

JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Membership

MINUTES

Date: June 18, 2009
Place: Lyndon Fire Department
Called to Order: 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE – Buechel, Camp Taylor, Dixie Suburban, Eastwood, Fairdale, Fern Creek, Harrods Creek, Highview, Jeffersontown, Lake Dreamland, Lyndon, and St. Matthews. The following fire chiefs were present: Chief Adkins, Chief Schmidt, Chief Goldsmith and Chief Reckner.

PREVIOUS MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 04/16/09 were approved by Lyndon. Second by Dixie Suburban. Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The current year to date financial reports were provided for review. Motion of approval by Jeffersontown for the reports as presented. Second by Harrods Creek. Motion Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

JUNE 1 BUDGET: All spending terminated until budget filed with Cabinet for Public Protection.

JUNE TRUSTEES MEETING

- (1) TAX RATE: Adopt TAX RATE [or HB 44 hearing if necessary].
- (2) HB 44 [Review FTA Compendium, §F (VI) (5) HB 44 & Fire Districts.
- (3) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Final action on any changes in benefits for new fiscal year.
- (4) CERTIFY MOTOR VEHICLE TAX RATE (6-8-00).
- (5) AUDIT: Prepared records and notify CPA when records are available to begin Audit.
- (6) BOND: Approve Bond for Treasurer effective JULY 1.
- (7) ELECTION: Election Committee reports on election to be on 4th Saturday of month.
- (8) DISTRICT CERTIFICATION calendar for filing with Count Clerk by August 29.
- (9) SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Calendar for filing with Cabinet by August 29.
- (10) KRS 65.070(c) NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION: Calendar for publishing by August 29.
- (11) MINUTES: Approve May minutes and designate any KRS 75.240 material.
- (12) FILED MINUTES: Confirm April minutes filed with County Clerk.

JUNE THIRD THURSDAY: FIRE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION MEETING @ 7:00 PM

4TH SATURDAY: ELECTIONS OF FIREFIGHTER AND PROPERTY OWNER TRUSTEES

JULY - HB 44 HEARING [Review Compendium, § F, Finances, VI Real Estate Tax Rates (4-20-06)]

JULY TRUSTEES MEETING

- (1) TAX RATE: Review Certified Real Estate Assessments.
- (2) ELECTION: Election Committee submits June election report for approval
- (3) NEW TRUSTEES - OATH OF OFFICE.
- (4) ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Elect Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- (5) BOND: Confirm Bond for Treasurer was effective July 1.
- (6) DISTRICT CERTIFICATION prepare for filing with Count Clerk by August 29.
- (7) SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Prepare for filing with Cabinet by August 29.
- (8) KRS 65.070(c) NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION: Prepare for publishing by August 29.
- (9) AUDIT: Confirm with CPA that Audit to be ready for September Trustees Meeting.
- (10) AUDIT required to be filed within 30 days of receipt of completed audit.
- (11) MINUTES: Approve June minutes and designate any KRS 75.240 material.
- (12) FILED MINUTES: Confirm May minutes filed with County Clerk.

AUGUST TRUSTEES MEETING:

- (1) TAX RATES: Approve certifications of REAL and PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE.
- (2) ELECTION: Confirm approval of Election Committee report on June election.
- (3) NEW TRUSTEES - OATH OF OFFICE.
- (4) BOARD ELECTIONS: Elect Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer of Board.
- (5) BOND: Bond obtained for Treasurer.
- (6) DISTRICT CERTIFICATION FILE WITH CLERK BY AUG. 29.
- (7) SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT: FILE PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET BY AUG. 29.
- (8) KRS 65.070(c) NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION BY AUG. 29.
- (9) AUDIT: Ensure CPA work on schedule for presentation at September Trustees meeting.
- (10) MINUTES: Approve July minutes and designate any KRS 75.240 material.
- (11) FILED MINUTES: Confirm June minutes filed with County Clerk.

Recognition – A plaque was ordered to recognize the service of Missy Ames on the JCFTA Executive Board, unfortunately, Missy could not attend the meeting to receive it. It will be delivered to the Worthington FD for her to pick up there.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports:

Public Information, Education and Recruitment – Chief Barth provided a copy of the next “Line of Fire” broadcast. (Copies available upon request.)

Governmental Affairs – Chief Reckner reported on the special session and a possible issue involving a credit in the payment of motor vehicle and boat taxes on state income tax filings. The bill will be watched carefully until the session adjourns. He also reported on SB 72 that would remove the tax cap on chapter 75 fire protections districts, with the submission of legislative oversight, which has generated some opposition from the special districts in Northern Kentucky. The only other option may be to seek legislation at the local level.

