting Firefighter Mike (Tony) Mille his award for assisting in a Police incident. Director Mrs. Austin spoke about attending the City of Jennings Council meeting and stated that Fire Chief Goldstein represents this district very well. "He is Professional, Stays Calm, and doesn't engage in negativity towards him. Director Mrs. Austin asked if we could get the building at 9207 Bellefontaine Road listed so we can get some exposure. Director Mr. Anthony stated that he is "Speechless" as to what is going on with our elected officials in some of our municipalities. Director Mr. Anthony stated this Board will not stand for our Chief, Firefighters, to be disrespected at any meeting. Director Mr. Anthony stated that we are engaged in our community, but reminded everyone that we are a separate entity governed by our own statutes, we are not department heads, nor employees of your city government. Director Mr. Anthony stated that we have great people living in this district, and that "ALL" of our Elected Officials" need to work together for the same cause: "OUR CITIZENS" not themselves. Director Mr. Anthony asked that everyone "Please "cut out the negative and be positive. Director Mr. Anthony asked that everyone please" Slow Down, Be Kind, God Bless", and "God Bless America". Director Mr. Tiberghien spoke about how transparent this district is. We ask that you come out to our meeting and be a part of a good governing body working collaboratively for the citizens who trusted us and put us in these positions. Director Mr. Tiberghien stated that this board will be sending out a letter to all the municipalities within our jurisdiction on how this Fire District runs along with who our employees answer to. Director Mr. Tiberghien reminded everyone that if they have question regarding the board meeting to please email the Chief or Director Mr. Tiberghien (kgoldstein@noco.fr.com or tiberghien@noco.fr.com). Also, you can call in at every board meeting, and listen in.

CITIZENS COMMENT: Chief Goldstein reported that Ms. Wanda Lane was present at this meeting and stated that Director Mr. Anthony is correct regarding that we need to communicate as elected officials, and not continue to keep sending negative messages, and stirring up the pot. Leadership is the Foundation. Thank you for showing up to the BFN Town Hall Meeting, but I am still not clear on why no one was able to speak, but I will be finding out. Chief you mentioned the October BackStoppers BBQ, are you aware that same date is The Crime Summit. The Chief responded that I spoke with the Mayor of BFN right after she was elected about this, and I explained to her that we made an announcement last year that the first Saturday in October will be recognized as the BackStoppers BBQ day. Mayor stated that summit was still going to be held on that day. Director Mr. Tiberghien spoke about the BFN Town Hall meeting that he attended as a citizen not a Fire Board of Director. With Police Chief Ihler resigning that night is a shame it had to come to this. I don't know what is happening, but it seems to me that your Fire District is the glue holding everything together.

With no further discussion at 6:05 PM Director Mr. Anthony made a motion, seconded by Director Mrs. Austin, to adjourn Ayes: Director Mr. Tiberghien, Director Mr. Anthony, Director Mrs. Austin. Next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in person or by conference call on Tuesday October 3, 2023, at 5:00 PM.


Director Richie Tiberghien


Director Kevin Anthony

Director Yolanda Austin