

**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 18th day of October 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

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 6:32pm.

Returned from Closed Session at 7:19pm, 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.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE (Public Participation)

A motion was made by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Evans 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 Evans approve the following minutes:

- 1- Approve the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on September 13, 2021.
- 2- Approve and keep closed the September 13, 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.

Currently, the COVID-19 positivity rate is 2.9%.

The drive-thru flu vaccine program was a success, we administered about 500 vaccines. The homebound program was also successful, and we heard many positive comments.

We have a firefighter that has returned to work from an injury and a paramedic that was off with a back injury that recently returned.

Resurrection Hospital has been busy which has been affecting the fire department with our turn around time. They believe it is from staff shortages as well as patients who did not see their doctors during COVID and now are very sick. Discussion.

During the drive-thru flu shots, the gas station next store lost business due to the traffic pattern. Thankfully, they spoke up and the second day we changed the traffic pattern so not to affect the gas station as much. It is good that we have an open line of communication and can work together.

Motion by Trustee Rybak seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the Chief's report for September 2021.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

President's Report: Trustee Cichon stated he heard positive feedback on the flu shots. We need to work together as a board to fill the vacant trustee position.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schedule of Assets
(Arising from Cash Transactions)
September 30, 2021

Assets

Checking and money market accounts:

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	300,529.07
Wintrust -MM #2776	991,160.28
Wintrust- Checking #9771	6,028.41
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	511,578.02
Wintrust- Medical #0599	861.79
Wintrust- Donation #4129	919.11
Wintrust- FSA #0713	3,146.73
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$1,814,223.43</u>

Certificates of deposit (interest rate and maturity):

Belmont Bank (0.45%, 02/10/22)	699,331.01
Belmont Bank (0.45% 01/21/22)	582,091.71
Belmont Bank (0.45% 01/19/22)	<u>406,410.84</u>
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$1,687,833.56</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$3,502,056.99</u>

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the September’s accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$425,734.16 and the Treasurer’s Report as presented from the Financial Statements for September 2021.

Trustee Evans stated that it was business as usual.

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 we are still waiting on some grant money. Trustee Rybak asked about a meeting. Chief stated that the audit should be completed in November, and we will need to meet then. Discussion.

Building and Equipment Committee-Chief stated that we have engines 101 and 102 back in the station. Our relationship MacQueen is dissolving, we feel we are being overcharged. The Deputy Chief has been working hard and has been able to farm out repairs to different companies saving the district 8-9 thousand dollars. Unfortunately, there are not many options out there, but the Deputy has been working to find the best deals.

We also are having communication issues. While we are waiting for the \$100,000 for the tower, we also have \$50,000 for communications. The system that we would need is about \$100,000. The crews are currently using their cell phones to make sure they do not miss calls due to our speakers not all working in the building. MCD cannot work with the new upgraded communication equipment and would need to spend about \$50,000 in upgrades on their end. Chief spoke to Ron Gross and he is going to speak to their board. The district has other options if MCD does not want to do upgrades. Discussion.

Truck 104’s brakes caught on fire and had to be replaced. We are trying not to spend any more money on this piece of apparatus.

Production on our new Tower has begun production.

Policy & Strategic Planning Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated there is nothing to report.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated there is nothing to report. Trustee Rybak stated that she would like to have a meeting. Discussion.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Skyba stated there is nothing to report.

Old Business:

None

New Business

Motion By Trustee Evans and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the payment of \$36,054.04 to the Foreign Fire Insurance Board.

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 Santoro and seconded by Trustee Cichon to approve the purchase of 11 Sleep Number beds and bedding, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.

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 Skyba and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to purchase a Hurst Cutter and Spreader Package from Air One at a cost of \$18,320 of which \$15,528 will be paid by the IPRF Grant. Total cost to District is \$2,792.00

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 DENIED

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 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 7:56pm.

Returned from Closed Session at 8:43pm, 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.

Motion to approve Deputy Chief Claude Erlewein’s contract, effective November 1, 2021, was tabled.

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Santoro to appoint Louis Mezzano 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; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Skyba 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 8:47pm.

Joanne Rybak
Secretary

Andrew Cichon
President