

Fern Creek Fire Protection District Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes February 10, 2025

In order to provide the highest level of public access, the Fern Creek Fire Protection District, in accordance with KRS 61.826 and recent Kentucky Supreme Court rulings, is providing access to all members of the public, both at a physical location at 4101 Bardstown Road, as well as via a video teleconference which can be accessed as presented on our website, www.FernCreekFire.com. It is understood that any board member attending via video teleconference must be able to be seen and heard, and in the event that there is a technology issue, provided a quorum remains, that Trustee(s) will be able to attend the meeting, but may not vote until audio and video are reestablished. If enough Trustees are unable to vote due to remote technology issues such that a quorum no longer remains, the meeting will be adjourned.

Monthly BOT Meeting Video Teleconference

The following Microsoft Teams link has been provided for those not able to or those choosing not to attend in person:

[Click here to join the meeting](#) (Recurring Meeting Link)

Meeting ID: 272 252 133 378

Passcode: 5TsKFn

[Download Teams](#)

A meeting invitation was sent to each individual Board Member via Microsoft Teams and notice to the public was provided via posting at Station #61, Station #65, and also on our website.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ott at 4:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Henry Ott, Larry Ash, Kenny Craigmyle, Robert Thompson, Eric Brown and Tracy Deloch.

Guests present: Deputy Chief Early, Assistant Chief Carta, Assistant Chief Dwyer, Assistant Chief Recktenwald, Assistant Chief Hutchens, Major Fife, Major Hampton, Major Reef, Captain Hoskins, Captain Mellick, Firefighter Spalding, Firefighter Tharp, Attorney Leach, James Sebastian, and Joyce Shelton.

Chief Mulvey, Deputy Chief Evans, Major Burd, Major Elstone, Major Ingersoll, Major Lawton, and Dawn Nikolai attended virtually.

Motion Brown, 2nd Ash to approve the January Minutes as presented. MC unanimously.

Motion Thompson, 2nd Craigmyle to approve the December 18, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. MC unanimously.

The January Financials were distributed prior to the meeting and reviewed.

Motion Thompson, 2nd Craigmyle to approve the January Financials. MC unanimously.

The amended December Financials were distributed prior to the meeting and reviewed.

Motion Thompson, 2nd Brown to approve the amended December Financials. MC unanimously.

Announcements & Correspondence

- Current bank statements are available for review.
- Denton Group December report: *See reports for details*. Items to Note: There is a Committee Hearing at 10:00 am on February 11, 2025 in Frankfort regarding the Medicare bill and Deputy Chief Early will be in attendance; and there is a bill that if passed, would remove ad valorem taxes (motor vehicle, boat, airplane, etc).
- Annual Awards Banquet will be held on March 7, 2025

Old Business

Update on the St. #73 expansion (former Highview #73 on Cedar Creek Road): footers have been poured; James Sebastian is able to see daily progress reports; and bi-weekly meetings with Project Manager, Superintendent, and Contractors will begin soon.

Performance Evaluation is still pending and requested to remain on the monthly agendas.

Motion Brown, 2nd Deloch to approve retiring Major Tony Schmidt as a Lifetime Member. MC unanimously.

Chief and Committee Reports

Chief Mulvey:

Chief's Report – *See full report for details*. Items noted: Chief Mulvey and Deputy Chief Evans are in Washington, D.C. and meeting with four Representatives; another storm is expected this evening to Wednesday that will bring snow then heavy rain with flooding possible and expected; and the Local Jefferson County Republican Caucus has inquired as to why the suburban ambulances are continuing to make runs into Metro Louisville (in regards to HB 388) and have been informed of the billing issues and changes in the language of the bill that are ongoing.

Chief Officers:

Deputy Chief Evans – Items noted: The Mission, Vision, and Values presentation was made to all Members and the Chief Staff continues to ensure that the department processes are in

alignment with the message of the MV&V; and the repairs on the Bruan that was rear-ended are complete and expected delivery next week, then it will go to local shop for decal.

