

MSFD CONTRACT/DISPATCH WORKSHOP

September 15, 2025

6:00 pm

Call to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Tammy Meyer

Roll Call: Steve Thorn, Kevin Maloney, Denise DiLellio, Chris Novotny, David Sluka

❖ Steve made a motion to excuse Dawn King. David second. All ayes.

Dawn King came into the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Others present: Mayor Tammy Meyer, Police Chief Joe Urso

Citizens: Ted Bixler, Terry Hronek, Matt Roosa, Tom Aldrich, Ashlee Hawkins, Miranda Brothers, Vickie Wilcox, Adrianna Klepper, Eric Davis, Tim Paisley, Pam Baynes, Michelle Sweet, Frank Ruher Jr., Matt Benner, Mary Landers, Wes Hawkins, Chuck Peterson, Kathy Jaczo, Frank Jaczo, David Pifer, Nancy Whaley, Shana Kish, Shaun Kish, Joe Hagger, Sarah Pilgrim

The Mantua-Shalersville Fire District (MSFD) has proposed a one-year dispatch services contract for 2026, with a cost of \$55,500, plus the fire department's share of the phone bill, estimated at approximately \$11,275. Public comments during discussions were limited to five minutes per person and required speakers to remain on topic. The topic for this workshop was pros and cons on whether to accept the contract. If the contract is not renewed, the village would lose \$66,800 in revenue, which some officials say could affect the future of local dispatch services. A key debate centered on the fiscal responsibility of subsidizing the service versus the public safety value of local dispatchers.

Also discussed was the 0.5% income tax approved by voters for public safety purposes, which generates around \$281,000 per year. The village's overall income tax rate was increased from 1.5% to 2% to support public safety. While some residents have interpreted the 0.5% income tax as funding intended for increased wages, increased protection and in-house dispatch, the mayor stated the ballot language specified support for law enforcement generally, without designating specific uses.

Supporters of in-house dispatch have cited advantages such as local familiarity and potentially faster emergency response times. Others have expressed concerns about the long-term financial sustainability of continuing in-house services and have suggested subcontracting or a potential tax increase could be more fiscally sustainable alternatives.

Fire Chief Matt Roosa stated the sooner this decision could be made, the better for his department, if they have to find a new dispatch service.

Kevin made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Denise second. All ayes.