

In The Matter Of:
Western Coventry Fire Department Meeting

Annual Meeting
April 1, 2019



Min-U-Script® with Word Index

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING

SUMMIT STATION

1110 VICTORY HIGHWAY

GREENE, RI 02827

April 1, 2019

7:00 P.M.

MODERATOR:
CHUCK SMITH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
JOHN HUMBLE, CHAIRMAN
RICHARD HOLT, MEMBER
STEPHEN BOUSQUET
RAQUEL STORTI, MEMBER
ROBERT HEVEY, MEMBER

FIRE CHIEF:
CHIEF CADY

INTERIM DISTRICT CLERK:
MARIANN GARDENER

TAX COLLECTOR:
JOAN SMITH

LEGAL COUNSEL:
J. WILLIAM W. HARSCH, ESQUIRE

1 (COMMENCED AT 7:00 P.M.)

2 MR. MODERATOR: Good evening, ladies and
3 gentlemen. Welcome to the Western Coventry Fire
4 District Annual Meeting. My name is Chuck Smith.
5 I'm the District Acting Moderator for this meeting
6 and will moderate tonight's annual meeting of the
7 Western Coventry Fire District. Madam tax
8 collector, please state the number of qualified
9 voters in attendance.

10 JOAN SMITH: We have 24 registered voters
11 in attendance tonight.

12 MR. MODERATOR: 24 registered voters.
13 That is a quorum. A quorum is 20. Before we get
14 started, I'm going to cover some safety issues.
15 Chief Cady, will you please note the emergency
16 exits.

17 CHIEF CADY: You have exits to your left
18 and to your right. You use the exit to your
19 right-hand side when you exit the door; brings you
20 to the front of the building. If you use the exit
21 to your left over here, just take a left and walk
22 down the sidewalk and that will also bring you to
23 the front.

24 MR. MODERATOR: As a courtesy to the other
25 people in the room, I'd like everyone to turn off

1 their cell phones, put it on vibrate. Naturally,
2 if you have a call, an emergency call, whatever, if
3 you could take it outside, we'd appreciate that.

4 Could everyone please stand and join me and
5 the members of the Coventry High School Navy ROTC
6 Color Guard in the Presentation of Colors and the
7 Pledge of Allegiance.

8 (OPENING CEREMONIES)

9 (INVOCATION)

10 MR. MODERATOR: Are there any non-voting
11 individuals in the audience? If so, you need a red
12 tag, and you have to sit on the right side. Thank
13 you. I am honored to recognize in attendance two
14 of our people from our State delegation, our
15 Senator, Gordon Rogers, and our State
16 Representative, Mike Chippendale. They're both in
17 the room tonight. Thank you very much, gentlemen,
18 for coming to our meeting. At the front of the
19 room, we can start from the beginning, this end of
20 the table is Bill Harsch. If Bill Harsch wants to
21 start, introduce himself and work our way down the
22 table.

23 MR. HARSCH: Bill Harsch, legal counsel
24 for the District.

25 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: John Humble, Board of

1 Directors.

2 CHIEF CADY: Jim Cady, Chief.

3 MS. GARDENER: Mariann Gardener, district
4 clerk.

5 MR. HOLT: Richard Holt, Board of
6 Directors.

7 MR. BOUSQUET: Steve Bousquet, Board of
8 Directors.

9 MS. STORTI: Raquel Storti, Board of
10 Directors.

11 MR. HEVEY: Bob Hevey, Board of Directors.

12 MR. MODERATOR: I invite you to review the
13 packets that were posted at local businesses; they
14 were at the table when you came in tonight. As
15 moderator tonight, my role is to preside and
16 regulate these proceedings, decide questions of
17 order, and declare the votes. During this meeting,
18 if you want the floor to comment on or make a
19 motion, please stand and wait to be recognized.

20 We're going to do this in an orderly fashion, as we
21 have in the past 25 years. Once I recognize you,
22 I'll ask you to approach the microphone at the
23 front of the assembly, which is just -- you can
24 stand here and everyone can hear each other in this
25 room. State your name and address for the record

1 so that your questions and comments can be
2 addressed. State your name and address so our
3 stenographer can hear it, and she can record it.
4 If your comments are outside the scope of the
5 meeting, I will let you know that they are out of
6 order. Debate or comments by individuals
7 recognized by the Moderator will be limited to two
8 minutes. There's not going to be any back and
9 forth by people in the audience. I don't expect
10 that. All the questions will come to me; if there
11 is a question or comment and then I can give that
12 question to somebody on the Board of Directors to
13 answer. To ensure clarify and accuracy, except for
14 simple, procedural votes, all motions or amendments
15 to motions will be presented in writing. So if you
16 have a motion, unless it is something that's
17 procedural or simple, you need to put it in
18 writing. I'll read it back, have you read it back
19 so everyone understands it.

20 Consistent with Roberts Rules of Order, the
21 decision of the majority of electors present
22 qualified to vote will be accepted as the decision
23 of this assembly. In some special instances,
24 including the vote on privileged motions, a
25 two-thirds majority of electors present and

1 qualified to vote may be required. Unless
2 requested otherwise by a majority of attendees,
3 voting will accomplished by a hand vote by
4 utilizing the colored card tags issued. We changed
5 that a couple of years ago. Everyone's got a
6 colored tag. Green is qualified to vote. Red is a
7 non-voter. We used to have people stand up and by
8 the end of the night people were pretty tired from
9 doing jumping jacks, so now we use the tags. If it
10 appears that a clear majority is voting in either
11 the affirmative or the negative, I shall call the
12 vote. If I'm uncertain with respect to the vote or
13 I am challenged by a voter, I shall request the
14 assistance of tellers to count the vote. For the
15 meeting tonight I have appointed Earl Randall and
16 Bob Mann as tellers.

17 Madam Clerk, will you please read the call of
18 the meeting. Unless I have a motion on the floor
19 to waive it?

20 MR. MANN: Mr. Moderator, Robert Mann,
21 5150 Flat River Road. I'd like to make a motion to
22 accept all reports, treasurer, tax collector, board
23 of directors, and chief's reports as presented.

24 MR. MODERATOR: Thank you. Ken?

25 MR. JACKSON: Ken Jackson, 2799 Harkney

1 Hill Road. I'd like to second that motion.

2 (MOTION AND SECOND)

3 MR. MODERATOR: Did everyone understand
4 the motion and the second? All those in favor?

5 MR. NOVAK: Point of order.

6 MR. MODERATOR: Yes, sir. Your name?

7 MR. NOVAK: Kent Novak, 246 Camp Westwood
8 Road. Mr. Moderator, my point of order is, I just
9 want to ensure that I or that we are able to ask
10 questions and/or make comments on the reports and
11 also resolutions under new business?

12 MR. MODERATOR: You'd be able to.

13 MR. NOVAK: Thank you.

14 MR. MODERATOR: Okay. Motion has been
15 made and seconded. All those in favor with a tag?

16 (VOICE VOTE)

17 MR. MODERATOR: Opposed? So carries.

18 (MOTION PASSES)

19 MR. MODERATOR: I will now call on
20 District Counsel, Bill Harsch, for his comments.

21 MR. HARSCH: I think about all I could
22 say, Mr. Moderator, is that this particular
23 district remains one of my most law-abiding
24 clients. I am very impressed. Things are going
25 very well from a legal point of view. We do have

1 one case that's outstanding against the district
2 because it is in active litigation right now. I
3 cannot comment on it. Otherwise, I am just pleased
4 to join you in another meeting, and I am shocked to
5 see the cornerstone on the building "2009." I go
6 back to the other building.

7 MR. MODERATOR: Thank you, Bill. The
8 backbone of strength of the Western Coventry Fire
9 District Department rests in its members. I will
10 call on Chief Cady to address notable personnel
11 achievements. Chief Cady.

12 CHIEF CADY: I would just like to
13 recognize deceased member Charles Bowen, Sr. for
14 his many years of service to the Central Coventry
15 and Western Coventry Fire Districts. Thank you.

16 MR. MODERATOR: Thank you, Chief, for
17 those words.

18 MR. NOVAK: Point of order.

19 MR. MODERATOR: Go ahead. Name?

20 MR. NOVAK: Kent Novak, 246 Camp Westwood
21 Road. When are we going to be able to ask a
22 question or to make a comment on the reports?

23 MR. MODERATOR: If you'd like to do that,
24 we could do that now.

25 MR. NOVAK: Thank you. I appreciate it.

1 I will attempt to keep my questions brief.

2 MR. MODERATOR: Okay. And then if someone
3 wants to comment on them, Mr. Novak, what I will do
4 is get someone from the Board to answer them.

