

Citizens of the Western Cass Fire Protection District

What YOU Need to Know!

The Western Cass Fire Protection District has not been fully functional for many years, and it only continues to get worse.

John Webb and **Marty Hardman** joined the board in April 2022. Things have gotten worse—and they have managed to move things out of the public eye, delegating authority to John Webb to exercise unilaterally, and repeatedly violating the Missouri Sunshine Law. Their board seats are up for re-election this April 2023.



Darvin Schildknecht and Kerri VanMeveren refused to be a party to illegal behavior and filed a lawsuit on behalf of the citizens of the district to protect our district. You can view a copy of the lawsuit by visiting www.westerncasscitizens.com.

Highlights of Issues Facing the District

Attempted Nepotism

- ⇒ John Webb tried to get his daughter, Tricia Webb hired as the District's Treasurer at an illegal board meeting.

Financial Problems

- ⇒ John and Marty moved hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars among District accounts without advance board approval.
- ⇒ John tried to close out a bank account without board approval and now there appears to be money missing.
- ⇒ They secured credit and debit cards and ordered physical checks without board approval.
- ⇒ The CPA firm hired to conduct an audit of the district for 2020 and 2021 was unable to do so because of a lack of proper record keeping.
- ⇒ John and Marty created 2023 budget that doesn't include any funds for any future independent audits.
- ⇒ John and Marty have made no efforts to resolve any of the compliance issues found by the MO State Audit performed in 2021 and have blocked any efforts to do so. Continued on next page.

(Cont'd) Highlights of Issues Facing the District

- ⇒ The District has firefighters who are certified as **QUALIFIED** and the current District's Fire Chief John Johnson is certifying them himself without getting any outside review or certification.
- ⇒ They withhold taxpayers of information by writing minutes of meetings that do not record motions or votes accurately and misstate content.
- ⇒ The District is under **ACTIVE** investigation from the U.S. Dpt of Labor for potential violations of the FLSA.
- ⇒ Citizens and directors have been threatened at open board meetings when they don't agree with John and Marty.
- ⇒ John, Marty and Chris have threatened and harassed Kerri and Darvin in open meetings and outside of meetings.
- ⇒ Marty's husband, David Hardman called Darvin Schildknecht's son to threaten and intimidate his family just before Christmas.
- ⇒ The District's **PAID** District Mgr and Treasurer, Stephanie Toliver is being paid with **YOUR TAX \$** to harass Darvin's family. Police reports were filed.
- ⇒ Dale Doty, a **PAID** firefighter who worked for Darvin Schildknecht for more than 20 years, who has loaned him money, made repairs to their trailer home and vehicles over the years was prompted to file for a restraining order against Darvin Schildknecht to try and prevent Darvin from attending board meetings. The judge **THREW IT OUT OF COURT IMMEDIATELY!** We have the court records!
- ⇒ Dale Doty assaulted Darvin Schildknecht, almost putting him in the hospital. Police reports were filed.
- ⇒ John has locked directors out of the fire stations and has kept them from being able to do their job as elected directors to represent the taxpayers- **YOU!**

At the August 3, 2022 meeting, John Webb states "It's what I dictate"

The Cover Up

John Webb, Marty Hardman and Chris Johnson have continued to escalate their threats and harassment towards Darvin Schildknecht and Kerri VanMeveren when we would not look the other way.

When their efforts to scare us off the board failed, they have now started a petition to try and remove us from the board. This is yet another effort to try and prevent us from speaking the truth.

As elected Directors, our job is to represent YOU- the citizens of this district. We are responsible for ensuring you receive the first responder services you expect and deserve!

Want Proof?

This is a lot to take in. It's hard to understand how things could have gotten this out of control.

WE AGREE!!!

Darvin Schildknecht and Kerri VanMeveren can provide documentation. Send an email to

info@westerncasscitizens.com.



I am Kerri VanMeveren. I was elected June 2020 to serve on the Western Cass Fire Protection District and then the Board elected me as the Treasurer in April 2021.

I resigned as the District's Treasurer a month after John and Marty joined the board when they altered contractor time sheets that did not match their invoices and was told to sign contracts that had not been board approved.

John Webb then attempted to get his daughter, Tricia Webb hired as the District's Treasurer after I resigned as the Treasurer. We fought back on this and then Stephanie Toliver, a 1099 contractor took over these responsibilities.

There has not been an accurate financial report produced for the board since I resigned as the District's Treasurer May 2022.

When I joined the board, I committed to you that I was committed to transparency, accountability and servitude and I have kept that promise. I will continue to speak the truth.



I am Darvin Schildknecht. I was elected back to the board in April 2021. Many of you already know me as I have been a member of this community for more than 50 years. I am also a founding member of the fire district, have served the District for more than 30 years as a volunteer firefighter, board chair, director and have often donated my time and money to make repairs to the fire stations to save the taxpayers money.

My late wife, Donna Schildknecht would also volunteer for the fire district, even taking emergency calls before there was 911 service.

The threats and harassment to me and my family shows what John Webb, Marty Hardman, and Chris Johnson are willing to do to keep me from speaking the truth. And, for Marty's husband, David Hardman who is a Cleveland City Alderman to participate in the harassment and threats towards my family has crossed the line.

As a pastor for more than 30 years for Grand River Baptist Church, it saddens my heart to see our fire district in such chaos. I ask you to pray with me and for our district in this time of need. We can come through this together and become stronger as a community.

We Need your help!

Come to the board meetings. They have changed them to the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm. But, they may call special meetings randomly.

You can send an email to info@westerncasscitizens.com or you can also visit www.westerncasscitizens.com for more information.

Why are they doing this?

John Webb and Marty Hardman's positions on the board are up for re-election in April 2023.

There are 4 people running for their board seats. This is a CLEAR message they want John and Marty off the board.

We need to restore public safety to the District and you can help make this happen.

What Can You Do?

Come to the board meetings and see for yourself. Ask questions and more importantly, ask for proof. Send requests for information, otherwise known as Sunshine Requests to Chris Johnson at secretary@westerncassfire.org.

The MO Sunshine Law says the District has 3 business days to respond and if they can't provide that information to you within 3 days, they must give you a timeline when they will get it to you. If they don't comply, you can file a complaint with the MO Attorney General's office.

Last, they may be coming to your home spreading false information to try and get you to sign a petition to recall Darvin and Kerri from the board. Tell them you want people on the board that follow the laws and not to benefit themselves.

Citizens for
Transparency and
Accountability

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E-mail:
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Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



CITIZENS FOR TRANSPARENCY
AND ACCOUNTABILITY