

**Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ 108 Urton Lane
January 21, 2025
Minutes**

I. Opening

- a. Chairperson Jim Yates called the meeting of the Board to order at 4:30 pm. at AMFEMS Station #1. Andy Downes, Jason Karrer, Linda Oliver, Kyle Galloway, and Mindy Sunderland were the trustees present. Also present were Captain Staudenheimer, Deputy Chief Michel, Deputy Chief Brooks, Tonya Smith, Deputy Chief Sutt, Deputy Chief Wolfe, Deputy Chief Goolsby, Deputy Chief Kruer, Captain Devries, FF Duncan, FF Karrer, Guest State Rep J. Hodgson, Pat Walsh, Shannon Ran as recorder, and Bryan Dillon, general legal counsel to the Board.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting December 17, 2024
Motion by Andy Downes to approve the meeting minutes from December 17, seconded by Jason Karrer. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Financial Reports

- a. Financial Statement: Period Ending December 31, 2024
Chief Tyler had nothing to report during Thomas Wobbe's absence.

IV. Expenditure Requests

Nothing currently

V. Surplus Equipment

Nothing Currently

VI. Chief's Reports - Chief Tyler

All Division reports were included in the packet, for review until next month.

PIO Jordan Yuodis announced that Chief Tyler was nominated for the African American Year of the Award.

Tonya Smith reported that there were some hiccups, as anticipated, in transitioning to a new payroll system. Chief Tyler reported that he met with the mayor and city attorney of Anchorage to discuss the revision of the inter-local agreement. They seem to be on board with the name change with some minor revisions to the inter-local agreement. Chief Tyler will present the proposed revised agreement to the Board once he receives it. Chief Tyler is proposing East Louisville Metro Fire & Rescue as the new name, after considering input for the membership and command staff.

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Trustee Oliver attended the Jefferson County Fire Board of Trustees executive which was combined with the Chiefs meeting, last Thursday at Kayden Towers. It was Trustee Oliver's first meeting. Alan Lewis is the new chairperson Jefferson County Fire Board of Trustees.

Chief Brooks discussed House Bills 152 and 67 and how they impact AMFEMS.

Cancer screening was completed last week. Chief Sutt attended the Fire Commission, and they will reimburse our Personnel who participated.

VII. Old Business

- a. Approval of Policy 203.02- Access to Personnel Files.

Discussion took place, including trustees' access to personnel files.

Motion by Andy Downes to approve Policy 203.02- Access to the personnel files, seconded by Jason Karrer. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Policy 306.04-Grooming

Motion by Andy Downes to approve Policy 306.04- Grooming, seconded by Kyle Galloway, Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business

No new business

IX. Open Forum

P. Staudheimer- Captain P. Staudheimer addressed the Board with his concerns in several areas. These included the national search and hiring of the new chief. He also stated that many firefighters were afraid of retribution if they address the Board with their concerns.

Trustee Downes responded that, contrary to the rumors, the nationwide chief search is not being cancelled, and that AMFEMS is doing its due diligence in the hiring process.

Chairperson Yates said that the Board wants to get the best person for this department and chief's position.

Trustee Oliver expressed that she understands why Captain Staudenheimer would think it unusual for the deputy mayor to attend the meeting, but not Rep Hodgson as many of his constituents are in our district.

State Representative John Hodgson addressed the Board. He stated that he has 45,000 constituents and that almost all within the AMFEMS district. He said that he lived in the Eastwood fire district for 27 years and had no idea how the governance process for the fire department worked. He also believes that the average person is not aware that the fire district elections take place on a day different from those for other elected officials. He also expressed

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concerns that the maximum tax rate of \$.10 is inadequate for many fire districts to meet their needs. Chief Tyler responded that AMFEMS is reaching its cap of the tax rate and would prefer to be governed by the 4% annual increase to which other governmental entities are subject, rather than the constraints of Chapter 75.

Representative Hodgson replied that he is aware of hardship including unmanned stations for districts subject to the .10 cap, while others are doing OK with 16-17 cents. He also expressed that very few people actually vote in fire district elections. He would also love to see chapter 75 going to a \$0.20 tax.

Trustee Sunderland expressed that there have been efforts to get the state legislature to look at Chapter 75 for a long time. She also noted that AMFEMS is the third largest in the state with 45,000 constituents.

Chief Tyler noted that It's not just registered voters but property owners who vote in fire district elections. He also noted that county clerks statewide are opposed to having the fire district elections on the regular election day as they do not want to administer fire department elections. A trustee commented that if the fire department elections were held within the general elections there might be more votes.

Captain Grassi commented on the video. He also expressed concerns about retaliation and noted that he has filed a lawsuit against the department.

X. Executive Session

- a. Personnel Matters- KRS 61.810(1)(f)
- b. Real Estate Matters- KRS 61.810(1)(b)

Motion to enter an executive session to discuss Personnel Matters- KRS 61.810(1)(f) and Real Estate Matters – KRS 61.810(1)(b) by Andy Downes, seconded by Jason Karrer. Motion passed unanimously. The Board went into an executive session to discuss personnel and real estate matters at 5:23 p.m.

The Board returned from the executive session at 6:33 p.m. with no action taken.

Chairperson Yates asked for a motion on the disciplinary Case #1 – Motion from Andy Downes to accept the agreed upon actions, second by Linda Oliver. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Jim Yates asked for a motion on disciplinary Case #2- Motion from Andy Downes to give authorization for the chief to give the proposed disciplinary actions, seconded by Kyle Galloway. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Motion to Adjourn

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Motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm. by Andy Downes, second by Jason Karrer. The motion passed unanimously.

Shannon F. Ran
Executive Administrative Assistant
Recording Secretary for the Board

*Supporting documents are available by request through the Fire Protection District.