5 MR. NOVAK: Okay.

6 MR. MODERATOR: Your two minutes are
7 starting. Go ahead.

8 MR. NOVAK: The first report is the
9 treasurer's report, on Page 3, just a question for
10 Glenn. Number three, financial highlights, you say
11 that there's a general fund balance of \$306,000 and
12 a capital fund balance of \$417,000. Is that
13 equivalent to cash, basically? Is Glenn here?

14 MR. BOUSQUET: Glenn is not here.

15 MR. MODERATOR: He's not here tonight.
16 Maybe, perhaps John could answer the question.

17 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: I am certainly not a
18 treasurer, but I will attempt to do that. If you
19 go to the balance sheet, which is Page 6, the
20 \$532,000 is less than the receivables of \$260,573.
21 The 417 is within the 423.

22 MR. NOVAK: Yes. Thank you. And my point
23 there is just that I looked at -- unfortunately, I
24 had a copy of our 2012 audit and note, too, cash
25 and cash equivalent is \$269,000, and then the audit

1 that you posted on our website, you know, the WCFD
2 website dated 2/28/18, note, too, is \$501,000. So
3 over that six-year period it's an 86 percent
4 increase in cash and cash equivalent. And that's
5 -- the only reason I asked was when I looked at
6 number three up there, it looks like \$723,000.
7 Maybe note, too, for the upcoming audit. It's just
8 a lot of cash. Let's see. Can I move onto --

9 MR. MODERATOR: Sure. Yes.

10 MR. NOVAK: The Board of Directors' report
11 on Page 9 of 25, I just have a general question
12 based on reading your report, Mr. Humble, or
13 through the Moderator, what's the length of the
14 current full-timer's contracts?

15 MR. MODERATOR: Mr. Humble.

16 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: They're employment
17 agreements, and they're three years.

18 MR. NOVAK: So the chief has three more
19 years?

20 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: He does.

21 MR. NOVAK: And Captain Mann, three more?

22 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: Let's see, last year.
23 You've got two more.

24 MR. NOVAK: And West Johnson.

25 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: Well, that's a different

1 story. West Johnston resigned this past Friday, I
2 think it was. So, we're going to have to -- the
3 chief has got the challenge of filling that slot.

4 MR. NOVAK: And Will Paul is still with
5 us?

6 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: Oh, yes.

7 MR. NOVAK: Does he have a three-year
8 contract?

9 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: He has a three-year
10 contract as of January 1st.

11 MR. NOVAK: Thank you. As far as the
12 district is concerned, I know you provide health
13 care or we provide health care. What are the
14 provisions for a buyback or a buyout? Instead of
15 getting healthcare, are there provisions to give a
16 firefighter a buyout?

17 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: Are you referring to a
18 refusal?

19 MR. NOVAK: Yes, a refusal.

20 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: Yes. As a matter of
21 fact, we do have one of our full timers that is
22 taking a refusal right now, and there is a value
23 attached to that, and it is added to the pay.

24 MR. NOVAK: Thank you. And who is the
25 rescue captain?

1 CHIEF CADY: We don't have a rescue
2 captain, per se. Our EMS responsibilities were
3 being taken care of by West Johnston and now they
4 will fall on my hands.

5 MR. NOVAK: Congratulations.

6 CHIEF CADY: Thank you.

7 MR. NOVAK: Going to Page 11, you -- and
8 again, through the Moderator -- you talk about a
9 quarterly assessment that's provided by physicians
10 affiliated with Brown University, and I have a
11 question. Are the quarterly assessments available
12 to the public?

13 MR. MODERATOR: John.

14 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: The only concern I think
15 I would have would be the HIPAA requirements, and
16 I'm not sure, Chief, if we would provide any of
17 that?

18 CHIEF CADY: So what Brown University
19 Physicians Group does for us is they provide a med
20 controller for us. So if we're transporting a
21 patient and we've got a question on treatment, we
22 can contact the med-con and talk directly to a
23 doctor instead of a nurse, and we'll get some good
24 information on further treatment that we could
25 provide. The other thing they do for us is a

1 quarterly training. They come in and do all of the
2 quality assurance, quality and improvement type
3 training. We do talk about calls we've been on;
4 however, there is a requirement it is only
5 addressed to the members. So, no report.

6 MR. NOVAK: So if someone was to ask for
7 that report, it would be denied?

8 CHIEF CADY: There is no report.

9 MR. NOVAK: Or blacked out.

10 CHIEF CADY: There is no report that's
11 created. It's a discussion about treatments that
12 we provided.

13 MR. NOVAK: Thank you. That clarifies
14 that. I believe my next question through the
15 Moderator is, or Chief Cady -- no, I guess not --
16 oh, I guess my concern would be, Chief Cady, and I
17 didn't know that West Johnson resigned, and I'm
18 sorry that that occurred, because I know the
19 district has had trouble ensuring that we get 100
20 percent EMT/cardiac coverage, 100 percent coverage,
21 and I know that's, I guess, our top line goal or
22 bottom line goal, but I wish you well in achieving
23 that, especially since the current resignation.
24 Thank you.

25 CHIEF CADY: Thank you.

1 MR. MODERATOR: Okay. Are there any other
2 comments from the Board? Thank you, Mr. Novak.

3 MR. NOVAK: You're welcome.

4 MR. MODERATOR: Anybody else? Is there
5 any old business that's been unresolved? With no
6 old business, we'll move to new business. Under
7 new business, and I'll call on Mr. Humble to
8 present the resolutions for consideration tonight.
9 Mr. Humble.

10 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: Resolution Number 1,
11 Mr. Moderator, I move that all actions taken by the
12 Officers and Board of Directors of the Western
13 Coventry Fire District during the fiscal year
14 ending February 28, 2019 be ratified.

15 MR. MODERATOR: Do we have a second on
16 that motion?

17 MR. MANN: Second.

18 MR. MODERATOR: Name, please?

19 MR. MANN: Robert Mann, 5150 Flat River
20 Road.

21 (MOTION AND SECOND)

22 MR. MODERATOR: Is there any discussion on
23 Resolution 1 before we move to a vote? Seeing
24 none, all those in favor of moving Resolution 1
25 show your green tag.

1 (VOICE VOTE)

2 MR. MODERATOR: Any opposed? So carried.

3 (MOTION PASSES)

4 MR. MODERATOR: Mr. Humble, Resolution 2,
5 please.

6 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: I move that a Western
7 Coventry Fire District operating budget of \$848,774
8 be adopted for fiscal year March 1, 2019 to
9 February 29, 2020.

10 MR. MODERATOR: Could I have a second on
11 that motion as it was explained by Mr. Humble?

12 MR. RANDALL: Second.

13 MR. MODERATOR: Your name, please?

14 MR. RANDALL: Earl Randall, 252 Log Bridge
15 Road.

16 (MOTION AND SECOND)

17 MR. MODERATOR: Any discussion? Your name
18 and address again, please?

19 MR. NOVAK: Kent Novak, 246 Camp Westwood
20 Road. Mr. Moderator, I had one question. I was
21 wondering how much is budgeted for overtime?

22 MR. MODERATOR: Mr. Humble, could you
23 answer that?

24 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: I'd have to take a look
25 at the budget worksheet here.

1 MR. HOLT: About \$12,000.

2 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: It's \$12,000.

3 MR. HOLT: Approximately \$12,000.

4 MR. NOVAK: About 12,000?

5 MR. HOLT: Approximately.

6 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: It is a line item in the
7 budget.

8 MR. NOVAK: Okay. Thank you. And just a
9 followup. These are more comments than anything
10 else. The lower right-hand corner of the budget,
11 this is what, Page 22 of 25, the lower right-hand
12 corner, the total for the detail of compensation
13 and payroll taxes, \$494,817, and my comment is that
14 this is approaching what our budget was in 2012,
15 which was, I believe, \$524,000, give or take a few
16 thousand dollars. So, what the Board referenced in
17 their report, utilization of four full-time
18 firefighters, call people, and so on, has come at a
19 cost to the District, and I just wanted to point
20 that out. Our budget has increased 62 percent
21 since 2012. It has gone from \$524,848, and there's
22 many valid reasons why that is the case, but in
23 another seven years, I would hope that the budget
24 is not \$1.6 million, because I don't think we can
25 go at that pace, and whether people realize it or

1 not, we subsidized this budget with rescue/recovery
2 funds. It was not the practice in 2012. And I am
3 in support of the budget, by the way. I am just
4 pointing out some thoughts that I had. So thank
5 you for your time.

