

Citizens of the Western Cass Fire Protection District

What YOU Need to Know!

The Western Cass Fire Protection District remains without fire service agreements from Belton, W. Peculiar and Dolan W Dolan **since October 2022**. There are no “gentlemen agreements”.

The Board approved paying for 5 people to attend fire school training, but didn't require any of them to commit to serving as District firefighters when they finished. So far, 1 person passed all the tests to become F1 & F2 certified; 1 failed and will have to retake the entire course and 1 person dropped out. The other three will have one chance to retake the exams they failed at an additional cost or they will have to retake the entire course.

As of June 15, 2023, the District has spent more than **\$209,940 since January 1st, 2023** of the District's **\$213,700 budgeted revenue**. The District has only received **\$185,890** of tax revenue to date for 2023.

The District has cashed out all the emergency CD's worth nearly \$44K. And the District has yet to put into an interest bearing account the \$82,423 they promised to give back to the tax payers— a total **which does not account for 10 months of 2022 still be tallied** where **YOU** were over taxed due to the previous Treasurer Ed Summer incorrect filing with the MO State Auditor's office.

Lawsuit Update:

- ⇒ They admitted to they regularly add things to the Board agenda after it is posted for public notice.
- ⇒ They admitted they discuss matters in closed session that the Sunshine Law requires be addressed in open session.
- ⇒ They admitted to have email discussions about district business between the 3 directors.
- ⇒ They admitted to denying equal access to Darvin Schildknecht and Kerri VanMeveren
- ⇒ They could produce no certifications for any of the firefighters. The Fire Chief, John Johnson claimed the state lost all of his training certifications. The State Fire Marshall's office follows RSMo 109.260.1 for the management and retention of all training records which would have included retention of his training records.
- ⇒ The Fire Chief, John Johnson admitted there have been injures by fire personnel on the job.
- ⇒ The Fire Chief said our district has responded to 140+ calls since 10/7/22. The sheriff dispatch reported just 89 calls through 5/17/23. 29 were fire calls; the rest were EMS calls covered by certified Belton ambulance EMT's.
- ⇒ The investigation of the District by the U.S. Dpt. of Labor District remains open.
- ⇒ The MO Attorney Generals' Office is investigating additional sunshine violations reported.
- ⇒ The District's CPA admitted that she only hosts the District's QuickBooks, and that she is not involved with reviewing any of the District's financials. The District has not had an audit since 2019.
- ⇒ John Webb said the District can co-mingle your tax payer money, using the tax you pay for dispatching services for other purposes.

What happened at court?

Judge Wagner stated he felt he could not overrule the will of the people and has put it back in **YOUR** hands. Do you want people representing you who mismanage your tax payer money? Mike Biggs and Theresa Hawkins have filed to replace Darvin and Kerri. Mike and Theresa also helped John collect signatures to remove them from the board.

You can vote on August 8th to keep Darvin and Kerri on the board so that they can continue to ensure you have access to the facts. This cost of this special election will be another \$3,250 added to the expenditures.

We will be appealing to the MO State Appellate court. Want to see the depositions of the forensic auditor, neighboring fire chiefs and other evidence submitted to court? Simply go to **www.westerncass.com** and click on **Lawsuit** at the top of the page.

Western Cass Fire Protection District Financials

The District will have to spend through all or nearly all of its reserves just to make it to the end of the 2023 budget year. Some District officials admitted in court they will need more money from the tax levy to be set this Fall, and perhaps a bond, which will raise your taxes. **They were offered a full settlement of the lawsuit last November and there was no response.**

They are doing everything possible to keep you from knowing the facts by filing suit to remove Kerri VanMeveren from the board and attempted to do the same for Darvin Schildknecht. John Webb led the effort to recall Kerri and Darvin by telling you false information to get you to sign the recall petition.

A forensic auditor who reviewed the 2022 financials uncovered a number of irregularities regarding expenditures, and policies of the District. The District will not only have spent **well beyond** the approved 2023 budget but will have to spend all or nearly all of its reserves just to make it to the end of the year, banking on **YOU** the taxpayer approving a tax levy increase and possibly a bond .

They are doing everything possible to keep you from knowing the **TRUE** state of the district. That's why they want Kerri and Darvin off the board so they can continue to keep you in the dark. Our district remains at risk financially and still has no **FIRE** service agreements with Belton, W. Peculiar or Dolan W Dolan.

| As of June 21, Expenses since January 1, 2023 | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| CC Pmts | \$ 10,507.02 |
| Essentials | \$ 49,148.38 |
| Operations | \$ 32,164.86 |
| W2 Payroll | \$ 50,218.94 |
| Atty Lawsuits | \$ 50,676.78 |
| W9 Payroll-Stephanie Toliver | \$ 15,825.00 |
| W9 Payroll- Chris Johnson | \$ 1,400.00 |
| Pending Transactions | \$ 3,615.80 |
| Grand Total | \$213,556.78 |
| 2023 Approved Budget= \$213,700 | |

Our neighboring Fire District, Dolan W. Dolan takes in over 100 more calls than our District with 24 volunteers and 8 Part-Time staff on an annual operating budget of \$212,816.

| As of June 21, Credits since Jan 1, 2023 | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| CD's Cashed Out | \$ 37,544.64 |
| INS PYMT- St 2 Repairs | \$ 36,460.17 |
| TFR- Closed Acct | \$ 1,381.43 |
| W2 Payroll | \$ 0.16 |
| WCFPD Tax Revenue | \$ 185,890.79 |
| Grand Total | \$ 261,277.19 |

Citizens for
Transparency and
Accountability

25400 State Rt D
Cleveland, MO 64734

E-mail:
info@westerncasscitizens.com

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE