

**New Melle Fire Protection District**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**  
**12:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

John Loyd, President  
Kyle Shell, Secretary  
Daniel Terbrock, Treasurer  
Daniel Casey, Fire Chief  
Joshua Ellis, Assistant Chief  
Scott Repke, Battalion Chief  
Jonah Wilson, Shop Steward  
Michelle Depew, Financial Consultant  
Donna Oney, Administrative Assistant

A work session of the New Melle Fire Protection District was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at Fire House #1 pursuant to call and waiver of notice of Board of Directors as evidenced by signatures affixed to these minutes.

**Call to Order**

With all board members present, Board President John Loyd called this meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

**Fire Chief's Report**

- Chief Casey would like to review the budget by line item and discuss any changes or corrections requested by the board.
- Chief stated that he would like to hire nine new people, but the only way to do so is to develop alternative funding for the retirement program. Over one million dollars was dedicated to salaries for this year. Chief Casey is requesting that this money be redirected to help fund the pension program for the next 3-4 years. During this time, additional funding opportunities will be explored.
- Hiring nine firefighters is the optimal number due to overtime considerations. All scenarios have been reviewed.
- LAGERS typically drops by 1% per year. With the addition of nine employees, the Chief expects the percentage to decrease. LAGERS will provide updated actuarial information once new hire details are available.
- Michelle DePew recommends placing the \$1 million into a separate interest-bearing account, as the entire amount will not be needed immediately.
- Dan noted that this is a tight budget year and that efforts are being made to reduce costs.

**Budget Review**

- Michelle reviewed proposed budget line by line:
  - Most accounts remain steady, with some decreases in fuel, and SCBA's, and increases in training, physical's and utilities.
  - The salaries line item is an estimated at a 4% increase, though negotiations are still ongoing.
  - Assistant Chief Ellis clarified the upcoming healthcare changes; final numbers are pending from Risk Strategies. The estimate provided represents a worst-case scenario.
  - Discussion included consideration of sales tax, use tax, and the possible 2028 bond renewal.
  - Grants continue to be pursued and utilized.
- Bond and pension budgets were reviewed. \$250,000 will be needed to fund retirement program.

- Next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. Another meeting will be needed in December to approve the contract and the 2026 budget. Meeting date to be determined.

Kyle Shell made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Dan Terbrock.

Vote taken with all board members in favor.

Work session adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Oney

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John Loyd, President

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Date

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Kyle Shell, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Terbrock, Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date