6 MR. MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Novak. We
7 have a motion on the floor that's been seconded.
8 All those in favor?

9 (VOICE VOTE)

10 MR. MODERATOR: All opposed? It passes.
11 Resolution 2 passes.

12 (MOTION PASSES)

13 MR. MODERATOR: Resolution 3. Mr. Humble.

14 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: I move to purchase four
15 P-25 compliant portable radios for first response
16 apparatus at a cost of \$3,900 each, utilizing a
17 total of \$15,600 from the Apparatus Capital
18 Equipment Fund.

19 MR. MODERATOR: You've heard the motion;
20 do I have a second from the floor?

21 MR. JACKSON: Second. Ken Jackson, 2799
22 Harkney Hill Road.

23 (MOTION AND SECOND)

24 MR. MODERATOR: We have a motion; it has
25 been seconded. Is there any discussion? Seeing no

1 discussion on the resolution, all show your tags
2 and say aye to pass.

3 (VOICE VOTE)

4 MR. MODERATOR: Opposed? None. The ayes
5 have it. All three resolutions passed.

6 (MOTION PASSED)

7 MR. MODERATOR: Okay. The next order of
8 business tonight is going to be the election of
9 officers. The charter calls for three-year terms
10 for elected officers. Two Board of Directors'
11 positions are subject to election this year. Three
12 candidates have applied for those positions. I
13 have the three that have applied, Mr. Steve
14 Bousquet, Reverend Dr. Reppa Cottrell, and Mr. Ken
15 Jackson. What I can do is each of the three
16 candidates -- everyone has a ballot -- once you're
17 a qualified voter, you received a ballot at the
18 door. What we're going to do is circle two of the
19 three, and then we're going to bring them up front
20 here. We'll put them here. The two tellers, Earl
21 Randall and Bob Mann, are going to take those, and
22 they're going to tally them up. Joan has got the
23 ballot box. It's official. And they'll tally them
24 up and get back to us in a couple of minutes with a
25 total. Before I do that, I would like to ask each

1 of the three candidates if they would like to come
2 up. You have two minutes. We could start with the
3 order on the ballot. Mr. Bousquet, if you would
4 like, sir.

5 MR. BOUSQUET: I don't think I will need
6 the two minutes. I just want to let you know when
7 I got involved with the fire district -- it has
8 been about six years -- it was probably out of
9 concern for what was going on in the rest of the
10 town and some of the comments and things that were
11 being said and that I read. I was very concerned
12 when I saw this professional district -- fire
13 district's in trouble. I had no knowledge what our
14 board was made of. I had never met anybody. I
15 never attended a meeting. I never went to one. I
16 actually went to an S.A.P. meeting, because I saw
17 it had an open quorum piece of it, and I got to
18 learn about the board, and they're fantastic people
19 that work very hard. You cannot believe the number
20 of hours that they put into it, and led by John has
21 just been an amazing asset to the District and to
22 the people. So, I'd like to thank you all for
23 coming out tonight and voting.

24 MR. MODERATOR: Thank you, Steve. Doctor,
25 please.

1 REV. DR. COTTRELL: I'm a Baptist
2 minister, so I would have to be really limited to
3 two minutes, but in any case, I have been attending
4 some of the meetings because we've lived in
5 Coventry, in this area for eight years now, and
6 quite frankly, the neighbors said that they were
7 interested in this District, and I started to
8 attend, and I was impressed by many of the people
9 on the Board. And quite frankly, it was back in, I
10 believe, October that they started saying no one
11 was signing up for the two positions. I do not
12 have a great deal of background working with the
13 fire district, but a lot on the other end of
14 working with the laws and all and the codes. So,
15 mine was to help out if the District needed it.
16 So, this is not a good candidate's statement, but
17 therefore, if there are fellows more qualified and
18 all, I would not be that greatly disappointed, as
19 long as the district has good people on the Board.
20 God bless you.

21 MR. MODERATOR: Ken Jackson.

22 MR. JACKSON: Good evening. I am Ken
23 Jackson. My wife and I live on Harkney Hill Road.
24 My passion concerning fire service dates back more
25 than 40 years when I was a volunteer fireman in the

1 Anthony Fire District. My business background is
2 management, operations and finance. I was a member
3 of the Western Coventry Chief's Selection
4 Committee. As an interested resident, I have
5 attended many board meetings, and also, all of the
6 meetings dealing with the current operating budget.
7 In the next few years, there will be many
8 challenges dealing with the necessity for updating
9 and/or replacing fire apparatus and other
10 equipment. I know that my background will aid me
11 in the decisionmaking processes. I ask for your
12 vote tonight. Thank you.

13 MR. MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you very
14 much, Mr. Jackson. You've heard the three
15 candidates. Before we move to the election part of
16 this, John Humble has to come up and make a nice
17 announcement about a grant that we received.

18 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: On behalf of the
19 District, I'd just like to express the District's
20 appreciation and also the residents and voters of
21 the District, Senator Raptakis has granted a
22 legislative grant for \$500 to the District. So,
23 we very much appreciate that type of support.

24 MR. MODERATOR: Okay. Now I'd like
25 everyone to circle two of the three candidates, and

1 maybe, Bob, do you want to walk around with the box
2 and then I'm going to ask after we've collected all
3 the ballots, there's 25 qualified voters in the
4 room right now, I would like to ask if Mr. Hudson
5 could go with the counters, and Mr. Novak, if you
6 wouldn't mind going with Mr. Hudson. And just go
7 in the other room and oversee the counting of
8 ballots. Once they're collected, we'll take a
9 five- or ten-minute recess until the counters come
10 back out.

11 (A BALLOT VOTE WAS TAKEN)

12 MR. MODERATOR: I will call the meeting
13 back to order from the short recess. We have the
14 tallies from our tellers. Thank you very much to
15 the tellers for helping out, and I know Mr. Hudson
16 and Mr. Novak, also. So the count goes to Mr.
17 Bousquet with 24, Mr. Jackson 20, and Dr. Cottrell
18 six. But don't go away, because I'm sure they
19 could use you for something. That being said, I
20 would like to call our State delegation up to the
21 front, please, and we'll start with Mr. Bousquet.
22 Mr. Chippendale, if you want to go first and
23 administer the oath.

24 MR. CHIPPENDALE: First, I think it's
25 worth noting, Rev. Doctor for her position as a

1 volunteer, and that speaks greatly for someone
2 willing to do a job as a volunteer that is often a
3 thankless job.

4 MR. MODERATOR: This is our State
5 Representative, Mike Chippendale, for people who
6 don't know.

7 STEPHEN BOUSQUET,
8 HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN, ACCEPTS THE OATH
9 OF OFFICE

10 MR. MODERATOR: This is Senator Rogers,
11 and it is going to be Kenneth Jackson.

12 KENNETH JACKSON,
13 HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN, ACCEPTS THE OATH
14 OF OFFICE

15 MR. MODERATOR: Before I ask for an
16 adjournment for tonight's meeting, I believe we've
17 covered everything, I just have one comment to make
18 or a compliment, actually. As a long-time taxpayer
19 of the District and also being involved in the
20 District over many years, I just wanted to thank
21 John Humble -- this is his last meeting -- for all
22 his years of dedication and service to this fire
23 district. John was in charge of the building
24 committee that got this building put up, and you
25 can look at the cornerstone, 2009. Ten years has

1 gone by fast, and I just, I personally appreciate
2 everything that John has done. John has put in an
3 unbelievable amount of hours in his past 12, 15
4 years of being involved in the District. A super
5 dedicated guy, very much into detail, and this
6 building shows it. I remember on the building
7 committee that John, with his engineering
8 background, you know, he applied a lot of his
9 knowledge and skills to the quality of construction
10 that we have here, and how much the district has
11 come forward in the past ten or twelve years with
12 the little station around the corner to the
13 facility that we have now, having our first
14 full-time chief, having full-time staff, having
15 amazing coverage in the District, and it reflects,
16 from his leadership, to the chief, to the people
17 that serve and protect our community. So this is
18 personally from me. It is from my heart. I really
19 appreciate everything that John has done. And he
20 is not going away, because we know where he lives.
21 Thank you very much, John.

