

SOUTH KALAMAZOO COUNTY

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FIRE AUTHORITY

Minutes of Regular Meeting Held April 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority Board was held at 11318 N. Boulevard, Vicksburg, Michigan on April 16, 2025. The meeting was called to order by President Chairman Mike Tomlinson at 6:00 pm.

The following members of the Authority Board were present for all or part of the meeting: Jason Gatlin, Mike Tomlinson, Jennifer Sportel, Carl Keller, Kathy Mastenbrook and Randy Smith

Guests in attendance for all or part of the meeting: Chief McMillan, Administrator Dee and Commissioner John Gisler.

Approval of the Agenda.

Gatlin moved, seconded by Smith to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Consent Agenda

Gatlin moved, seconded by Mastenbrook to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Roll Call 6-0.**

Budget Report

Gatlin moved, seconded by Smith to approve the budget report as presented. **Roll Call 6-0.**

List of Bills

Gatlin moved, seconded by Sportel to approve the list of bills as presented. **Roll Call 6-0.**

Communications & Correspondence- None.

Citizen's Time –

Firefighter Moyer, member since 2015 voiced serious concerns about its current direction, highlighting a shift in focus toward budgets and superficial spending at the expense of critical needs. Despite being one of the busiest departments in the county, it suffers from outdated equipment, undercompensated staff, and unqualified personnel. A recent near \$1 million purchase of an impractical tanker truck, which replaced a functioning engine, exemplifies poor decision-making. The tanker is outdated and unsafe for its intended use. The department also struggles with substandard working conditions, including faulty gear and deteriorating buildings. FF Moyer calls for a meeting with HR to urgently address fleet readiness, staffing qualifications, and overall safety—stressing that continued neglect is unacceptable and dangerous.

Commissioner John Gisler- A new committee of intergovernmental units is being formed, involving 25 different government units in the county. The committee aims to meet at least quarterly. A small organization meets on the second Monday of each month. Upcoming meetings include discussions on the Palisades plant on May 12, 2025 at the Career & Tech Center, please let me know if you are interested in attending, and lastly domestic terrorism concerns on June 9th at Mark's Diner at 8:30am.

Old Business:

- a. 15-2 Roof Repairs & Proposed Village of Vicksburg Lease – Discussion with the Vicksburg Village Manager about possibly having Vicksburg Village pay for the roof repairs. Fredricks has also reached out to the top 2 making sure their proposals are still the same amount. Work would start in June now instead of May.
- b. Quarterly & Annual Audit Quotes- Jeff will be doing the Audit May, and hoping to have the proposed audit to us for May meeting.
- c. Legal Counsel- Keller Moved, seconded by Smith to move forward with Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes as legal counsel and have Dee contact them for a contract. **Roll Call 6-0.**

New Business:

- a. Final 2024-2025 FY Budget Amendments: Dee presented Final 2024-2025 FY amendments. Gatlin moved, seconded by Smith to approve the Final 2024-2025 FY Budget Amendments as presented. **Roll Call 5-0.**

Regular Reports

Chiefs Report- reviewed.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus Committee – pump test being done April 17 & 18, 2025, currently have an engine out for spring repair in Grand Rapids.

Human Resources –FF Terminations. Gatlin moved, seconded by Tomlinson to approve the terminations of Pat Tessin & John Saldivar. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Finance/Planning Committee –None.

Facilities Committee –None.

Members Time:

Keller- Apologizes for his attire as he came from t-ball fields, Welcomed Chief back. Keller asked Chief to reach out to other departments about payroll services they use and direct deposits and inquiring about moving payroll to the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Mastenbrook- Welcomed Chief back and Thanked FF Moyer for his comments.

Tomlinson- handing out on AOI of what the Administrators responsibilities are.

Sportell- Schoolcraft Township is still and always available space for meetings.

Gatlin- Welcomed Chief back.

Smith- Coming from Chicago, appreciates Kellers's attire. Welcomed Chief back.

With there being no further business, Tomlinson moved, seconded by Sportel to adjourn meeting. Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 6:36 pm. **Motion carried 6-0.**


Kathy Mastenbrook, Secretary

Typed by Tania Dee.