

Board President Report For April 20, 2022

As Director and President, fortunately, one of my first actions was to co-adopt and sign a contract to secure a district medical director. I have attended along with, new Director Marti Hardman and Secretary Chris Johnson the state required board training. These are in line with my desires to see our board align ourselves with laws of the State of Missouri.

In the month of March the previous board appointed me privacy officer. They tasked me with securing the understanding, compliance and signatures of Western Cass Fire Protection District Personnel on the posted new policies on: privacy, code of conduct and security. On 3/17/2022 I was at station #1 from 1826 hours to 1915 hours. I was told that this was the assigned time for training and instruction. During the time I was at station #1 no personnel were present. Secretary Chris Johnson and I On 3/24/2022 at 2030 hours responded to station #1, I had been called to meet some personnel about the new policies. On arrival, Mr. Johnson and I introduced ourselves and offered to discuss the privacy and security policies. The personnel on site were hostile towards our mission. Sensing their hostility we advised them that we were new to the district and that our mission was to insure their understanding of the policies and to secure their signatures agreeing to compliance of the board adopted policies. We listened to their grievances. It very much appeared that they would not sign in spite of our efforts, at about 2330 hours, we left them at the station. On 3/31/2022 I responded to station #1 at or about 1915 hours. I told the fire personnel present that I was there once again to secure signatures on the long posted boards' policies. Unanimously I was told that none would sign the documents. Kevin Collins stated that all administrative oversight by the board had to be removed from all software that the fire personnel used, before fire personnel would consider signing any policies. I told the personnel present that the board has legal responsibility of over-sight on all activities of the district, that it is the duty of the board to make policies and to be ever vigilant of the performance of the district, the varied calls for service needs of the citizens of the district, adherence to all laws, insured citizens' privacy included and all board policies. It is also noted that there were several citizens on the property apparently invited by Kevin Collins for a citizens meeting of some sort, against the board of directors, without previous permission to use the property, against board policy. I found Kevin there talking badly, about the board and its' policies, to the citizens. I stayed for a short time and left. On 4/7/2022 I was called and asked to respond to station #1 by Aaron Hagan. I responded, Aaron stated he was willing to sign the policies. I thanked him and left the station. On 4/11/2022 Aaron emailed and said he no longer was willing to abide by board policies and to consider his signature voided. I had been advised that by mid-March 2022 all surrounding fire protection districts, which we had mutual aide agreements with had been advised by the then board President that current personnel had no chief, would not be able to respond to calls for service and that we would need them to respond to our calls. I also had been advised that the Sherriff of Cass County had sent a letter to other districts saying that calls would be directed directly to other districts. It is also noted that at least for the past decade, legally, only other districts with a medical director could have administered emergency services, because this district had none. With all this information, access to personal information had been denied to members who had refused to sign privacy policies, temporarily suspending their ability to respond to calls where they would be exposed to personal information. By 4/13/2022, well over a month after passing, posting, making public and requesting compliance to the board policies, the board agreed to terminate personnel that refused to sign and comply with board policies.

John Webb

Board President