22 With that being said, is there any other
23 business for tonight's meeting? If there is no
24 other -- yes, Mr. Holt.

25 MR. HOLT: I'd like to say something.

1 MR. MODERATOR: Richard.

2 MR. HOLT: Richard Holt, 1340 Plainfield
3 Pike. I just have a few words to say to John.
4 Bear with me one minute here. Every once in awhile
5 a true neighbor steps forward and makes a
6 monumental contribution to the community. John
7 Humble is one of those honorable neighbors. John
8 joined the Fire District Board of Directors in the
9 year 2000, and since then he has completed
10 thousands of hours of work and brought
11 extraordinary hours of emergency service of the
12 highest quality to the Western Coventry community.
13 From the very start as a Member of the Board, he
14 provided insight and guidance in the development of
15 an intensive program that encouraged greater
16 participation by Department Members in attending
17 training sessions and making emergency response
18 calls. John recognized the need to replace the
19 former Summit Fire Station because of inadequate
20 space for our equipment and staff. He researched
21 scores of professional demographic databases to
22 determine the future needs of the fire district.
23 It was a well-documented presentation to the Board
24 of Directors and subsequently to the voters and
25 resulted in taxpayer authorization to construct

1 this station. Even though his elected service was
2 interrupted for a three-year period, he continued
3 to serve as chairman of the Fire Station Building
4 Committee. During this time, he oversaw every step
5 of the construction effort. With John's
6 leadership, our new state-of-the-art fire station
7 was completed on time and under budget.

8 Shortly after his return to elected service,
9 his fellow Board Members selected him as Chairman
10 of the Board, a position he has held ever since.
11 In this capacity, he's provided outstanding
12 leadership through an internal staffing crisis of
13 the fire department. He also provided assistance
14 and support to our neighboring fire district as it
15 went through a painful receivership and
16 reorganization. In addition, John has provided the
17 necessary leadership to the District Standards
18 Administrative Procedures Committee for the past
19 several years. This committee has written and
20 edited dozens of complex administrative procedures
21 to ensure the smooth administration of the fire
22 district and the fire department. His
23 extraordinary leadership has provided the fire
24 district taxpayers with an operating budget that
25 has delivered first class emergency services to the

1 community. This has also resulted in numerous
2 operating surpluses. John's dedication and
3 commitment inspired me to stay involved much longer
4 than what I originally planned. Through his
5 leadership, he has built something lasting for the
6 community. It is that level of voluntary
7 commitment and service that allows all of us to
8 view John as a true neighbor in every sense. John,
9 thank you for all you've done for our community.
10 John, now that you'll be retiring, I trust you'll
11 have enough time to finish painting your house.

12 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: Maybe.

13 MR. HOLT: Giselle, could you come up,
14 please. Stand by John, if you would. John, this
15 is something to remember us by, and no, it is not a
16 gold watch.

17 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: Is it a paint brush?
18 Shall I open it?

19 MR. HOLT: Sure.

20 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: Giselle, will you read
21 the inscription.

22 MRS. HUMBLE: I will. It says, "John
23 Humble, extraordinary service from 2000 to 2019."
24 Wow! It has been that long. "Western Coventry Fire
25 District." Nice job.

1 MR. HOLT: Giselle, we all know he
2 couldn't have done what he has done without your
3 support and guidance, so thank you very much.

4 MRS. HUMBLE: I have to say, he is so
5 dedicated to this and has worked numerous hours,
6 but he did so because he just wanted to try to do
7 something for both the taxpayers in the community
8 and the members of this district just trying to do
9 the best for everybody. He always worked very,
10 very hard, and he is going to miss it.

11 MR. HOLT: We're going to miss him.

12 MRS. HUMBLE: He is just down the road.
13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN HUMBLE: My two major objectives
15 were to get this building built and get us a
16 full-time chief, and the two are excellent.

17 MR. MODERATOR: If there's no other
18 business for tonight's Annual Meeting, I will
19 entertain a motion for adjournment.

20 MR. MANN: So moved.

21 (MOTION AND SECOND)

22 MR. MODERATOR: All in favor, say aye.

23 (VOICE VOTE)

24 MR. MODERATOR: Opposed?

25 (MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:55 P.M.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Michele Kelly Gaudet, RPR, Notary Public,
do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the
forgoing proceedings, and that the foregoing
transcript contains a true, accurate, and complete
record of the proceedings at the above-entitled
hearing.

In witness whereof, I have here unto set my
hand and seal this 8th day of April 2019.

Michele Kelly Gaudet, RPR, Notary Public
Certified Court Reporter
My Commission Expires February 14, 2022.

	11:23	6:15	18:24;20:9,24;22:10,13	brought (1) 25:10
\$	addition (1) 26:16	appreciate (5) 3:3;8:25;21:23; 24:1,19	backbone (1) 8:8	Brown (2) 12:10,18
\$1.6 (1) 16:24	address (4) 4:25;5:2;8:10; 15:18	appreciation (1) 21:20	background (4) 20:12;21:1,10;24:8	brush (1) 27:17
\$12,000 (3) 16:1,2,3	addressed (2) 5:2;13:5	approach (1) 4:22	balance (3) 9:11,12,19	budget (12) 15:7,25;16:7,10,14, 20,23;17:1,3;21:6; 26:7,24
\$15,600 (1) 17:17	ADJOURNED (1) 28:25	approaching (1) 16:14	ballot (5) 18:16,17,23;19:3; 22:11	budgeted (1) 15:21
\$260,573 (1) 9:20	adjournment (2) 23:16;28:19	Approximately (2) 16:3,5	ballots (2) 22:3,8	building (9) 2:20;8:5,6;23:23, 24;24:6,6;26:3;28:15
\$269,000 (1) 9:25	administer (1) 22:23	area (1) 20:5	Baptist (1) 20:1	built (2) 27:5;28:15
\$3,900 (1) 17:16	administration (1) 26:21	around (2) 22:1;24:12	based (1) 10:12	business (9) 7:11;14:5,6,6,7; 18:8;21:1;24:23; 28:18
\$306,000 (1) 9:11	Administrative (2) 26:18,20	assembly (2) 4:23;5:23	basically (1) 9:13	businesses (1) 4:13
\$417,000 (1) 9:12	adopted (1) 15:8	assessment (1) 12:9	Bear (1) 25:4	buyback (1) 11:14
\$494,817 (1) 16:13	affiliated (1) 12:10	assessments (1) 12:11	beginning (1) 3:19	buyout (2) 11:14,16
\$500 (1) 21:22	affirmative (1) 6:11	asset (1) 19:21	behalf (1) 21:18	C
\$501,000 (1) 10:2	again (2) 12:8;15:18	assistance (2) 6:14;26:13	best (1) 28:9	Cady (15) 2:15,17;4:2,2;8:10, 11,12;12:1,6,18;13:8, 10,15,16,25
\$524,000 (1) 16:15	against (1) 8:1	assurance (1) 13:2	Bill (5) 3:20,20,23;7:20; 8:7	call (10) 3:2,2;6:11,17;7:19; 8:10;14:7;16:18; 22:12,20
\$524,848 (1) 16:21	ago (1) 6:5	attached (1) 11:23	blacked (1) 13:9	calls (3) 13:3;18:9;25:18
\$532,000 (1) 9:20	agreements (1) 10:17	attempt (2) 9:1,18	bless (1) 20:20	came (1) 4:14
\$723,000 (1) 10:6	ahead (2) 8:19;9:7	attend (1) 20:8	Board (23) 3:25;4:5,7,9,11; 5:12;6:22;9:4;10:10; 14:2,12;16:16;18:10; 19:14,18;20:9,19; 21:5;25:8,13,23;26:9, 10	Camp (3) 7:7;8:20;15:19
\$848,774 (1) 15:7	aid (1) 21:10	attendance (3) 2:9,11;3:13	both (2) 3:16;28:7	can (12) 3:19;4:23,24;5:1,3, 3,11;10:8;12:22; 16:24;18:15;23:25
A	Allegiance (1) 3:7	attended (2) 19:15;21:5	bottom (1) 13:22	candidates (5) 18:12,16;19:1; 21:15,25
able (3) 7:9,12;8:21	allows (1) 27:7	attendees (1) 6:2	Bousquet (9) 4:7,7;9:14;18:14; 19:3,5;22:17,21;23:7	candidate's (1) 20:16
accept (1) 6:22	always (1) 28:9	attending (2) 20:3;25:16	Bowen (1) 8:13	capacity (1) 26:11
accepted (1) 5:22	amazing (2) 19:21;24:15	audience (2) 3:11;5:9	box (2) 18:23;22:1	capital (2) 9:12;17:17
ACCEPTS (2) 23:8,13	amendments (1) 5:14	audit (3) 9:24,25;10:7	Bridge (1) 15:14	Captain (3) 10:21;11:25;12:2
accomplished (1) 6:3	amount (1) 24:3	authorization (1) 25:25	brief (1) 9:1	card (1) 6:4
accuracy (1) 5:13	and/or (2) 7:10;21:9	available (1) 12:11	bring (2) 2:22;18:19	care (3) 11:13,13;12:3
achievements (1) 8:11	announcement (1) 21:17	away (2) 22:18;24:20	brings (1) 2:19	
achieving (1) 13:22	Annual (3) 2:4,6;28:18	awhile (1) 25:4		
Acting (1) 2:5	Anthony (1) 21:1	aye (2) 18:2;28:22		
actions (1) 14:11	apparatus (3) 17:16,17;21:9	eyes (1) 18:4		
active (1) 8:2	appears (1) 6:10	B		
actually (2) 19:16;23:18	applied (3) 18:12,13;24:8	back (9) 5:8,18,18;8:6;		
added (1)	appointed (1)			