Committee chairperson Jack Clark reported that our contract with legislative Bob Benson has expired. Mr. Benson has proposed a renewal of his two-year contract to represent the Jefferson County Fire Service at the same rate of \$25,000 per year. His proposal indicates that he would agree to a one-year contract if offered. Chief Reckner, who had been asked to consider representing the fire service in next session, respectfully declined the offer stating that together, he and Mr. Benson would work better as a team. The membership discussed the costs involved and decided that a contract would be signed with Mr. Benson if sufficient support from the fire districts can be obtained. Motion by Buechel for the districts to discuss their support of the contract, depending upon the cost, at their next board meeting. Second by St. Matthews. Motion Carried.

Contract Cost / Per # of Participating Districts:

\$25,000 / 18 = \$1,388.89	\$25,000 / 6 = \$4,166.67
\$25,000 / 17 = \$1,470.59	\$25,000 / 5 = \$5,000.00
\$25,000 / 16 = \$1,562.50	\$25,000 / 4 = \$6,250.00
\$25,000 / 15 = \$1,666.67	\$25,000 / 3 = \$8,333.33
\$25,000 / 14 = \$1,785.71	\$25,000 / 2 = \$12,500.00
\$25,000 / 13 = \$1,923.08	
\$25,000 / 12 = \$2,083.33	
\$25,000 / 11 = \$2,272.73	
\$25,000 / 10 = \$2,500.00	
\$25,000 / 9 = \$2,777.78	

\$25,000 / 8 = \$3,125.00

\$25,000 / 7 = \$3,571.43

Committee chair Clark also suggested a one-year contract, rather than two years. Motion of approval by Buechel. Second by St. Matthews. Motion Carried. A vote of participation will be taken at the August meeting of the Jefferson County Fire Trustees Association.

Jefferson County Health & Dental Insurance Plans – Chairman Bauer reported on both the annual meeting and the board meeting for the Jefferson County Fire Service Health Insurance Program that took place earlier in the day. One of the issues discussed was the requirement in our stop-loss policy for all plan members to be placed on COBRA if they are off from work for over twelve weeks. The COBRA premium may be paid by the employer or the employee. There is a 2% administrative fee added to the premium for COBRA administration. COBRA benefits may be extended to 18 months (depending upon the qualifying event). If someone could not return to work after that period of time, then disability may be an option. The interlocal agreement will be amended to place the burden of responsibility on the district, not the group, if a district fails to notify of a qualifying event.

The other issue, which was not fully discussed at the meeting but was shared with the members prior to the meeting, involved a list of concerns that Attorney Byrne had raised with the benefit management agreement. As a self-insured plan, with the stop-loss policy in place to protect against excessive claims expense, and MedBen as the third party administrator, the responsibility for the operation of our plan is basically ours, according to the contract. Attorney Byrne shared a copy of his letter to Chairperson Dellis, and included his response to their letter dated June 16 (distributed with the JCFSHIP meeting agenda). MedBen has since submitted an additional response, which will be included with the distribution of these minutes.

A concern was also raised with the use of the employee SSN as the identifier for the plan. While the number is not actually printed on the card, it is referenced and is used as the identifier on medical documents / claims. MedBen contends that use of the SSN is necessary for efficient processing of claims. However, other fully insured carriers (Humana, Anthem) do not use the SSN for the member ID. We are working with our broker (SDMA) and with MedBen to change the system. In the meantime, an alternate ID number can be issued by MedBen if requested by the member.

Although this body (the JCFTA) has no authority over the Jefferson County Fire Service Health Insurance Program; the districts are represented as board members on the interlocal agreement, and as stated above, are ultimately responsible for the plan. As such, Chairman Clark re-stated the importance of fiscal oversight. The board and the executive committee agree and will begin looking for an auditor for the fiscal year-end review. It will be expensive, and the cost will have to be paid from the plan.

Trustee Appointments & Elections – All but two of the trustee appointments were completed prior to this meeting. The last two are on the June 25 metro council agenda. The trustee election will take place on Saturday, June 27. The notice for property owner trustees was published in the Courier Journal, with copies provided to the districts, last month.

