

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NORWOOD PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
7447 W. LAWRENCE AVE.
HARWOOD HEIGHTS, IL 60706**

The Board of Trustees of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, Illinois convened at the regular meeting place of said Board on the 12th day of May 2025, at 6:30 P.M. at 7447 W. Lawrence Ave., Harwood Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order and upon roll call the following named members answered present:

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes, Chief Peistrup; yes.

The pledge was said at the start of the meeting.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE (Public Participation)

A motion was made by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to suspend the rules to permit visitors to be recognized. The Board retains the right to refuse to recognize any individual if they feel their comments are not relevant or to "put them off" if they exceed their time allotment. After all, have had an opportunity to address the Board, the President moves the rules be reinstated, and the Board will proceed with meeting.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Palazzo to approve the following minutes:

- Board of Trustee Regular meeting minutes held on April 14, 2025.
- Approve and keep closed the April 14, 2025, Closed Session meeting minutes

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Chiefs' Report:

Chief stated he hopes all is well and that all Trustees received a written report.

Call volume is on track to break the 2023 record, we are currently 85 calls ahead from 2023 at this point. Trustee Rybak asked how many calls in April, Chief stated that they did 366 calls.

Overtime has increased due to being short firefighters and one firefighter being in the academy.

Entry level test had 7 individuals take it, 6 passed and are going to move on to oral interviews. We are hoping to hire multiple firefighters.

Lieutenant testing is coming up.

Currently there are the following projects going on:

- Concrete apron is complete, and they will be tearing up the driveway tomorrow.
- We are waiting on cabinets for the Day Room.
- The backup generator is 40-years old, it failed, and they are having a hard time finding parts.
- We are renting a backup generator for about \$5,000 a month.
- We may need a new generator and are hiring an engineer to oversee this.

Trustee Wegrecki we should increase the generator so it can handle possible growth.

Discussion.

We opened a \$1,000,000 CD for 11 months at Belmont Bank that we plan to use towards purchase of equipment.

We had an IMRF audit last month, and they are recommending the two Resolutions that are on the agenda to be passed.

Funding has been lost for grants that have been used to fund special teams. We have sent letters to make our Representatives aware of the issue.

Motion by Trustee Palazzo seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the Chief's report for April 2025.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

President's Report: Trustee Rybak stated that things are moving forward with the Flu Shot program and Resurrection.

Schedule of Assets
(Arising from Cash Transactions)
April 30, 2025

Assets

Checking and money market accounts:

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	\$373,811.30
Wintrust -MM #2776	4,468,608.55
Wintrust- Checking #9771	28,259.57
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	2,580,163.54
Wintrust- Medical #0599	16,554.10

Wintrust- Donation #4129	1,227.84
Wintrust- FSA #0713	15,370.19
Wintrust- Business Account #6537	35,673.11
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$7,519,668.20</u>

Certificates of deposit (interest rate and maturity):

Belmont Bank (5.15%, 02/10/26)	1,052,189.28
Belmont Bank (4.909% 07/21/25)	651,497.71
Belmont Bank (4.087% 01/19/26)	1,062,834.86
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$2,766,521.85</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$10,286,190.05</u>

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to approve the following:

- April's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$491,298.18.
- The Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for April 2025.

Trustee Santoro explained a couple of the larger expenses.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee- Trustee Santoro stated they had a meeting and discussed the insurance renewals. Medical is a 11.6% increase, Dental is a 7% increase and Life is 9.86% increase. Rising medical costs, tariffs, and supply chain are some of the reasons for the increases. Employees' Co-Pays have increased. One Digital shopped the policies. Discussed the CD that was opened and the IMRF resolutions.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Wegrecki stated there is nothing to report but will have a meeting soon.

Policy Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated the manual was sent to the attorney. We received it back and are reviewing the red-lined document. We will need to set up a meeting.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro thanked everyone who participated in Kindness Day. The Village of Norridge's Memorial Day presentation is May 25th. National Night Out is August 5th.

Pension Fund Member- Trustee Massaro stated there was a meeting and Mark Blondell was elected, Stephen Swank was re-elected.

Old Business:

None

New Business

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to adopt and ratify the canvass of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District election, already performed by the Cook County Clerk, and declares Sebastian Palazzo has been elected to serve a two-year term and Gina Santoro-Cotton and Steven Wegrecki have each been elected to serve a six-year term as Trustee of the District.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Election of Officers:

Trustee Rybak nominated Trustee Mezzano for Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Massaro to elect Lou Mezzano as Secretary of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for a two-year term.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Mezzano nominated Trustee Rybak for President of the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Trustee Mezzano and seconded by Trustee Santoro to elect Joanne Rybak as President of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for a two-year term.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Rybak nominated Trustee Santoro-Cotton for Treasurer of the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to elect Gina Santoro-Cotton as Treasurer of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for a two-year term.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Palazzo to adopt and approve Resolution #25-5, a Resolution confirming and declaring the election of District President Joanne Rybak, Secretary Louis Mezzano, and Treasurer Gina Santoro-Cotton for a two-year term commencing May 19, 2025.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to adopt and approve Resolution #25-6, A Resolution to include compensation paid under an IRC Section 125 Plan as IMRF Earnings.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Massaro to adopt and approve Resolution #25-7, A Resolution to include cash payments in lieu of or related to health insurance as IMRF earnings.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to approve the appointment of Demetrius Mougolias as Fire Commissioner of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District for a three-year term, from June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2028.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Mezzano and seconded by Trustee Massaro to approve the renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance Choice Options/PPO policy S506OPT, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Rybak to approve the renewal for group dental insurance to The Standard PPO, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the life insurance renewal with The Standard, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the following:

- Ratify the payment to Macqueen Emergency in the amount of \$5,833.75 for repairs to Tower 103.
- Approve the Finance Committee meeting minutes from April 14, 2025.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Mezzano and seconded by Trustee Santoro to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:05PM.

Louis Mezzano
Secretary

Joanne Rybak
President