<p>carried (1) 15:2</p> <p>carries (1) 7:17</p> <p>case (3) 8:1;16:22;20:3</p> <p>cash (6) 9:13,24,25;10:4,4,8</p> <p>cell (1) 3:1</p> <p>Central (1) 8:14</p> <p>CEREMONIES (1) 3:8</p> <p>certainly (1) 9:17</p> <p>CHAIRMAN (24) 3:25;9:17;10:16, 20,22,25;11:6,9,17, 20;12:14;14:10;15:6, 24;16:2,6;17:14; 21:18;26:3,9;27:12, 17,20;28:14</p> <p>challenge (1) 11:3</p> <p>challenged (1) 6:13</p> <p>challenges (1) 21:8</p> <p>changed (1) 6:4</p> <p>charge (1) 23:23</p> <p>Charles (1) 8:13</p> <p>charter (1) 18:9</p> <p>Chief (22) 2:15,17;4:2,2;8:10, 11,12,16;10:18;11:3; 12:1,6,16,18;13:8,10, 15,16,25;24:14,16; 28:16</p> <p>chief's (2) 6:23;21:3</p> <p>Chippendale (4) 3:16;22:22,24;23:5</p> <p>Chuck (1) 2:4</p> <p>circle (2) 18:18;21:25</p> <p>clarifies (1) 13:13</p> <p>clarify (1) 5:13</p> <p>class (1) 26:25</p> <p>clear (1) 6:10</p> <p>clerk (2) 4:4;6:17</p> <p>clients (1) 7:24</p>	<p>codes (1) 20:14</p> <p>collected (2) 22:2,8</p> <p>collector (2) 2:8;6:22</p> <p>Color (1) 3:6</p> <p>colored (2) 6:4,6</p> <p>Colors (1) 3:6</p> <p>coming (2) 3:18;19:23</p> <p>COMMENCED (1) 2:1</p> <p>comment (7) 4:18;5:11;8:3,22; 9:3;16:13;23:17</p> <p>comments (8) 5:1,4,6;7:10,20; 14:2;16:9;19:10</p> <p>commitment (2) 27:3,7</p> <p>Committee (6) 21:4;23:24;24:7; 26:4,18,19</p> <p>community (7) 24:17;25:6,12; 27:1,6,9;28:7</p> <p>compensation (1) 16:12</p> <p>completed (2) 25:9;26:7</p> <p>complex (1) 26:20</p> <p>compliant (1) 17:15</p> <p>compliment (1) 23:18</p> <p>concern (3) 12:14;13:16;19:9</p> <p>concerned (2) 11:12;19:11</p> <p>concerning (1) 20:24</p> <p>Congratulations (1) 12:5</p> <p>consideration (1) 14:8</p> <p>Consistent (1) 5:20</p> <p>construct (1) 25:25</p> <p>construction (2) 24:9;26:5</p> <p>contact (1) 12:22</p> <p>continued (1) 26:2</p> <p>contract (2) 11:8,10</p> <p>contracts (1)</p>	<p>10:14</p> <p>contribution (1) 25:6</p> <p>controller (1) 12:20</p> <p>copy (1) 9:24</p> <p>corner (3) 16:10,12;24:12</p> <p>cornerstone (2) 8:5;23:25</p> <p>cost (2) 16:19;17:16</p> <p>Cottrell (3) 18:14;20:1;22:17</p> <p>counsel (2) 3:23;7:20</p> <p>count (2) 6:14;22:16</p> <p>counters (2) 22:5,9</p> <p>counting (1) 22:7</p> <p>couple (2) 6:5;18:24</p> <p>courtesy (1) 2:24</p> <p>Coventry (12) 2:3,7;3:5;8:8,14, 15;14:13;15:7;20:5; 21:3;25:12;27:24</p> <p>cover (1) 2:14</p> <p>coverage (3) 13:20,20;24:15</p> <p>covered (1) 23:17</p> <p>created (1) 13:11</p> <p>crisis (1) 26:12</p> <p>current (3) 10:14;13:23;21:6</p>	<p>5:21,22</p> <p>decisionmaking (1) 21:11</p> <p>declare (1) 4:17</p> <p>dedicated (2) 24:5;28:5</p> <p>dedication (2) 23:22;27:2</p> <p>delegation (2) 3:14;22:20</p> <p>delivered (1) 26:25</p> <p>demographic (1) 25:21</p> <p>denied (1) 13:7</p> <p>Department (4) 8:9;25:16;26:13,22</p> <p>detail (2) 16:12;24:5</p> <p>determine (1) 25:22</p> <p>development (1) 25:14</p> <p>different (1) 10:25</p> <p>directly (1) 12:22</p> <p>Directors (10) 4:1,6,8,10,11;5:12; 6:23;14:12;25:8,24</p> <p>Directors' (2) 10:10;18:10</p> <p>disappointed (1) 20:18</p> <p>discussion (5) 13:11;14:22;15:17; 17:25;18:1</p> <p>District (39) 2:4,5,7;3:24;4:3; 7:20,23;8:1,9;11:12; 13:19;14:13;15:7; 16:19;19:7,12,21; 20:7,13,15,19;21:1, 19,21,22;23:19,20, 23;24:4,10,15;25:8, 22;26:14,17,22,24; 27:25;28:8</p> <p>Districts (1) 8:15</p> <p>district's (2) 19:13;21:19</p> <p>doctor (3) 12:23;19:24;22:25</p> <p>dollars (1) 16:16</p> <p>done (5) 24:2,19;27:9;28:2, 2</p> <p>door (2) 2:19;18:18</p> <p>down (3)</p>	<p>2:22;3:21;28:12</p> <p>dozens (1) 26:20</p> <p>Dr (3) 18:14;20:1;22:17</p> <p>DULY (2) 23:8,13</p> <p>During (3) 4:17;14:13;26:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>Earl (3) 6:15;15:14;18:20</p> <p>edited (1) 26:20</p> <p>effort (1) 26:5</p> <p>eight (1) 20:5</p> <p>either (1) 6:10</p> <p>elected (3) 18:10;26:1,8</p> <p>election (3) 18:8,11;21:15</p> <p>electors (2) 5:21,25</p> <p>else (2) 14:4;16:10</p> <p>emergency (5) 2:15;3:2;25:11,17; 26:25</p> <p>employment (1) 10:16</p> <p>EMS (1) 12:2</p> <p>EMT/cardiac (1) 13:20</p> <p>encouraged (1) 25:15</p> <p>end (3) 3:19;6:8;20:13</p> <p>ending (1) 14:14</p> <p>engineering (1) 24:7</p> <p>enough (1) 27:11</p> <p>ensure (3) 5:13;7:9;26:21</p> <p>ensuring (1) 13:19</p> <p>entertain (1) 28:19</p> <p>Equipment (3) 17:18;21:10;25:20</p> <p>equivalent (3) 9:13,25;10:4</p> <p>especially (1) 13:23</p> <p>Even (1) 26:1</p>
--	--	--	--	--