Deputy Chief Early – Items noted: The Stryker EMS+ Contract is completed; the bid process is underway for the EMS simulator and will be ready for the March BOT Meeting; and Sergeant Oates and Paramedic White have each been awarded the Hibernian Hero Award and will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

All other Assistant Chiefs and Majors in attendance: No Report.

James Sebastian gave a report on the 2nd line apparatus (2013 Legacy Buechel) that has been at Clark Diesel since August 2023 for engine repair, which caught fire early last Friday morning while at shop. Investigations are underway but already deemed a total loss. Due to the four-year build process, consideration of purchasing a slightly used apparatus as a replacement is being made and will be presented at upcoming BOT meeting after investigations of fire and options for replacement are complete.

New Business

Discussion held regarding upcoming BOT Brown and Deloch terms expiring June 30, 2025. Notice has been given of the expiring term to the Mayor's Office as required.

Motion Brown, 2nd Ash, to recommend to the Mayor's Office that BOT Deloch be re-appointed to the Fern Creek Board of Trustees. MC unanimously with BOT Deloch abstaining.

Chief Mulvey provided some information regarding legislative activity that would change the set-up and process of Chapter 75 Boards as well as changes in the ability to change the tax rate.

An Election Committee was formed for the Firefighter Election for the expiring term of BOT Brown. The members of the Committee are: BOT Ash, BOT Cundiff, and BOT Deloch.

Motion Craigmyle, 2nd Brown, for all Non-Firefighter Employees (EMS, Administrative, and Fleet & Facility), to be designated as Special Firefighters for the purpose of, and during the voting in the election (Absentee June 23 and June 24 and regular election day Saturday, June 28, 2025) with duties of 'voting purposes only'. (The Special Firefighter designation will cease after the election is held). MC unanimously.

Deputy Chief Early provided background on eight Legacy Buechel GlideScope Laryngoscopes with new purchase value of approximately \$4,500, possible current sale value of \$500.00 with request to surplus all eight and donate two to KCTCS for use in their Paramedic program.

Motion Brown, 2nd Ash, to surplus eight GlideScopes, donate two of the eight to KCTCS, and sell the remaining six on GovDeals or similar. MC unanimously.

Deputy Chief Evans requested the Board make his selection official, of current Assistant Chief Doug Recktenwald as the Deputy Chief of Operations, due to the retirement of Chief Mulvey, his move to Chief, which leaves the role of DC of Operations vacant.

Motion Brown, 2nd Craigmyle, to approve the recommended appointment of Assistant Chief Recktenwald to Deputy Chief of Operations, effective August 1, 2025 with transition beginning March 15, 2025, at which time he will move from the 24/48 schedule to 40 hour/week. MC unanimously.

Motion Thompson, 2nd Craigmyle, to approve the Engagement Letter from Jones, Nale & Mattingly, PLC for the 2025-26 Financial Audit. MC unanimously.

Attorney Leach provided information and suggestion of selecting a new audit firm for the 2026-27 Financial Audit.

Information provided and discussion held regarding investigating new payroll company options and more information will be presented to the BOT at the March Meeting.

Motion Brown, 2nd Thompson, to approve the changes in language in Employee Handbook #116 Communication as presented and discussed. MC unanimously.

Discussion held regarding Lifetime Member Tony Schmidt's request to re-issue him a \$75 gift card that has not been delivered to him by the USPS. Due to publicized and ongoing statewide issues with delivery of mail, the request will be reconsidered at a later date.

Attorney Leach reported that there is an upcoming mediation for the parties involved in the Hurstbourne & Bardstown Road accident.

Discussion held regarding language in the Chapter 75 law regarding disciplinary action. The Employee Handbook and Redbook will be examined to determine if the documents provide the language needed and suggestions will be made to add language if necessary in the March Meeting.

James Sebastian reported that he opened the sealed bids today for the chassis from the Hurstbourne and Bardstown accident and received a bid for \$6,100 from Adony Apariao. (Note: All parties have reviewed and released the chassis for sale).

Adjournment

Motion Ash, 2nd Brown to adjourn at 4:52 p.m. MC unanimously.



Larry Ash, Secretary



Joyce Shelton, Recording Secretary