

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NORWOOD PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
V IA Zoom
Meeting ID 876 0061 2249
Password 564844**

The Board of Trustees of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, Illinois convened via Zoom on the 14th day of December 2020 at 6:31 P.M.

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 Avino; yes,
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes, Trustee Santoro; yes,
Trustee Evans; yes, Chief Blondell; yes.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE (Public Participation)

A motion was made by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Kolaski 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.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

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

- 1- Approve the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on November 9, 2020.
- 2- Approve the Special Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on November 23, 2020.

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

AYES:7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Skyba asked if it should be recorded who is in the audience, Trustee Cichon stated that if they were to speak, we would put their name in the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schedule of Assets
(Arising from Cash Transactions)
November 30, 2020

Assets

Checking and money market accounts:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492 | 152,972.75 |
| Wintrust -MM #27766 | 784,608.25 |
| Wintrust- Checking #9771 | 9,095.37 |
| Wintrust- Ambulance #2671 | 767,677.38 |
| Wintrust- Medical #0599 | 3,888.42 |
| Wintrust- Donation #4129 | 653.79 |
| Wintrust- FSA #0713 | 855.66 |
| Total checking and money market accounts | <u>\$1,719,751.62</u> |

Certificates of deposit (interest rate and maturity):

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Belmont Bank (3.00%, 02/10/21) | 688,936.87 |
| Belmont Bank (3.00% 01/21/21) | 577,718.53 |
| Belmont Bank (2.50% 01/19/21) | <u>402,991.41</u> |
| Total certificates of deposit | <u>\$1,669,646.81</u> |
| Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit | <u>\$3,389,398.43</u> |

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Cichon to approve the November's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$395,604.84 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for November 2020.

Trustee Avino stated that we are trending around \$400,000, which is normal. Trustee Skyba wants to know when the board is meeting with Lauterbach and Amen. Trustee Avino explained that the Finance Committee has met with Lauterbach and Amen. Discussion.

Trustee Evans stated that there are CDs coming due, what does the Finance Committee recommend? Chief explained that when the CDs mature, we will shop around and see what banks are offering. We will get the information, share it with the Finance Committee and decide.

Chief stated that we are now receiving interest in our Ambulance MMA at Byline Bank.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Chiefs' Report:

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

There are exciting things happening at Norwood Park. Recently, Cyndi learned about a Cares Act Grant and filed for it, we received \$121,321.99.

Through the State Comptroller we are receiving \$150,000.00.

Commander Peistrup and Cyndi filed for FEMA and we should be receiving about \$56,000 and

Commander Peistrup filed for a grant through IDPH for \$7,500.00 which we are waiting to hear about.

This is a total of around \$330,000 in grants.

The \$150,000 will need to be used towards large apparatus and communications. Chief has talked to Trustee Evans about going out to bid for communications and we will use the remaining as we see fit.

Trustees were emailed information regarding the mandatory harassment training that must be completed. Certificates need to be received by the end of the year.

Trustees should have received an email from NIAFPD or Denise Kaufmann regarding training on January 30th. This will satisfy the required 3 hours of training needed annually.

Petitions for the election are due next Monday by 5pm.

We have a committee for the truck that is working on what equipment is needed to be purchased. Once they have their recommendations it will be presented to the Building and Equipment Committee.

Today was the ALGH Chief/MO meeting. They are reporting that COVID in Region 9 has decreased from 15% to 12%. It is currently 8% in the State of Illinois.

Vaccines have begun for paramedics and EMTs as part of phase I. We should be receiving ours this week or next week. There is discussion on antigen testing being conducted by paramedics. Commander Peistrup has applied to IDPH.

We have prepared the Levy; it has been reviewed by Lauterbach and Amen as well at Attorney Flaherty. We increased by 4.99% which we should receive on new growth, but only CPI for the rest.

The crews are doing an amazing job, other departments are getting hit hard with COVID-19 in their stations.

Discussion on types of call being seen, Chief explained they are seeing an increase in suicides and suicide attempts. He is monitoring crews for how they are doing.

We have received an unusual amount of unemployment claims due to identity theft. We are following the appropriate steps needed and notifying our employees.

Trustee Skyba inquired on policy of mandatory vaccinations. Chief stated we do not have mandatory vaccination policy.

Trustee Kolaski asked if we have counseling available if any employee needs it. Chief stated that we have an EAP, there is programs available through the union, and we also started the mental health program that text a question to the employees every week to monitor how they are doing. We are taking the steps that are available, to monitor our employees.

Motion by Trustee Rybak seconded by Trustee Avino to approve the Chief's report for November 2020.
AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

President's Report: Trustee Cichon stated "great job Norwood Park". We received grants without a grant writer.

Trustee Cichon stated that they need to form a committee for the CBA negotiations. Trustee Evans and Trustee Rybak along with himself and Chief Blondell will meet early January, maybe an hour before the January Board meeting to discuss. Would like to have Attorney Flaherty at the meeting as well.

Trustee Cichon also mentioned that everyone received an email from Chief Blondell regarding him being a signer on the accounts and he has no problem with it. Having the Chief as a signer would make things

more efficient. He would like everyone to think about it and that a decision will not need to be made today. Attorney Flaherty has said that it is the norm for a Chief to be a signer.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee- Trustee Avino stated that the Chief's email has been discussed at the Finance Committee. Would like to thank Chief, Cyndi, and Lauterbach and Amen. CDs will be discussed soon. Will discuss the Levy under the motion.

Building and Equipment Committee- Trustee Evans thanks Cyndi for her hard work. She will be keeping everyone in the loop regarding equipment. Trustee Skyba asked if something needed to be done by the end of the year for the truck. Trustee Evans stated that it was already done.

Policy & Strategic Planning Committee- Trustee Kolaski wished everyone Happy Holidays! Stay safe and healthy. Thanked Chief, Cyndi, and Lauterbach & Amen. He is sorry for the horrible calls.

Community Relations Committee-Trustee Santoro stated there is nothing to report. Thank you, Cyndi. We will be setting up a meeting after the new year. Chief is keeping in contract with the Mayors.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Skyba stated that there is nothing to report. Training is needed. Have a happy and healthy new year.

Old Business:

None

New Business

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Santoro to pass and approve Ordinance #20-4, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District 2020 Tax Levy.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Avino to pass and approve Ordinance #20-5, an Ordinance giving Cook County Clerk direction related to the 2020 Tax Levy.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Evan to approve the renewal for Workers Compensation through Illinois Public Risk Fund, effective January 1, 2021 through January 1, 2022, at an estimated cost of \$169,278.00.

Trustee Skyba asked if there was an increase. Chief explained that there is a 14% increase, but we expect to get money back. Discussion.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Skyba to approve the Liability Insurance renewal with Corkill Insurance, effective January 1, 2021 through January 1, 2022, at an annual cost of \$45,479.00.

Chief explained that this was for the building and equipment. Trustee Evans asked if the new truck is on this plan yet, Chief explained that it is not, but will be once delivered.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Avino and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the meeting dates for 2021. Meetings will be held the second Monday of the month except for October, which will be held the third Monday. Meets will be called to order at 6:30pm.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Consent Agenda

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the consent agenda:

- approve the minutes of Finance Committee held on November 17, 2020.
- ratification of all financing documents with PNC Bank.

Trustee Skyba asked if the information was in the packet? Chief stated that it was in the packet last meeting.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Cichon stated, he is really excited with today's meeting. "Tell everyone it is a great day. Chief, thank you, you are going out of your way. Cyndi 100%. The firefighters are working hard on everything!"

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Joanne Rybak
Secretary

Andrew Cichon
President