

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021 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 Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes, Chief Blondell; yes.

The pledge was said at the start of the meeting.

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to go into Closed Session Pursuant 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) Selection of a person to fill a public office and/or Section (2)(c)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Went into Closed Session at 6:31pm.

Returned from Closed Session at 7:40pm, no decision made, no votes taken.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes,  
Trustee Rybak; yes, Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes,  
Chief Blondell; yes.

Public Hearing (Budget and Appropriations 2021-2022)

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Evans to adjourn the Public Hearing and resume the Regular Meeting.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE (Public Participation)**

A motion was made by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Santoro 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: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Kolaski approve the following minutes:

1. Approve the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on August 9, 2021.
2. Approve and keep closed the August 9, 2021, Closed Session Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

### **Chiefs' Report:**

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

Saturday was the 9/11 ceremony. Firefighter Unger organized the event with the 20 Division, Harwood Heights, and Norridge Honor Guards. Chief Blondell would like to publicly thank Firefighter Unger and the agencies involved.

COVID-19 is currently at 5%, Norwood Park is the only department in the 20<sup>th</sup> division and ALGH paramedic program that is 100% vaccinated. We did not spend any money on lawyer fees to accomplish this, our crews are awesome.

Gas tank removal update. The EPA results show there is no additional mitigation needed. This process still was cheaper than having to insure the tanks. The State Fire Marshal is aware of this company and there is nothing they can do about it.

Remote field work is starting with the audit. Trustees will be receiving a SAS99 report to complete. Please return it as soon as possible to the auditors.

Chief sent a letter last week to the Mayors of Norridge and Harwood Heights asking for \$100,000 from each out of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money they received. This money would be used to purchase an Ambulance. Chief has not heard anything back as of today. He is asking the trustees to please reach out to the villages and talk to them about this.

Trustee Rybak stated that the Mayor of Harwood Heights received the letter and that she is planning on talking to the Mayor of Norridge on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Chief stated that if information about the ambulance is needed, to please ask.

Trustee Cichon stated that the Mayor of Norridge received the letter and is bringing it to the board. Discussion.

Motion by Trustee Santoro seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the Chief's report for August 2021.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**President's Report:** Trustee Cichon stated that letters have been sent to the villages, please contact both towns.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Schedule of Assets  
(Arising from Cash Transactions)  
August 31, 2021

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	292,741.63
Wintrust -MM #2776	561,657.67
Wintrust- Checking #9771	9,371.02
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	395,068.00
Wintrust- Medical #0599	861.79
Wintrust- Donation #4129	919.11
Wintrust- FSA #0713	5,538.63
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$1,266,157.85</u>

**Certificates of deposit (interest rate and maturity):**

Belmont Bank (0.45%, 02/10/22)	698,540.45
Belmont Bank (0.45% 01/21/22)	581,433.69
Belmont Bank (0.45% 01/19/22)	<u>406,410.84</u>
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$1,686,384.98</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$2,952,542.83</u>

Motion by Trustee Evans and seconded by Trustee Cichon to approve the August's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$490,158.28 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for August 2021.

Trustee Evans stated that the bills were higher this month due to a couple larger expenses. The bunk room is almost completed, and we will be done with our larger expenses for a while. We just started to receive property tax money.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**Committee Reports:**

Finance Committee- Trustee Evans stated there is nothing to report. After the audit is completed, we will meet. We have the Deputy Chief's contract due in October. Discussion.

Building and Equipment Committee-Chief stated that Engine 101 has had a couple problems when it came back from the rust mitigation. We now had to send it back to the shop. Engine 102 has a transmission issue, they had to order parts. McQueen knows they have both of our engines.

We have been using Elmwood Park's engine and the Deputy has secured us a backup. The bunk room is close to being completed. The windows and trim are in. The beds are 16 years old; we may need to purchase new ones.

We may have to go out to RFP for asphaltting the parking lot. We are seeing if we can have a temporary fix, but the area is a lot bigger than initially thought. We need something done before the flu shot drive thru. Discussion.

Policy & Strategic Planning Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated that the USBs have been updated.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated that the Flu Shots are October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-6pm. Homebound shots will be on October 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Open House this year.

Chief stated that there has been an increase in the amount of time needed to transfer a patient at Resurrection, we are currently having 25% overlap of calls. Trustee Rybak stated that Resurrection is short staffed.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Skyba stated the Nagrocki Hearing is next week at 6:30pm. Commander Peistrup stated there has been some developments and to keep checking their emails. They have a goal of December 1<sup>st</sup> to transfer the pension funds for the consolidation. Chief stated that at the Commissioner meeting they discussed the Lt exam and entry level exam that is taking place in 2022. The Lieutenants test will be good for 3 years and entry for 2 years. Discussion.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business**

Motion By Trustee Evans and seconded by Trustee Santoro to adopt and approve Ordinance 21-2, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Budget and Appropriations for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Santoro to ratify the payments to Chicago Tank Removal in the amount of \$24,323.50 for leaking underground storage tank (LUST) mitigation.

Chief stated that once this is completed, we can file and should get about 50%-60% back.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion to appoint Richard Massaro to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees until such time as his/her successor is duly elected and qualified.

No motion put forth.

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to appoint Daniel Donnelly to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees until such time as his/her successor is duly elected and qualified.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Cichon; no, Trustee Rybak; no,  
Trustee Santoro; no, Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 3 NAY: 3 MOTION DENIED

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

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

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Joanne Rybak  
Secretary

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Andrew Cichon  
President