

**Stone County Emergency Services  
105 Stonebridge Pkwy  
Branson West Mo 65737**

Board Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2026  
5:30pm

**Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Michael Cupp at 5:30pm

**Attendance**

Board Members Present: Michael Cupp, Ron Thomas, Alan Furman, Collin Brannan

Staff Present: Keith Kinnard, Jen Turner, Christine Kessler, Kirk Ballard

Others Present:

**102-Agenda**

A motion to approve the January 22, 2026 agenda was made by Alan Furman and seconded by Collin Brannan.

All Members present approved and motion was passed.

**103- Open/ Closed Session Minutes**

A motion to approve the open/ closed session minutes of the meeting held on December 18, 2025 was made by Collin Brannan and seconded by Alan Furman.

All members present approved and motion was passed.

## **104/105- Treasurer Report/Approval of October Bills & Payments**

Keith presented a treasurer's report in Dr. Larry Huffman's absence. Sales and use tax is showing to be about \$100,000 down from last year. We are not the only ones who are significantly down – other counties are having this same issue. Keith called DOR asking why we are down in our sales and use tax and they told him that information is confidential and he is not a political subdivision. DOR told him that our tax still goes through the county. Keith needs to complete a form 4379 to have authorization to get the tax information from DOR which also needs signed by the presiding judge in Stone County. We also received funds for 2023-2025 from DOR for interest on tax that was not sent out previously. Keith will be speaking with our attorney to figure out what exactly what is going on. Our Priority Dispatch line item is slightly over budget due to not having the quote prior to creating the budget and this year's amount is the updated amount for the new 5 year quote.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ron Thomas and seconded by Collin Brannan.

All members present approved and motion was passed.

A motion to approve the payment of January 2025 bills and payments was made by Ron Thomas and seconded by Alan Furman.

All members present approved and motion was passed.

## **Members of the Public**

### **200- Old Business**

#### **201 – LAGERS Benefit**

A motion to adopt the resolution for the LAGERS benefit change to L-6 with 2% employee contribution to be effective starting February 1, 2026 was made by Ron Thomas and seconded by Alan Furman.

All members present approved and motion was passed.

## **202 – Policy 113: Complaints and Grievances Policy**

Ron stated he went through both policies (the current policy and the one that Carrie proposed) and he believes the only real difference is where it goes to arbitration and so far we have never paid somebody for letting them go. Ron stated he doesn't believe any of that is necessary. Keith received the complaints and grievance policies from Polk County and Christian County. Christian County stated they no longer have a grievance policy. Keith agrees that our policy does need some help as it does not have the complaint in writing. Keith would like to work on creating a policy similar to Polk County's and merge it with some ideas from Carrie's proposal and bring the new policy to a later meeting.

A motion to table Policy 113 to next meeting was made by Collin Brannan and seconded by Alan Furman.

All members present approved and motion was passed.

## **203 – HR Consulting Review**

Keith received a proposal from a HR consulting firm which charges \$100/month to have a contract with and \$100/hour to utilize for research and advise. Ron stated he does not think we need to hire somebody when we could do this in house. Keith brought up that we have our attorney for legal advice. Collin sees some advantage to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party HR but not at \$100/hr. If there was a cost for a package deal, then that would be of interest.

The board decided to revisit this as needed.

No motion was made.

## **300- New Business**

### **301 – Primary Network Approval**

Keith provided a proposal for a 60 month network project. The proposed system is a Fortinet firewall, they are one of the top of the line firewalls. We had a bunch of different proposals that were sorted through by Kirk to go back and forth with bids of what we need and get the best price. The lowest bid for this project was made by Cyberlink. We will have a major network project going on at the same time as putting in a new CAD. In the future, Keith plans to drop the T1 line and the cable internet. There was a lot of back and forth discussion about how long this proposal would last and if there would be additional costs after this big one. Kirk stated that this leaves room for expansion and is a reliable system.

A motion to accept the proposed network package was made by Alan Furman and seconded by Ron Thomas.

Vote: Yeas 2, Nays 1. Motion carried.

## **400- Closed Session**

A motion to go into closed session for real estate at 6:31pm was made by Ron Thomas and seconded by Collin Brannan.

All members present approved and the motion was passed.

## **Return to Regular Session**

A motion to return to regular session at 6:53pm was made by Alan Furman and seconded by Ron Thomas.

All members present approved and motion was passed,

## **500- Directors Report**

- We will be fully staffed as of February 2<sup>nd</sup>
- We currently have 3 trainees in training and 1 more to start on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, 1 of the trainees should be released around mid-February
- Have been receiving fewer complaints
- Have some conferences coming up including MPSCC and Navigator Conference. One of our vendors offered passes to the Navigator conference, so we are sending 4 individuals. Both conferences were offered to the board members.

## **600- Comments from the Floor**

## **700- Announcement of Next Board Meeting**

February 26, 2026 at 5:30pm

Announcement made by: Michael Cupp

## **800- Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn at 6:59pm was made by Alan Furman and seconded by Ron Thomas.

All members present approved and the motion passed.