

**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 14th day of March 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.

The pledge was said at the start of the meeting.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE (Public Participation)

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

Mike DiSilvestro, from Paramedic Services of Illinois spoke to the board.

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

- 1- Approve the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on February 28, 2022.
- 2- Approve and keep closed the February 28, 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.

Call trend is 25% higher than last year at this time. Other villages are seeing about 10-12% increase.

There will be a meeting with the Board of Fire Commissioners Wednesday at 5:30pm. They will be discussing IOS testing for entry level firefighters which the list is good for 2 years and lieutenant's exam which the list will be good for 3 years. Trustee Skyba stated that he will attend this meeting.

We applied for the SAFER grant. If awarded, it will pay for 3 firefighters for 3 years. It will be a while before we hear anything.

Tower 103 should be arriving this week. It needs to be outfitted and then we will have 3 days of training before going in service.

The sale of Truck 104 has been lowered to \$25,000. Discussion.

Chief states he has talked to Trustee Santoro and they are coming up with a date to have a ceremony for Tower 103.

We have received an additional grant for \$90,000 to use towards communications.

Trustee Skyba had questions regarding call volume and call type.

Motion by Trustee Evans seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the Chief's report for February 2022.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

President's Report: Trustee Cichon stated that there are some big decisions to make. We need to do what is right for the taxpayers and the fire department.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schedule of Assets
(Arising from Cash Transactions)
February 28, 2022

Assets

Checking and money market accounts:

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	361,439.54
Wintrust -MM #2776	907,452.34
Wintrust- Checking #9771	6,233.05
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	953,158.54
Wintrust- Medical #0599	3,249.99
Wintrust- Donation #4129	919.35
Wintrust- FSA #0713	16,661.78
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$2,249,114.59</u>

Certificates of deposit (interest rate and maturity):

Belmont Bank (0.45%, 02/10/22)	700,647.83
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>\$1,691,167.18</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$3,940,281.77</u>

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to approve the February's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$301,376.74 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for February 2022.

Trustee Evans stated that we have received \$500,000 in property tax money, more should be coming in. There were only a couple of larger expenses this month.

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 there was nothing to report.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Mezzano stated there is nothing to report.

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

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated the Vial of Life envelopes are ready for Norridge Community Cares Day which is April 23rd. We are looking for volunteers from 10am-3pm to hand them out by Mariano's. Discussion. We are working on an event for Tower 103. The annual report should be ready by the next board meeting. Open House is being discussed. There will be a meeting soon.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Skyba stated he will be at the commissioners meeting on Wednesday.

Old Business:

None.

New Business

Discussion of referendum was moved to after the motions were completed.

Motion by Trustee Cichon and seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the side letter agreement with local on hiring and minimum manning.

Trustee Skyba asked where the side letter is. Chief explained that it was emailed out to the board today as soon as it was received back from the attorneys for the District and the local.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; no, Trustee Kolaski; abstain,
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes

Trustee Mezzano; yes.

AYES: 5 NAY: 1 ABSTAIN: 1 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the hiring of three fulltime civil service firefighters in July 2022 and three more in July 2023.

Trustee Skyba asked how much does the testing cost. Chief explained that we must do a test for entry level firefighters no matter what by statute. Trustee Evans stated that all of this and the cost of the firefighters has been discussed previously.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; no, Trustee Kolaski; abstain,
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes
Trustee Mezzano; yes.

AYES: 5 NAY: 1 ABSTAIN: 1 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Cichon and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the hiring of nine civilian paramedics effective July 2022, reduced to six in July 2023.

Trustee Skyba asked who is paying for this because he doesn't see a cost savings. Trustee Rybak stated that it was shown that there would be a substantial savings. Trustee Skyba stated that the Union is going to grieve this. Chief explained that the Union is on board and that was the side letter agreement that was just approved.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; no, Trustee Kolaski; abstain,
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes
Trustee Mezzano; yes.

AYES: 5 NAY: 1 ABSTAIN: 1 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Cichon and seconded by Trustee Evans to terminate the contract with Paramedic Services of Illinois effective June 30, 2022, at 12:39pm.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; no, Trustee Kolaski; abstain,
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes
Trustee Mezzano; yes.

AYES: 5 NAY: 1 ABSTAIN: 1 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Evans and seconded by Trustee Rybak to approve the Finance Committee minutes from February 27, 2022.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; no, Trustee Kolaski; yes,
Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes
Trustee Mezzano; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 1 MOTION CARRIED

Discussion about Referendum.

Trustee Rybak stated that Attorney Flaherty gave two options for the Fire District. Option 1 would create a Rescue Fund which is limited to .10. Option 2 would increase the limited rate, and this is the option we are choosing. The district's current limiting rate is .66, we will be asking for an increase to .77.

Trustee Rybak stated that using the ambulance one time in 15 years would be less money than what the increase would be. On a \$300,000 house, it will be about \$100 increase a year.

We would like to see the Referendum question on the June 28, 2022, ballot. The fire department cannot spend its funds on the referendum, but the Union and state affiliation can.

Discussion.

There will need to be a special meeting to approve an Ordinance that will need to be filed to have the question appear on the ballot.

Board decided on March 22, 2022 for Special Meeting at 6:30pm.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Joanne Rybak
Secretary

Andrew Cichon
President