<p>evening (2) 2:2;20:22</p> <p>everybody (1) 28:9</p> <p>everyone (7) 2:25;3:4;4:24; 5:19;7:3;18:16;21:25</p> <p>Everyone's (1) 6:5</p> <p>excellent (1) 28:16</p> <p>except (1) 5:13</p> <p>exit (3) 2:18,19,20</p> <p>exits (2) 2:16,17</p> <p>expect (1) 5:9</p> <p>explained (1) 15:11</p> <p>express (1) 21:19</p> <p>extraordinary (3) 25:11;26:23;27:23</p>	<p>15:7;19:7,12;20:13, 24;21:1,9;23:22; 25:8,19,22;26:3,6,13, 14,21,22,23;27:24</p> <p>firefighter (1) 11:16</p> <p>firefighters (1) 16:18</p> <p>fireman (1) 20:25</p> <p>first (6) 9:8;17:15;22:22, 24;24:13;26:25</p> <p>fiscal (2) 14:13;15:8</p> <p>five- (1) 22:9</p> <p>Flat (2) 6:21;14:19</p> <p>floor (4) 4:18;6:18;17:7,20</p> <p>followup (1) 16:9</p> <p>former (1) 25:19</p> <p>forth (1) 5:9</p> <p>forward (2) 24:11;25:5</p> <p>four (2) 16:17;17:14</p> <p>frankly (2) 20:6,9</p> <p>Friday (1) 11:1</p> <p>front (6) 2:20,23;3:18;4:23; 18:19;22:21</p> <p>full (1) 11:21</p> <p>full-time (4) 16:17;24:14,14; 28:16</p> <p>full-timer's (1) 10:14</p> <p>fund (3) 9:11,12;17:18</p> <p>funds (1) 17:2</p> <p>further (1) 12:24</p> <p>future (1) 25:22</p>	<p>27:13,20;28:1</p> <p>Glenn (3) 9:10,13,14</p> <p>goal (2) 13:21,22</p> <p>God (1) 20:20</p> <p>goes (1) 22:16</p> <p>gold (1) 27:16</p> <p>Good (5) 2:2;12:23;20:16, 19,22</p> <p>Gordon (1) 3:15</p> <p>grant (2) 21:17,22</p> <p>granted (1) 21:21</p> <p>great (1) 20:12</p> <p>greater (1) 25:15</p> <p>greatly (2) 20:18;23:1</p> <p>Green (2) 6:6;14:25</p> <p>Group (1) 12:19</p> <p>Guard (1) 3:6</p> <p>guess (3) 13:15,16,21</p> <p>guidance (2) 25:14;28:3</p> <p>guy (1) 24:5</p>	<p>26:10</p> <p>help (1) 20:15</p> <p>helping (1) 22:15</p> <p>HEVEY (2) 4:11,11</p> <p>High (1) 3:5</p> <p>highest (1) 25:12</p> <p>highlights (1) 9:10</p> <p>Hill (3) 7:1;17:22;20:23</p> <p>himself (1) 3:21</p> <p>HIPAA (1) 12:15</p> <p>Holt (13) 4:5,5;16:1,3,5; 24:24,25;25:2,2; 27:13,19;28:1,11</p> <p>honorable (1) 25:7</p> <p>honored (1) 3:13</p> <p>hope (1) 16:23</p> <p>hours (5) 19:20;24:3;25:10, 11;28:5</p> <p>house (1) 27:11</p> <p>Hudson (3) 22:4,6,15</p> <p>Humble (38) 3:25,25;9:17; 10:12,15,16,20,22, 25;11:6,9,17,20; 12:14;14:7,9,10;15:4, 6,11,22,24;16:2,6; 17:13,14;21:16,18; 23:21;25:7;27:12,17, 20,22,23;28:4,12,14</p>	<p>12:24</p> <p>inscription (1) 27:21</p> <p>insight (1) 25:14</p> <p>inspired (1) 27:3</p> <p>instances (1) 5:23</p> <p>Instead (2) 11:14;12:23</p> <p>intensive (1) 25:15</p> <p>interested (2) 20:7;21:4</p> <p>internal (1) 26:12</p> <p>interrupted (1) 26:2</p> <p>into (2) 19:20;24:5</p> <p>introduce (1) 3:21</p> <p>invite (1) 4:12</p> <p>INVOCATION (1) 3:9</p> <p>involved (4) 19:7;23:19;24:4; 27:3</p> <p>issued (1) 6:4</p> <p>issues (1) 2:14</p> <p>item (1) 16:6</p>
F				J
<p>facility (1) 24:13</p> <p>fact (1) 11:21</p> <p>fall (1) 12:4</p> <p>fantastic (1) 19:18</p> <p>far (1) 11:11</p> <p>fashion (1) 4:20</p> <p>fast (1) 24:1</p> <p>favor (5) 7:4,15;14:24;17:8; 28:22</p> <p>February (2) 14:14;15:9</p> <p>fellow (1) 26:9</p> <p>fellows (1) 20:17</p> <p>few (3) 16:15;21:7;25:3</p> <p>filling (1) 11:3</p> <p>finance (1) 21:2</p> <p>financial (1) 9:10</p> <p>finish (1) 27:11</p> <p>Fire (24) 2:3,7;8:8,15;14:13;</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>GARDENER (2) 4:3,3</p> <p>general (2) 9:11;10:11</p> <p>gentlemen (2) 2:3;3:17</p> <p>Giselle (3)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>hand (1) 6:3</p> <p>hands (1) 12:4</p> <p>hard (2) 19:19;28:10</p> <p>Harkney (3) 6:25;17:22;20:23</p> <p>Harsch (6) 3:20,20,23,23;7:20, 21</p> <p>health (2) 11:12,13</p> <p>healthcare (1) 11:15</p> <p>hear (2) 4:24;5:3</p> <p>heard (2) 17:19;21:14</p> <p>heart (1) 24:18</p> <p>held (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>impressed (2) 7:24;20:8</p> <p>improvement (1) 13:2</p> <p>inadequate (1) 25:19</p> <p>including (1) 5:24</p> <p>increase (1) 10:4</p> <p>increased (1) 16:20</p> <p>individuals (2) 3:11;5:6</p> <p>information (1)</p>	<p>jacks (1) 6:9</p> <p>Jackson (12) 6:25,25;17:21,21; 18:15;20:21,22,23; 21:14;22:17;23:11, 12</p> <p>January (1) 11:10</p> <p>Jim (1) 4:2</p> <p>JOAN (2) 2:10;18:22</p> <p>job (3) 23:2,3;27:25</p> <p>John (23) 3:25;9:16;12:13; 19:20;21:16;23:21, 23;24:2,2,7,19,21; 25:3,6,7,18;26:16; 27:8,8,10,14,14,22</p> <p>John's (2) 26:5;27:2</p> <p>Johnson (2)</p>