Labor Management Initiative – The districts were asked to review the information that Chief Aponte presented at the April meeting of the JCFTA. Motion by Harrods Creek to support the labor initiative as presented. Second by Buechel. A show of hands revealed that a majority of the departments are in favor of the initiative and would attend the two-day seminar if the metro council will support the cost. Motion Carried. Chief Reckner reported that the national collective bargaining agreement for police and firefighters is expected to pass at the end of the summer, and such a program could be very helpful in understanding labor relations. Additional information on the seminar to be provided upon receipt. Chairperson Bauer will assist if needed.

LOUISVILLE METRO & JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS

A written report on the items that Chief Barth is involved in as the fire service liaison to Louisville Metro was provided. Chief Schmidt mentioned the following items from the report, and on behalf of the Jefferson County Fire Chiefs Association:

LG&E Response – A meeting was held with LG&E officials to discuss response issues. As a result of that meeting, a new priority system was developed and fire service representatives will be allowed to work in the LG&E dispatch center to assist in the prioritization of calls if needed. Training with MetroSafe dispatchers should be conducted by July 15.

Fire Chief's Retreat – A two-day retreat is being planned for this fall; date and location to be determined. Chief Schmidt stressed the importance of 100% participation for urban and suburban fire.

EMS ProQA – A new dispatch protocol was presented, unexpectedly, at the chapter 75 fire chiefs meeting. The chiefs were asked to review and provide any updates to the current response levels by the end of the month. As of this writing, additional meetings are being held with LMEMS to further explain the revised codes.

The issue of cost recovery is still being pursued. LMEMS is proposing to change their fee structure for non-transport but there are no plans to increase their standard fees to include fire department response at this time.

MetroSafe – The radios are expected to be installed in the fall and operation of the new system completed by the end of the year.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Maurice Byrne provided the following handouts:

- Letter to Chairman Bauer dated June 18, 2009 regarding senate bill 46, passed during the 2009 Kentucky General Assembly, pertaining to supplemental payments to local government for qualified professional firefighters. Attorney Byrne advises that fire protection districts are not local governments under the definition of KRS 95A.210. Also included were copies of the July 1, 1998 letter from the labor cabinet to Bob Burch, and the May 28, 1998 letter from Bob Burch to the fire departments, regarding overtime calculation for incentive pay.

Chief Reckner added that he attended a meeting with the Kentucky League of Cities and the fire commission where it was reported that if a firefighter will sign off on a settlement with a third party observer (possibly the fire commission), then any shortage in calculation over the last five-years could be settled.

- The other handout, as mentioned with discussion of the Jefferson County Health Insurance Plan, included a copy of the letters dated June 15 and June 18, 2009 from Attorney Byrne to Chairperson Steve Dellis regarding the Benefit Management Agreement between MedBen, and his review of the legal documents of the plan. He encouraged the districts that are participating in the JCFSHIP group health care plan to review the concerns that were presented, as well as the contract with MedBen (Benefit Management Agreement).

Chairman Bauer reported that we had received a statement for legal services (does not include any of the work or time spent on the health insurance review) and he publicly thanked Attorney Byrne for all of the work that he does, and has done, on behalf of the Jefferson County Fire service for many years.

NEW BUSINESS

JCFTA Office Relocation – The office of the executive fire administrator has relocated to the third floor of the MetroSafe building with EMA and the communications center. It is very nice and we appreciate being included with the move, which was provided at no cost to our budget. A letter of thanks was sent from Chairman Bauer and the president of the Jefferson County Fire Chiefs Association, Chief Mike Schmidt, to Mayor Abramson, with copy to EMA Director Doug Hamilton. He encouraged the districts to also express their thanks if the opportunity presents itself.

New mailing address & contact information: 410 South Fifth Street, Room #323 (40202)
Office # 572-3455
Fax # 572-3498

Nomination to Fill JCFTA Executive Board Vacancy – Chairman Bauer reported that trustee Jeff Boone (Lyndon FD) has offered to fill the vacancy of Missy Ames on the executive board. Motion of approval by Buechel. Second by St. Matthews. Motion Carried.

W-2's for Firefighters – Chairman Bauer reminded everyone once again of the need to issue W-2's to volunteer firefighters, not 1099's, to make sure that the IRS requirements are being met. The department is responsible for any fees and penalties that could be assessed for non-compliance. If a CPA, accountant, or attorney advises otherwise, please get it in writing.

Governmental Audit Standards – Chairman Bauer reported on recent changes to auditing standards that everyone should be aware before the FY 08/09 audits are completed. Copies were provided at the meeting and are available upon request. You can learn more at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07731g.pdf>.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – JCFTA Membership: 08/20/09 (7:00 PM) @ Highview

Respectfully Submitted:

Terri Livers EFA