

**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 10th day of January 2022 at 6:31 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 Kolaski; yes,
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes,
Trustee Mezzano; yes, Chief Blondell; yes.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE (Public Participation)

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

Frank Avino spoke about Norridge Kindness Day which is being held on April 23, 2022. The committee is Beth Ringelstein, Jen Adams, Lou Mezzano, and Frank Avino. They are encouraging individuals and boards to go out in the community and do an act of kindness. Discussion.

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

- 1- Approve the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on December 13, 2021.

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

Norwood Park had an extraordinary year, call volume went up 7.5%, in December we responded to over 400 calls. Staffing will need to be discussed.

There is a paramedic shortage nationally, we currently have 9 for 12 positions. Discussion.

Tower 103 should be dropped off in the next 2 months. We have a crew scheduled to go up to inspect.

The Norwood Park Township Board generously approved over \$20,000 for a LUCAS device for the engine and a stair chair to help prevent back injuries. The LUCAS device has had great results in CPR.

The Chief and Deputy Chief have been coming in at night due to the volume of calls. Equipment has had to prioritize ambulance calls and have been diverted to more serious call. Discussion.

Engine 101 was involved in an accident last month. The Chief and firefighter went to court. The civilian did not have insurance. Our insurance company is going after the deductible, there was over \$5,500 in damage to the engine and is in the process of being repaired.

The fire house is in desperate need of updated inhouse alerting equipment. Chief has been working with MCD to see about things on their end because they cannot work with current hi-tech programs. We have a grant for \$50,000 to use towards the purchase of a new equipment/installation. Currently, crews are using their personal cell phones to know when calls come in.

The district has had a few employees test COVID-19 positive. We follow CDC guidelines, and the employee can return to work after 5 days if they are okay to do so. Workers Compensation is on the same page as us. The crews are 100% vaccinated.

Motion by Trustee Kolaski seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the Chief's report for December 2021.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

President's Report: Trustee Cichon stated that 2022 is going to be challenging with increased call volume and staffing issues. Committee chairs need to get a game plan and schedule their meetings if needed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Assets

Checking and money market accounts:

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	332,545.44
Wintrust -MM #2776	1,260,728.12
Wintrust- Checking #9771	7,759.70
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	571,947.91
Wintrust- Medical #0599	4,045.99
Wintrust- Donation #4129	919.21
Wintrust- FSA #0713	21,394.13
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$2,199,340.50</u>

Certificates of deposit (interest rate and maturity):

Belmont Bank (0.45%, 02/10/22)	700,113.86
Belmont Bank (0.45% 01/21/22)	582,750.48

Belmont Bank (0.45% 01/19/22)	<u>406,870.79</u>
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$1,689,735.13</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$3,889,075.63</u>

Motion by Trustee Evans and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the December's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$227,563.05 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for December 2021.

There were one set of bills paid in December which is why the amount is lower than usual. January will have 3 sets of bills paid. The audit has been received and should be approved tonight and filed.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee- Trustee Evans stated that we need to schedule a finance meeting. There are CDs maturing, Chief states that he will get rates.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Mezzano stated he would like to come in. Chief said he is welcome anytime. Chief explained that the District just did a once in about 30-year purchase of a fire truck.

Policy & Strategic Planning Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated he would like to get together for a policy meeting and for everyone to get their thumb drives updated.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated there is nothing to report. Norridge Kindness Day is now in this committee, Trustee Mezzano had many ideas.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Skyba stated there is nothing to report. Chief explained that they will be having a promotion exam and firefighter entry exam this year. It goes by state statute. Turnout for the entry exam 2 years ago was great because we lowered the requirements. Discussion. Chief stated that paramedics are currently getting hired before they finish their school. 85% of our current list would still take the job if asked and that is what we were looking for. The District would then send them to the fire academy and paramedic school.

For the promotional exam, the Deputy Chief is working with IOS and deciding the books, training, etc. Trustee Rybak asked is we will advertise for local kids. Chief explained that people who are trying to get this job know where to look for tests. Chief would like to give extra points for speaking a 2nd language. Discussion. Entry testing is every 2 years and promotional is every 3 years.

Old Business:

None

New Business

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to accept the audit for the 2021 fiscal year as presented by Sikich, LLP.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Mezzano and seconded by Trustee Skyba to approve the payout of mandatory sick time buyback to the following:

Larry Curran 144 hours \$6,068.16
Stanley Koy 120 hours \$5,338.56
Matthew Mattio 96 hours \$3,648.72
Jeff Peistrup 24 hours \$1,072.32
Stephen Swank 144 hours \$5,477.76
Total mandatory sick time buyback \$21,605.52.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the one-year extension (per Section 14) of the Paramedic Services of Illinois billing contract, at a rate of 3%.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Rybak to approve the consent agenda:

- ratify the payment to GEMT in the amount of \$104,429.72.
- approve the minutes of the Community Relations Committee meeting held on December 13, 2021.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Skyba and seconded by Trustee Cichon to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of the Open Meeting 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, probably, or imminent litigation).

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Went into Closed Session at 7:12pm.

Returned from Closed Session at 8:28pm, 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
Trustee Mezzano; yes, Chief Blondell; yes.

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
Trustee Mezzano; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Joanne Rybak
Secretary

Andrew Cichon
President