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(54) Title: DIAPHRAGM VALVE WITH ACTUATOR BEARING ELEMENT

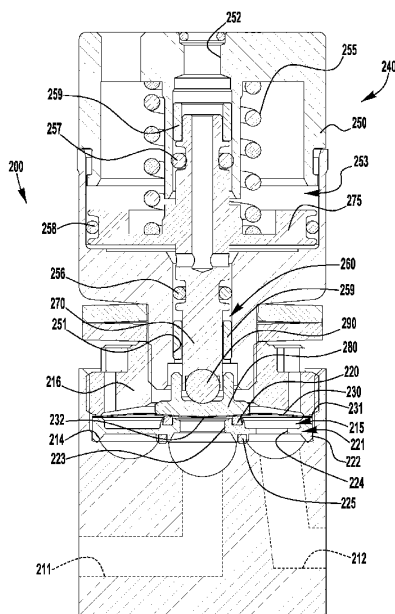


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: A diaphragm valve includes a valve body with a valve seat disposed in a valve cavity surrounding a flow passage, a diaphragm movable between a closed position in sealing engagement with the valve seat and an open position axially spaced apart from the valve seat, and an actuator including an actuator housing assembled with the valve body and an actuating arrangement axially movable within the actuator housing between a first position holding the diaphragm in the closed position and a second position permitting movement of the diaphragm from the closed position to the open position. The actuating arrangement includes an actuator stem extending through a lower bore in the actuator housing, an actuator button disposed between a lower end of the actuator stem and the diaphragm for contact with the diaphragm, and a bearing member disposed between the actuator stem and the actuator button.

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