

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
NORWOOD PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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 28<sup>st</sup> day of March 2019 at 7:31 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 Martell; yes,  
Trustee Romano; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Avino; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes,  
Trustee Rybak; yes, Fire Chief/Administrator Vavra; yes  
Attorney Flaherty; yes.

The pledge was said at the start of the meeting.

Trustee Martell stated that normally there would not be a Closed Session at the beginning of a meeting but after speaking with the attorney, it is needed.

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Romano to go into Closed Session Pursuant to Section (2)(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act (to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; and/or section (2)(c)(11) of the Act (pending, probable or imminent litigation), and Collective Bargaining Matters.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Martell; yes,  
Trustee Romano; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Avino; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes,  
Trustee Rybak; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Went into Closed Session at 7:34 PM

Returned from Closed Session at 8:34 PM, no decision made, no votes taken.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Martell; yes,  
Trustee Romano; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Avino; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes,  
Trustee Rybak; yes, Fire Chief/Administrator Vavra; yes,  
Attorney Flaherty; yes.

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

A motion was made by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Romano 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

**Attorney Report:**

Attorney Flaherty stated that he was asked to listen to the Public Comments at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. He states that none of the speakers went over their allotted time limits. Ms. Malicki spoke of possible Trustee misconduct and asked if it was the action of the whole Board. Trustee Martell stated that he wants the record to show that the Board replied “no”. Mr. Malicki had opinions, but it was not a stump speech. Commander Peistrup was not on duty and can have an opinion. Schiller Park Fire Department being here in solidarity is an issue for Schiller Park. If an individual Trustee feels that he was defamed or if anything was a lie, he can seek his own legal counsel, but Attorney Flaherty is unable to take a case for an individual.

The Intervention Hearing for Mr. Nagrocki is now scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>. Discussion.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business**

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to approve an electronic device locking system for exterior and interior doors of the fire station.

Trustee Martell stated that when the Chief was initially hired it was discussed about the locks and security cameras. Chief stated that the current lock system is in disrepair. There are many different levels of security and this is not an easy fix. Discussion.

Chief asked if this should go to the Building and Equipment Committee.

Trustee Avino asked if we feel there is immediate danger. D/C Blondell stated that we are trying to have better security and that he has the blue prints to try and get a better idea of what we need.

Deputy Chief explained that after meeting with the lock smith how we need to have a plan as to how we are moving forward.

Trustee Avino recommends voting no and sending it to the Building and Equipment Committee. Discussion. D/C Blondell will meet with the Building and Equipment Committee and have a recommendation by the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It was agreed by Trustee Skyba and Trustee Kolaski to reword the motion.

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to refer to the Building and Equipment Committee and staff to prepare specifications and get proposals for updated door locking systems and other security measures.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; yes, Trustee Martell; yes,  
Trustee Romano; yes, Trustee Kolaski; yes,  
Trustee Avino; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes,  
Trustee Rybak; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Martell asked for the minutes to reflect that this was initiated a while ago, but we now have the funds to proceed.

Motion by Trustee Skyba and failed to receive a second to approve the installation of GPS devices on all command vehicle provided by the insurance company retained by the Fire District.

MOTION FAILED due to lack of a seconded.

This would be for on the Chief, Deputy Chief and Inspector's vehicles.

Trustee Kolaski asked if there was something in process for the command vehicles. Chief explained that the Command Vehicle has HAAS installed which has GPS as a feature.

Trustee Martell states that Trustee Skyba contacted the District's insurance broker. Selective Insurance has a device that will monitor driving which is free of charge to the District. Discussion on what the purpose would be for GPS on these vehicles. Discussion

Deputy Chief Blondell stated that he feels that this is a trust issue and if you do not trust him with the squad, then take it away. When he has the car, he is somewhere where he can respond within ½ hour. Discussion.

Chief stated that if this was regarding the Inspector's Vehicle, he takes full responsibility and it is no longer an issue.

Chief states he has been assigned a vehicle for 20 years and does not abuse it. He doesn't drink because he has that vehicle and he doesn't take his wife or anyone in the car with him. Trustee Rybak states that you have your dog go in your vehicle.

Trustee Skyba states that it is an accountability issue.

Chief will research information and see if there are discounts available if you have a device installed.

Trustee Cichon asked how many miles they average. Deputy Chief Blondell stated that he will email them that information. Discussion.

Motion to approve the review of personnel files by the Board of Trustees.

Please of the Board is NO ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Trustee Skyba and failed to receive a second to support an Advisory Referendum requiring residency for all employees of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District.

Trustee Martell stated that residency is a negotiable item and the next time to talk about this is the next CBA.

Trustee Martell asked Trustee Skyba if he wanted to investigate it?

Trustee Rybak asked if we will have to go for a referendum would we want to do this referendum now?

Trustee Martell stated we will most likely have to go for a referendum within the next three years.

MOTION FAILED due to lack of a seconded.

NO ACTION was taken to go into Closed Session Pursuant to Section (2)(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act (to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; and/or section (2)(c)(11) of the Act (pending, probable or imminent litigation).

Motion by Trustee Cichon and seconded by Trustee Avino to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

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Andrew Skyba  
Secretary

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Robert Martell  
President