

**MINUTES OF THE RESCHEDULED 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022 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,  
Trustee Mezzano; yes, Chief Blondell; yes, Attorney Flaherty; 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.

AYES: 7 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 January 10, 2022.
- 2- Approve and keep closed the January 10, 2022 Closed Session Meeting Minutes.

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.

Covid rates are at 1.7% today and decreasing.

Call volume has increased 28% from last year to this point, previously we have seen about a 2% increase.

Viewed pictures of Tower 103, it should be delivered in the next couple of weeks. We plan to have a public event once we get it.

Truck 104 has been offered to area fire academies; they are not interested. We have had it for sale and is currently at \$30,000 or we may end up donating it to a volunteer department. Trustee Mezzano asked if it can be scrapped, Chief says that would be a last-ditch effort. Discussion.

We received the \$100,000 of the \$150,000 grant. We have just received notification that we were awarded a \$90,000 grant towards communication equipment, so we now have a total of \$140,000 to use towards communications. We should know more on what we are going to do at the next MCD meeting.

Paramedic/Firefighter Brian Fahey's last day is today after 19 years. He was monumental in keeping staffing of paramedics for the last year. He is moving to a slower paced PSI department. We thank him for his service here.

The administration, with the help of a firefighter from Hillside who has experience, submitted a SAFER grant, which if awarded would pay for 3 firefighters for 3 years. This equates to over \$1.3 million.

This year instead of medical physicals we are having all firefighters participate in a mental health physical. Through Insight and Connect, each employee will meet with a counselor for 90 minutes allowing them to track everyone's mental health.

Chief explained the formation of a referendum committee, he asked Trustee Mezzano and Trustee Rybak to be part of the committee as well as a couple of union members. This is an exploratory committee, and we are moving forward gathering information. Attorney Flaherty is an expert in this area. Discussion.

Motion by Trustee Santoro seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the Chief's report for January 2022.  
AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**President's Report:** Trustee Cichon expressed his thanks to Brian Fahey. He also thanked Chief Blondell on doing a great job.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Schedule of Assets  
(Arising from Cash Transactions)  
January 31, 2022

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	332,545.44
Wintrust -MM #2776	613,226.80
Wintrust- Checking #9771	6,039.83
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	761,395.52
Wintrust- Medical #0599	4,045.99
Wintrust- Donation #4129	919.21
Wintrust- FSA #0713	20,371.21
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$1,751,778.96</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)	582,187.77
Belmont Bank (0.45% 01/19/22)	<u>407,331.58</u>
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$1,690,633.21</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$3,442,412.17</u>

Motion by Trustee Evans and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the January’s accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$665,759.68 and the Treasurer’s Report as presented from the Financial Statements for January 2022.

Expenses were discussed, explaining the January invoices included half of December’s invoices. Discussion about moving towards ACH or electronic bill pay.

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 they had a meeting last night. There is a paramedic shortage, and it will be discussed further in closed session. Also discussed the referendum.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Mezzano stated he had a tour of the firehouse and would like to have a committee meeting; he will email dates to the committee. He stated that a lot of money is being saved with maintenance by the work the firefighters can do themselves.

Policy & Strategic Planning Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated the USBs have been updated and thanks the trustees that turned them in on time.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated we received a letter from Superintendent Guzik thanking the fire department for the great job they did when the fire alarm went off. Norridge Community Cares is April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are looking for volunteers from 10am-4pm to hand out Vial of Life by Mariano’s. Discussion.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Skyba stated there was a meeting and they approved the 3% raises for retirees.

**Attorney Report:**

This year’s cost of living is 7%, was 2.1% in prior years. Will need to do a Truth-in-Taxation to capture anything over 5%.

There are new questions on the Economic Interest forms this year. Talks about savings and other monetary items, this is referring to money you may have in trust or a corporation. Also, the ethics officer signature is a state requirement and not needed for fire district.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business**

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Rybak to approve the IGA with the Village of Harwood Heights regarding fee and fine structure as defined by the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Chief stated that 2 months ago we approve this with the Village of Norridge, this is for the Village of Harwood Heights.

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 Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Skyba to approve the payout of elective sick time buyback to the following:

Leigh Unger 144 hours \$5,421.60

Total elective sick time buyback \$5,421.60.

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 Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Evans 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; and/or section 2 (c)(2) collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees.

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 7:05pm.

Returned from Closed Session at 8:03pm, 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, Attorney Flaherty; 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 8:07 pm.

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Joanne Rybak  
Secretary

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Andrew Cichon  
President