

**MINUTES
MICHIGAN PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS UNION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
ZOOM FORMAT
September 21, 2020**

Members Present:

Mark Docherty, President
Terrence H. Chesney, Secretary/Treasurer
Aileen Pettinger, Vice President, 1st/3rd District
Shaun Abbey, Vice President, Second District
Steven Heim, Vice President, Fourth District
Monty Nye, Vice President, Fifth District
Matthew Sahr, Vice President, Sixth District
Richard Clark, Trustee, Western District
Mickey Wiewiura, Trustee, Eastern District
Justin Fox, Northern Trustee

Call to Order

President Docherty called the meeting to order at 1300 hours.

President Docherty stated that the purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion and possible action on a motion that was tabled at the last meeting on September 14, 2020.

The original motion that was tabled is listed below:

“President Docherty recommended that the MPFFU make a \$20,000 (soft money) contribution from the MPFFU general fund to the Democratic Caucus.

Motion 22-2020: Moved by Sahr, supported by Pettinger to contribute \$20,000 from the MPFFU general fund to the House Democratic Caucus.

Prior to the vote, members of the board participated in a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of making this contribution. Some members also requested more information about how the funds would be spent and if any of this money would be going directly to any candidates.

Motion 23-2020: Moved by Heim, supported by Abbey to table the motion. Motion carried. S/T Chesney voted no.

President Docherty said that he would schedule a Zoom meeting to provide more information and for additional discussion on this subject for Monday, September 21, 2020.”

Motion 26-2020: Moved by Nye, supported by Pettinger to remove from the table the motion to contribute \$20,000 to the Michigan Democratic Caucus. Motion carried unanimously.

Members of the board discussed the motion and asked several questions about how the contribution would be used by the caucus. Members discussed the history of soft money contributions made by the MPFFU and the IAFF in previous election years.

President Docherty stated that he was informed today by DVP Sanders that the IAFF may be making a soft money contribution to several States, including the Michigan Democrats. President Docherty stated that he does not know what the amount of the IAFF contribution is going to be, but in the past, the IAFF has anticipated that the State Union would also be a soft money contributor. DVP Abbey inquired what the risk vs reward considerations of taking this action would be. Several board members offered their opinions on this value of making a contribution and several discussed possible opposition to this contribution by some MPFFU

members. It was emphasized by several board members that this issue is completely separate from any of the national election issues and debates.

The board discussed various available options to move forward with this topic, including tabling the motion again so we can find out how much, if any, that the IAFF is going to contribute.

Motion 27-2020: Moved by Chesney, supported by Abbey to amend the motion to make a soft money contribution of \$10,000 to the Democratic Caucus. The motion to amend the amount carried unanimously.

President Docherty asked for discussion on the amended motion. S/T Chesney said that the intent was to make this contribution amount regardless of what the IAFF decides to do. Additional discussion took place.

President Docherty asked if any of the Trustees had any comments or questions. As a group, the Trustees indicated that they believe that in the future, recommendations for large expenditures of money that haven't already been included in the approved MPFFU budget, should be added as an agenda item in advance of the actual meeting. President Docherty stated that he would voluntarily comply with their suggestion.

President Docherty called for a vote on the motion.

Motion 28-2020: Moved by Chesney, supported by Abbey that the MPFFU make a soft money contribution in the amount of \$10,000 to the designated fund of the Michigan House Democratic Caucus. Motion carried unanimously.

President Docherty thanked everyone for their input and discussion and stated that he would let them know what the IAFF contribution is going to be as soon as he finds out.

Motion 29-2020: Moved by Sahr, supported by Heim to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.