

**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 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 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; absent, Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Avino; 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.

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

A motion was made by Trustee Avino 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.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

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

- 1- Approve the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on March 8, 2021.

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

AYES:6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	222,007.10
Wintrust -MM #2776	1,534,474.15
Wintrust- Checking #9771	9,786.57

Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	704,475.22
Wintrust- Medical #0599	2,147.11
Wintrust- Donation #4129	929.00
Wintrust- FSA #0713	1,712.97
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$2,475,532.12</u>

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

Belmont Bank (3.00%, 02/10/21)	697,750.79
Belmont Bank (3.00% 01/21/21)	580,797.82
Belmont Bank (2.50% 01/19/21)	<u>405,507.45</u>
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$1,684,056.06</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$4,159,588.18</u>

Motion by Trustee Evans and seconded by Trustee Avino to approve the March's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$390,707.23 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for March 2021.

Trustee Avino stated that we were on the mark with expenditures being \$390,000, there was nothing significant this last month.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; absent, Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Avino; 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.

Chief stated that he was glad to be meeting in person.

The current COVID rate is 4.5% and in the region 5.3%. This number is almost double from last month.

The District has been worked with many officials to discuss how our paramedics can administer Covid-19 vaccines, the obstacle is getting the vaccine. The homebound residents would be our top priority. ALGH believes we are close to being able to administer in the homes. Chief stated that Norwood Park is on the front lines and would like to be involved.

The current call volume has passed 2019 which was our highest year ever. 2020 saw a lull due to COVID and people not wanting to go to the hospital. Over the years we have seen about a 5%/year increase and this year we are trending to pass 4,000 calls.

Officers are creating SOGs. They will be reviewed by all officers and then final approval will be from Deputy Chief Erlewein.

Commander Peistrup was awarded the IDPH grant towards a LUCAS device. The award was for \$7,500 and the motion is on the agenda tonight.

There is an RFP on the agenda tonight for our audit. Once approved, we will send it to 5 auditors that have been recommended to us and put on our website. Next month we will view the proposals and table any action until they can be reviewed by the finance committee. In June it will be on the agenda for vote.

Trustee Rybak asked the Chief to explain what the LUCAS does. Chief explained the device, how it works, and how they currently carry the one we have on the engine.

Trustee Santoro asked if this is like the AED. Chief explained how the paramedics use defibrillators and that AEDs are for civilians. Explained how during a cardiac arrest the paramedics use electrical, mechanical, and pharmaceutical means to try and revive the patient.

Firefighter Cotiguala stated that it is a fantastic device and you do not have one person dedicated to compressions.

Trustee Rybak stated that not everyone has them so we are lucky that our paramedics have it so they can concentrate on giving drugs, establishing airway, etc.

Trustee Cichon stated that he heard the firefighters were at a couple of big fires.

Chief explained that they had a fire at the ComEd facility and how years ago they would have sprayed foam. After 25 years of using foam, they realized that it is loaded with carcinogens. The EPA is not happy when that is used, and the Chief received a call the next day wanting to know if foam was used. They waited until it was safe to use water. The other large fires were in other towns. Everyone is safe.

Motion by Trustee Rybak seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the Chief's report for March 2021.  
AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**President's Report:** Trustee Cichon congratulated everyone on the election. The committee met regarding the CBA, he feels they have a good understanding of past contracts. They are meeting this Wednesday with union leadership.

**Committee Reports:**

Finance Committee- Trustee Avino stated there is nothing pressing to review. Chief stated that once we receive proposals for the audit we will have to meet.

Building and Equipment Committee- Trustee Evans stated that 101 was sent in for their frame repair. The 2 squads are being outfitted. Chief stated that the last one came back today so they are now in service. Discussed the committee that went to Pierce in Appleton, Wisconsin to review the checklist on Tower 103, they will go up again in July, and then it should be about a 4-month build. Truck 104 will be up for sale soon but will not be released until we have Tower 103. 104 is not worth much money.

Trustee Cichon asked if they selected the equipment for the Tower.

Firefighter Swank stated that they have reached out to multiple vendors and are receiving costs/quotes on all the items.

Chief stated that once all the information is gathered, they will meeting with the Building and Equipment Committee.

Policy & Strategic Planning Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated that he met with Chief and Cyndi. They are making redline corrections in the policy manual. The committee will meet after they complete Chapter 3. Everyone will need to return the USB drive so everything can be updated.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated that we are going to be pushing Open House off for another year. We are going to administer drive thru flu shots this year.

Safety Town is going to be virtual to students.

Commander Koy has applied for residential Knox Box grants.

Firefighter Sanchez is the lead person to contact for the "Ride to School in a Fire Truck" program. Chief has spoken to the Principals of all the schools.

Chief explained in more detail the Knox Box and with the grant we are hoping to purchase 15.

Chief explained that if they know of anyone in need, they will work to get them one.

Chief also stated that he explained to the Principals that if there are students having hard times or who is deserving, they can have more than the one student receive a ride to school. Discussion

Trustee Evans donated 160 bike helmets. We will have to think of a way to distribute them.

Trustee Santoro asked if firefighters are going to attend block parties this year. Chief states that with the increase in calls and training, it is sometimes difficult for the firefighters to even get to shop for their groceries. He is thinking of an alternative idea, may be a couple of weekends will be picked and if there is a backup engine, we can hire off duty personnel to attend. Discussion.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Skyba not present

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business**

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the Request for Proposal -Audit of District's Financial Statements to go out to bid.

Trustee Avino stated that maybe we could consider having a CAFR completed and do a deeper dive into the financials. Chief stated that Lauterbach and Amen did not feel that was necessary, but it can be discussed in committee.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; absent, Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Avino; 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 Avino to approve the purchase of a LUCAS chest compression system from Stryker at a cost of \$15,349.58. IDPH grant award of \$7,500 will go toward this purchase.

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

Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Evans to ratify the payment to Health Endeavors in the amount of \$7,625.00 for the department physicals.

Chief stated that the annual physicals went well.

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

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Evans and seconded by Trustee Santoro to go into Closed Session Pursuant 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) Selection of a person to fill a public office and Section 2 (c)(2) Collective Negotiating matters between the public body and its employees.

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

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Went into Closed Session at 7:09pm

Returned from Closed Session at 7:28 PM, no decision made, no votes taken.

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

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

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

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

---

Joanne Rybak  
Secretary

---

Andrew Cichon  
President