

A regular meeting of the Alma District Fire Board was held at the Alma Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 a.m. by Alma City Manager Aeris Ripley. A quorum of the Board was present.

Roll Call

Board members present: Kevin Beeson, Ron Hunt, Greg Mapes, Michelle Pitts, and Aeris Ripley.
Board members absent: Tish Mallory (arrived after roll call), and Doug Merchant.
Others present: Curtis Dancer, Harold House, and Mark Williams.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Pitts, to approve minutes of the June 28, 2023, meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mapes, Pitts, and Ripley.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Mallory and Merchant.

Monthly Reports

Finance Director Curtis Dancer reviewed initial year-end reports. He noted he expects approximately \$97,000 to be added to fund balance at year-end close and answered questions regarding the total fund balance.

Mapes asked for input regarding building the Fire Board fund balance to save for future purchases versus retaining funds at the township and city levels.

Board Member Mallory arrived at 7:08 a.m.

Discussion followed regarding the possible negative effects of a fund balance on grant opportunities. Beeson said there are pros and cons to each method, but suggested seeking additional information from other municipalities before a decision is made. Additional discussion followed regarding the benefit of dedicated millages, and future Boards as an unknown factor in a capital improvement plan. Dancer noted a downside of reserving money at the local level is the possible effect on investment options. Beeson suggested additional discussion is needed at the local level and the Fire Board level.


Ripley reviewed the Municipal Employees Retirement System actuarial information, and answered questions regarding contribution rates, refunds from employees who leave service early, demographics, stock market fluctuations, and unfunded liabilities.

Pitts asked about two calls in the run report. Fire Chief Harold House and Public Safety Director Mark Williams provided information regarding the runs in question, the reporting process, and mutual aid responses. Brief discussion followed regarding removal of the structures at the corner of Wright and M46.

Public Safety Director Williams provided a brief department update noting donations received from Alma Tire. He also indicated twelve air-packs have been received to date.

Motion by Pitts, seconded by Mallory, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 a.m. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mallory, Mapes, Pitts, and Ripley.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Merchant.



Sara Anderson, City Clerk

Date of Approval: October 25, 2023