10:24;13:17 Johnston (2) 11:1;12:3 join (2) 3:4;8:4 joined (1) 25:8 jumping (1) 6:9	live (1) 20:23 lived (1) 20:4 lives (1) 24:20 local (1) 4:13 Log (1) 15:14 long (2) 20:19;27:24 longer (1) 27:3 long-time (1) 23:18 look (2) 15:24;23:25 looked (2) 9:23;10:5 looks (1) 10:6 lot (3) 10:8;20:13;24:8 lower (2) 16:10,11	Meeting (17) 2:4,5,6;3:18;4:17; 5:5;6:15,18;8:4; 19:15,16;22:12; 23:16,21;24:23; 28:18,25 meetings (3) 20:4;21:5,6 member (3) 8:13;21:2;25:13 members (6) 3:5;8:9;13:5; 25:16;26:9;28:8 met (1) 19:14 microphone (1) 4:22 Mike (2) 3:16;23:5 million (1) 16:24 mind (1) 22:6 mine (1) 20:15 minister (1) 20:2 minute (1) 25:4 minutes (6) 5:8;9:6;18:24;19:2, 6;20:3 miss (2) 28:10,11 moderate (1) 2:6 MODERATOR (63) 2:2,5,12,24;3:10; 4:12,15;5:7;6:20,24; 7:3,6,8,12,14,17,19, 22;8:7,16,19,23;9:2, 6,15;10:9,13,15;12:8, 13;13:15;14:1,4,11, 15,18,22;15:2,4,10, 13,17,20,22;17:6,10, 13,19,24;18:4,7; 19:24;20:21;21:13, 24;22:12;23:4,10,15; 25:1;28:17,22,24 monumental (1) 25:6 more (6) 10:18,21,23;16:9; 20:17,24 most (1) 7:23 motion (22) 4:19;5:16;6:18,21; 7:1,2,4,14,18;14:16, 21;15:3,11,16;17:7, 12,19,23,24;18:6; 28:19,21 motions (3)	5:14,15,24 move (7) 10:8;14:6,11,23; 15:6;17:14;21:15 moved (1) 28:20 moving (1) 14:24 MRS (3) 27:22;28:4,12 much (11) 3:17;15:21;21:14, 23;22:14;24:5,10,21; 27:3;28:3,13	NOVAK (35) 7:5,7,7,13;8:18,20, 20,25;9:3,5,8,22; 10:10,18,21,24;11:4, 7,11,19,24;12:5,7; 13:6,9,13;14:2,3; 15:19,19;16:4,8; 17:6;22:5,16 number (5) 2:8;9:10;10:6; 14:10;19:19 numerous (2) 27:1;28:5 nurse (1) 12:23
K			N	O
keep (1) 9:1 Ken (6) 6:24,25;17:21; 18:14;20:21,22 Kenneth (2) 23:11,12 Kent (3) 7:7;8:20;15:19 knowledge (2) 19:13;24:9	M		name (8) 2:4;4:25;5:2;7:6; 8:19;14:18;15:13,17 Naturally (1) 3:1 Navy (1) 3:5 necessary (1) 26:17 necessity (1) 21:8 need (4) 3:11;5:17;19:5; 25:18 needed (1) 20:15 needs (1) 25:22 negative (1) 6:11 neighbor (2) 25:5;27:8 neighboring (1) 26:14 neighbors (2) 20:6;25:7 new (4) 7:11;14:6,7;26:6 next (3) 13:14;18:7;21:7 nice (2) 21:16;27:25 night (1) 6:8 none (2) 14:24;18:4 non-voter (1) 6:7 non-voting (1) 3:10 notable (1) 8:10 note (4) 2:15;9:24;10:2,7 noting (1) 22:25	oath (3) 22:23;23:8,13 objectives (1) 28:14 occurred (1) 13:18 October (1) 20:10 off (1) 2:25 OFFICE (2) 23:9,14 Officers (3) 14:12;18:9,10 official (1) 18:23 often (1) 23:2 old (2) 14:5,6 Once (4) 4:21;18:16;22:8; 25:4 one (9) 7:23;8:1;11:21; 15:20;19:15;20:10; 23:17;25:4,7 only (3) 10:5;12:14;13:4 onto (1) 10:8 open (2) 19:17;27:18 OPENING (1) 3:8 operating (4) 15:7;21:6;26:24; 27:2 operations (1) 21:2 Opposed (5) 7:17;15:2;17:10; 18:4;28:24 order (9) 4:17;5:6,20;7:5,8;
L				
ladies (1) 2:2 last (2) 10:22;23:21 lasting (1) 27:5 law-abiding (1) 7:23 laws (1) 20:14 leadership (6) 24:16;26:6,12,17, 23;27:5 learn (1) 19:18 led (1) 19:20 left (3) 2:17,21,21 legal (2) 3:23;7:25 legislative (1) 21:22 length (1) 10:13 less (1) 9:20 level (1) 27:6 limited (2) 5:7;20:2 line (3) 13:21,22;16:6 litigation (1) 8:2 little (1) 24:12	Madam (2) 2:7;6:17 major (1) 28:14 majority (4) 5:21,25;6:2,10 makes (1) 25:5 making (1) 25:17 management (1) 21:2 Mann (9) 6:16,20,20;10:21; 14:17,19,19;18:21; 28:20 many (6) 8:14;16:22;20:8; 21:5,7;23:20 March (1) 15:8 Mariann (1) 4:3 matter (1) 11:20 may (1) 6:1 Maybe (4) 9:16;10:7;22:1; 27:12 med (1) 12:19 med-con (1) 12:22			

<p>8:18;18:7;19:3;22:13 orderly (1) 4:20 originally (1) 27:4 otherwise (2) 6:2;8:3 out (9) 5:5;13:9;16:20; 17:4;19:8,23;20:15; 22:10,15 outside (2) 3:3;5:4 outstanding (2) 8:1;26:11 over (3) 2:21;10:3;23:20 oversaw (1) 26:4 oversee (1) 22:7 overtime (1) 15:21</p>	<p>pay (1) 11:23 payroll (1) 16:13 people (13) 2:25;3:14;5:9;6:7, 8;16:18,25;19:18,22; 20:8,19;23:5;24:16 per (1) 12:2 percent (4) 10:3;13:20,20; 16:20 perhaps (1) 9:16 period (2) 10:3;26:2 personally (2) 24:1,18 personnel (1) 8:10 phones (1) 3:1 physicians (2) 12:9,19 piece (1) 19:17 Pike (1) 25:3 Plainfield (1) 25:2 planned (1) 27:4 please (12) 2:8,15;3:4;4:19; 6:17;14:18;15:5,13, 18;19:25;22:21; 27:14 pleased (1) 8:3 Pledge (1) 3:7 PM (2) 2:1;28:25 Point (6) 7:5,8,25;8:18;9:22; 16:19 pointing (1) 17:4 portable (1) 17:15 position (2) 22:25;26:10 positions (3) 18:11,12;20:11 posted (2) 4:13;10:1 practice (1) 17:2 present (3) 5:21,25;14:8 Presentation (2) 3:6;25:23</p>	<p>presented (2) 5:15;6:23 preside (1) 4:15 pretty (1) 6:8 privileged (1) 5:24 probably (1) 19:8 procedural (2) 5:14,17 Procedures (2) 26:18,20 proceedings (1) 4:16 processes (1) 21:11 professional (2) 19:12;25:21 program (1) 25:15 protect (1) 24:17 provide (5) 11:12,13;12:16,19, 25 provided (7) 12:9;13:12;25:14; 26:11,13,16,23 provisions (2) 11:14,15 public (1) 12:12 purchase (1) 17:14 put (6) 3:1;5:17;18:20; 19:20;23:24;24:2</p>	<p>Raquel (1) 4:9 ratified (1) 14:14 read (5) 5:18,18;6:17; 19:11;27:20 reading (1) 10:12 realize (1) 16:25 really (2) 20:2;24:18 reason (1) 10:5 reasons (1) 16:22 receivables (1) 9:20 received (2) 18:17;21:17 receivership (1) 26:15 recess (2) 22:9,13 recognize (3) 3:13;4:21;8:13 recognized (3) 4:19;5:7;25:18 record (2) 4:25;5:3 red (2) 3:11;6:6 referenced (1) 16:16 referring (1) 11:17 reflects (1) 24:15 refusal (3) 11:18,19,22 registered (2) 2:10,12 regulate (1) 4:16 remains (1) 7:23 remember (2) 24:6;27:15 reorganization (1) 26:16 replace (1) 25:18 replacing (1) 21:9 report (9) 9:8,9;10:10,12; 13:5,7,8,10;16:17 reports (4) 6:22,23;7:10;8:22 Reppa (1) 18:14 Representative (2)</p>	<p>3:16;23:5 request (1) 6:13 requested (1) 6:2 required (1) 6:1 requirement (1) 13:4 requirements (1) 12:15 rescue (2) 11:25;12:1 rescue/recovery (1) 17:1 researched (1) 25:20 resident (1) 21:4 residents (1) 21:20 resignation (1) 13:23 resigned (2) 11:1;13:17 Resolution (7) 14:10,23,24;15:4; 17:11,13;18:1 resolutions (3) 7:11;14:8;18:5 respect (1) 6:12 response (2) 17:15;25:17 responsibilities (1) 12:2 rest (1) 19:9 rests (1) 8:9 resulted (2) 25:25;27:1 retiring (1) 27:10 return (1) 26:8 REV (2) 20:1;22:25 Reverend (1) 18:14 review (1) 4:12 Richard (3) 4:5;25:1,2 right (5) 2:18;3:12;8:2; 11:22;22:4 right-hand (3) 2:19;16:10,11 River (2) 6:21;14:19 Road (10) 6:21;7:1,8;8:21;</p>
P				
<p>P-25 (1) 17:15 pace (1) 16:25 packets (1) 4:13 Page (5) 9:9,19;10:11;12:7; 16:11 painful (1) 26:15 paint (1) 27:17 painting (1) 27:11 part (1) 21:15 participation (1) 25:16 particular (1) 7:22 pass (1) 18:2 passed (2) 18:5,6 PASSES (5) 7:18;15:3;17:10, 11,12 passion (1) 20:24 past (5) 4:21;11:1;24:3,11; 26:18 patient (1) 12:21 Paul (1) 11:4</p>				
		Q		
		<p>qualified (7) 2:8;5:22;6:1,6; 18:17;20:17;22:3 quality (4) 13:2,2;24:9;25:12 quarterly (3) 12:9,11;13:1 quite (2) 20:6,9 quorum (3) 2:13,13;19:17</p>		
		R		
		<p>radios (1) 17:15 Randall (5) 6:15;15:12,14,14; 18:21 Raptakis (1) 21:21</p>		

