

**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 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022 at 6:33 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.

Swearing in of Firefighters: James Keating, Frank Stec, and James Newsome.

Went into recess at 6:42pm

Returned from recess at 6:51pm

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.

Public Hearing (Budget and Appropriations 2022-2023)

Motion by Trustee Cichon and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to adjourn the public hearing and resume the regular 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

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

A motion was made by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Santoro 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 Mezzano and seconded by Trustee Santoro approve the following minutes:

- 1- Approve the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on June 13, 2022.

Roll Call: Trustee Skyba; present, 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.

The Deputy Chief will be retiring after 26 ½ years of service. He has done a great job.

The District has currently plateaued with our call volume at 18%. We are on pace to shatter call volume records and we need to have more EMS. Over the last 10 years, there has been a 50% increase in calls. Thank you to the board for allowing us to go for a referendum, it was a team effort and together we got it passed.

Tower 103 has had some issues. The last being a leak in the water overflows. The firefighters have been training a lot. It is good that we are finding issues now while it is under warranty.

We just swore in 3 firefighter/paramedics. That is amazing considering a neighboring department had one person show up for their test. We had 43 individuals take our test and have a nice list. We will be hiring 3 positions next year and there is currently 1 paramedic left on the list. Loyola has 8 students in their paramedic class, and all have received jobs before even getting certified. This just proves we did the right thing by changing our qualifications to test.

There was some great committee meetings held last month and they will give an update during committee reports.

Motion by Trustee Santoro seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the Chief's report for June and July 2022.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**President's Report:** Trustee Cichon thanked everyone for their help with the referendum and that how great it is that it passed. Almost all of the board was behind it, and he appreciates everyone.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Schedule of Assets  
(Arising from Cash Transactions)  
June 30, 2022

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	408,347.44
Wintrust -MM #2776	1,112,878.73
Wintrust- Checking #9771	3,236.19
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	1,360,216.55
Wintrust- Medical #0599	1,028.42
Wintrust- Donation #4129	921.39
Wintrust- FSA #0713	13,136.06
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$2,899,764.78</u>

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

Belmont Bank (0.60%, 02/10/23)	702,028.11
Belmont Bank (0.40% 07/21/22)	583,187.77
Belmont Bank (0.50% 01/19/23)	<u>407,832.44</u>
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$1,693,048.32</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$4,592,813.10</u>

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

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	413,889.36
Wintrust -MM #2776	948,214.13
Wintrust- Checking #9771	3,895.39
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	1,273,199.32
Wintrust- Medical #0599	597.42
Wintrust- Donation #4129	922.55
Wintrust- FSA #0713	12,661.77
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$2,653,379.94</u>

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

Belmont Bank (0.60%, 02/10/23)	702,028.11
Belmont Bank (0.40% 07/21/23)	584,344.56
Belmont Bank (0.50% 01/19/23)	<u>408,339.82</u>
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$1,694,712.49</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$4,348,092.43</u>

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Rybak to approve the June's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$318,153.49 and July's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$476,578.30 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for June and July 2022.

Trustee Evans stated June is less because it had a partial PSI payment. July had uniforms, entry firefighter and lieutenant tests.

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 met, and the final budget is similar to the tentative budget. They discussed the Chief contract, CD renewal, and reimbursement resolution.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Mezzano stated they had their meeting and discussed the sewer system backup. They had a commercial company come out to jet and use the camera pulled our stuff. There will now be preventative maintenance and they will come every 6 months.

Discussed the rebox of ambulance 107 and the shortage of chassis.

The windows on this building are very old and many do not function. We will need to go out for bid and will prepare a packet.

The signage in front of the building is old and outdated. We would like it changed to Norwood Park Fire EMS.

Finally, we discussed the Zoll One program and will talk about it during the motion.

Policy & Strategic Planning Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated that the Chief forward the policy for Civilian Paramedics and we hope to have it established next meeting.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated they had their meeting. Open House will be Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12-3pm. We will have the therapy dogs, photo booth, Twins is donating hot dogs, SAC, Salvation Army, Gaba Chief, and the Township is going to sponsor the flu shots. We plan to do a Close before you Dose raffle for a ride to school on a fire engine and to sell t-shirts to support a cause. Chief asked the Trustees to let he know who can be there to help. He also asks that no one call for donations unless Trustee Santoro specifically directs you to.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Skyba stated he has nothing to report. The meeting was rescheduled to August 30<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

Chief stated that there were some social media comments stating the pension was funded at 10% and asked if that was correct? Trustee Skyba asked Commander Peistrup what the funding is which he stated was 47%.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business**

Motion by Trustee Cichon and seconded by Trustee Santoro to adopt and approve Ordinance #22-4, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Budget and Appropriation for fiscal year 2022-2023.

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 Evans to adopt and approve Resolution #22-1, a resolution approving the new -hire reimbursement employment agreement of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District (retroactive to August 1, 2022).

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 Mezzano to approve the 10-year Zoll One Program agreement with Zoll Medical at an annual cost of \$37,439.13, pending attorney approval on language. Commander Peistrup explained that we currently have 2 monitors from 2014 and one from 2020, and that we are in dire need for updated monitors.

The Zoll One Program will give us 4 of the same monitors that will have all the same parts. We will get current, up-to-date monitors and in about 5 years we will receive 4 new ones. We would be leasing them for &37,000 a year and there is currently a 6–8-month lead time. This program will give us state of the art monitor worry free. Discussion.

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 approve ambulance rebox (ambulance 107) by Elite Ambulance Sales at a cost not to exceed \$165,000.

Discussion on the 2 ambulances that were already reboxed. Currently, there is a 3-year wait for new ambulances. There is a shortage of chassis. Multiple companies have stated that they will not even put the District on a waiting list. Once a chassis becomes available, it will be about 8-14 weeks to complete. If things change and other ambulance companies become available, we will go out to bid. Discussion.

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:

- Approve the minutes of the July 25, 2022 Community Relations Committee Minutes
- Approve the minutes of the July 25, 2022 Building and Equipment Committee Minutes
- Approve the minutes of the July 25, 2022 Finance Committee Minutes

- Ratify the payment to Industrial Organization Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$8,423.00 for officer and entry level firefighter testing.
- Ratify the payment to Ray O'Herron in the amount of \$6,356.24 for uniforms.
- Motion to approve the purchase of 5 sets of bunker gear from Air One at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.00.

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 Rybak to go into Closed Session pursuant to 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  
Trustee Mezzano; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Went into Closed Session at 7:44pm

Returned from Closed Session at 8:59pm

Motion to approve the Chief contract was tabled.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.

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Joanne Rybak  
Secretary

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Andrew Cichon  
President