<p>14:20;15:15,20; 17:22;20:23;28:12 Robert (2) 6:20;14:19 Roberts (1) 5:20 Rogers (2) 3:15;23:10 role (1) 4:15 room (6) 2:25;3:17,19;4:25; 22:4,7 ROTC (1) 3:5 Rules (1) 5:20</p>	<p>several (1) 26:19 shall (3) 6:11,13;27:18 sheet (1) 9:19 shocked (1) 8:4 short (1) 22:13 Shortly (1) 26:8 show (2) 14:25;18:1 shows (1) 24:6 side (2) 2:19;3:12 sidewalk (1) 2:22 signing (1) 20:11 simple (2) 5:14,17 sit (1) 3:12 six (2) 19:8;22:18 six-year (1) 10:3 skills (1) 24:9 slot (1) 11:3 Smith (2) 2:4,10 smooth (1) 26:21 somebody (1) 5:12 someone (4) 9:2,4;13:6;23:1 sorry (1) 13:18 space (1) 25:20 speaks (1) 23:1 special (1) 5:23 Sr (1) 8:13 staff (2) 24:14;25:20 staffing (1) 26:12 stand (5) 3:4;4:19,24;6:7; 27:14 Standards (1) 26:17 start (5) 3:19,21;19:2;</p>	<p>22:21;25:13 started (3) 2:14;20:7,10 starting (1) 9:7 state (7) 2:8;3:14,15;4:25; 5:2;22:20;23:4 statement (1) 20:16 state-of-the-art (1) 26:6 station (5) 24:12;25:19;26:1, 3,6 stay (1) 27:3 stenographer (1) 5:3 step (1) 26:4 STEPHEN (1) 23:7 steps (1) 25:5 Steve (3) 4:7;18:13;19:24 still (1) 11:4 Storti (2) 4:9,9 story (1) 11:1 strength (1) 8:8 subject (1) 18:11 subsequently (1) 25:24 subsidized (1) 17:1 Summit (1) 25:19 super (1) 24:4 support (4) 17:3;21:23;26:14; 28:3 Sure (4) 10:9;12:16;22:18; 27:19 surpluses (1) 27:2 SWORN (2) 23:8,13</p>	<p>tags (3) 6:4,9;18:1 talk (3) 12:8,22;13:3 tallies (1) 22:14 tally (2) 18:22,23 tax (2) 2:7;6:22 taxes (1) 16:13 taxpayer (2) 23:18;25:25 taxpayers (2) 26:24;28:7 tellers (5) 6:14,16;18:20; 22:14,15 Ten (2) 23:25;24:11 ten-minute (1) 22:9 terms (1) 18:9 thankless (1) 23:3 therefore (1) 20:17 though (1) 26:1 thoughts (1) 17:4 thousand (1) 16:16 thousands (1) 25:10 three (13) 9:10;10:6,17,18, 21;18:5,11,13,15,19; 19:1;21:14,25 three-year (4) 11:7,9;18:9;26:2 timers (1) 11:21 tired (1) 6:8 tonight (10) 2:11;3:17;4:14,15; 6:15;9:15;14:8;18:8; 19:23;21:12 tonight's (4) 2:6;23:16;24:23; 28:18 top (1) 13:21 total (3) 16:12;17:17;18:25 town (1) 19:10 training (3) 13:1,3;25:17 transporting (1)</p>	<p>12:20 treasurer (2) 6:22;9:18 treasurer's (1) 9:9 treatment (2) 12:21,24 treatments (1) 13:11 trouble (2) 13:19;19:13 true (2) 25:5;27:8 trust (1) 27:10 try (1) 28:6 trying (1) 28:8 turn (1) 2:25 twelve (1) 24:11 two (14) 3:13;5:7;9:6; 10:23;18:10,18,20; 19:2,6;20:3,11; 21:25;28:14,16 two-thirds (1) 5:25 type (2) 13:2;21:23</p>
<p>S</p>	<p>U</p>	<p>T</p>	<p>U</p>	
<p>safety (1) 2:14 SAP (1) 19:16 saw (2) 19:12,16 saying (1) 20:10 School (1) 3:5 scope (1) 5:4 scores (1) 25:21 se (1) 12:2 second (13) 7:1,2,4;14:15,17, 21;15:10,12,16; 17:20,21,23;28:21 seconded (3) 7:15;17:7,25 Seeing (2) 14:23;17:25 selected (1) 26:9 Selection (1) 21:3 Senator (3) 3:15;21:21;23:10 sense (1) 27:8 serve (2) 24:17;26:3 service (8) 8:14;20:24;23:22; 25:11;26:1,8;27:7,23 services (1) 26:25 sessions (1) 25:17 seven (1) 16:23</p>	<p>unbelievable (1) 24:3 uncertain (1) 6:12 under (3) 7:11;14:6;26:7 understands (1) 5:19 unfortunately (1) 9:23 University (2) 12:10,18 unless (3) 5:16;6:1,18 unresolved (1) 14:5 up (11) 6:7;10:6;18:19,22, 24;19:2;20:11;21:16; 22:20;23:24;27:13 upcoming (1) 10:7 updating (1) 21:8 use (4) 2:18,20;6:9;22:19 used (1) 6:7</p>			

utilization (1) 16:17	2:3,7;8:8,15;14:12; 15:6;21:3;25:12; 27:24	15 (1) 24:3	9:19
utilizing (2) 6:4;17:16	Westwood (3) 7:7;8:20;15:19	1st (1) 11:10	62 (1) 16:20
V	what's (1) 10:13	2	7
valid (1) 16:22	wife (1) 20:23	2 (2) 15:4;17:11	7:00 (1) 2:1
value (1) 11:22	willing (1) 23:2	2/28/18 (1) 10:2	7:55 (1) 28:25
vibrate (1) 3:1	wish (1) 13:22	20 (2) 2:13;22:17	8
view (2) 7:25;27:8	within (1) 9:21	2000 (2) 25:9;27:23	86 (1) 10:3
VOICE (5) 7:16;15:1;17:9; 18:3;28:23	without (1) 28:2	2009 (2) 8:5;23:25	9
voluntary (1) 27:6	wondering (1) 15:21	2012 (4) 9:24;16:14,21;17:2	9 (1) 10:11
volunteer (3) 20:25;23:1,2	words (2) 8:17;25:3	2019 (3) 14:14;15:8;27:23	
vote (16) 5:22,24;6:1,3,6,12, 12,14;7:16;14:23; 15:1;17:9;18:3; 21:12;22:11;28:23	work (3) 3:21;19:19;25:10	2020 (1) 15:9	
voter (2) 6:13;18:17	worked (2) 28:5,9	22 (1) 16:11	
voters (6) 2:9,10,12;21:20; 22:3;25:24	working (2) 20:12,14	24 (3) 2:10,12;22:17	
votes (2) 4:17;5:14	worksheet (1) 15:25	246 (3) 7:7;8:20;15:19	
voting (3) 6:3,10;19:23	worth (1) 22:25	25 (4) 4:21;10:11;16:11; 22:3	
W	Wow! (1) 27:24	252 (1) 15:14	
	writing (2) 5:15,18	2799 (2) 6:25;17:21	
	written (1) 26:19	28 (1) 14:14	
	Y	29 (1) 15:9	
wait (1) 4:19	year (5) 10:22;14:13;15:8; 18:11;25:9	3	
waive (1) 6:19	years (16) 4:21;6:5;8:14; 10:17,19;16:23;19:8; 20:5,25;21:7;23:20, 22,25;24:4,11;26:19	3 (2) 9:9;17:13	
walk (2) 2:21;22:1	1	4	
wants (2) 3:20;9:3	1 (4) 14:10,23,24;15:8	40 (1) 20:25	
watch (1) 27:16	100 (2) 13:19,20	417 (1) 9:21	
way (2) 3:21;17:3	11 (1) 12:7	423 (1) 9:21	
WCFD (1) 10:1	12 (1) 24:3	5	
website (2) 10:1,2	12,000 (1) 16:4	5150 (2) 6:21;14:19	
Welcome (2) 2:3;14:3	1340 (1) 25:2	6	
well-documented (1) 25:23		6 (1)	
West (4) 10:24;11:1;12:3; 13:17			
Western (9)			