

**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 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023 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 Kolaski; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes,  
Trustee Rybak; yes, Trustee Santoro; yes,  
Trustee Evans; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; yes, Chief Blondell; yes.

The pledge was said at the start of the meeting.

Swearing in of Firefighter Tiehg O’Leary.

Trustee Cichon presented a plaque to Trustee Evans at her last board meeting. Trustee Evans stated that it was not an easy decision, but she is moving out of town and can no longer remain on the board.

Recess at 6:35pm      Returned from Recess at 6:50pm

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes,  
Trustee Rybak; yes, Trustee Santoro; yes,  
Trustee Evans; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; yes, Chief Blondell; yes.

**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 Massaro and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to approve the following minutes:

- 1- Approve the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on June 12, 2023.

2- Approve and keep closed the June 12, 2023, Board of Trustees' Closed Session Meeting Minutes.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

### **Chiefs' Report:**

Chief stated he hopes all is well and that all Trustees received a written report.

Chief Blondell thanked Trustee Evans for her service on the board.

The call volume is 3% higher than last year, which was our busiest year.

Several months ago, we were informed by other fire departments about OSHA coming out for surprise visits and being fined when they find violations. Chief contact the OSHA- Department of Labor to have them come out to do an inspection and instead of fines they tell you what to correct. This was scheduled. Then we received a call from OSHA to say they would be out in the morning for our surprise inspection. Deputy Chief spoke with the gentleman and explained we have this other inspection set up. After a couple of hours, they called back and said they would not be out. During our scheduled inspection we learned of 6 serious violations of which 5 of 6 have already been corrected and 1 administrative paperwork which was also corrected.

We did need to create an EAP explaining where to go in an emergency. Discussion. It is in Target Solutions for our employees to read but we will need to have it added to the policy.

There are a couple of SOGs that were also written.

The positive is that we were able to avoid fines and correct issues.

With Trustee Evans' resignation, the board will now have 60 days to appoint someone to fill the vacancy. After their appointment, you will need to reassign officers and committees.

The Finance Committee will need to meet to discuss the final budget.

Resurrection Hospital has changed its stroke status to primary from comprehensive. The paramedics perform tests that determine which hospital is best for the care of the patient. Unfortunately, today we had a resident call to complain about a family member being taken to ALGH and not Resurrection when they had signs and symptoms of a stroke. We may need to educate residents about this change. Discussion.

Motion by Trustee Santoro seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the Chief's report for June 2023.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**President's Report:** Trustee Cichon stated that Trustee Evans will be missed and he wishes her the best.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Schedule of Assets  
(Arising from Cash Transactions)  
June 30, 2023

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	573,245.52
Wintrust -MM #2776	1,271,598.44
Wintrust- Checking #9771	11,650.98
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	1,647,853.41
Wintrust- Medical #0599	9,234.49
Wintrust- Donation #4129	1,116.98
Wintrust- FSA #0713	10,049.40
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$3,524,749.22</u>

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

Belmont Bank (0.60%, 02/10/24)	715,701.48
Belmont Bank (2.35% 07/21/23)	594,625.01
Belmont Bank (0.50% 01/19/24)	414,079.53
Total certificates of deposit	<u>1,724,406.02</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$5,249,155.24</u>

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to approve June's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$513,379.79 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for June 2023.

Trustee Evans explained the large expenses this month and that we received over \$200,000 in ambulance billing this month.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes,  
Trustee Rybak; yes, Trustee Santoro; yes,  
Trustee Evans; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes, Trustee Massaro; yes.  
AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**Committee Reports:**

Finance Committee- Trustee Evans stated there will need to be a committee meeting scheduled.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Mezzano stated that he spoke with members from the Norwood Park Township Board, and we need to submit a formal letter asking for funds to go towards the stretchers.

Engine 101 is out of service with pump issues.

The firefighters' committee has been meeting with different engine companies and once they have it narrowed down, they will meet with the B&E committee.

A squad will need to be purchased, they will go through a Co-Op and we are asking for \$70,000 as a point to look. Chief Blondell spoke with one of the Co-Ops and found that there is not much ability for shopping, there is limited supply.

Policy & Strategic Planning Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated he will reach out to the Chief so the EAP can get added to the policy.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated that she had the paramedics come for her daughter and they took great care of her, unfortunately, they had an issue with the stretcher, and it took about 3 minutes to get it out of the ambulance. Trustee Santoro stated that she is happy that there is a motion on the agenda to purchase new stretchers.

We had a committee meeting before the board meeting tonight.

August 1<sup>st</sup>- National Night Out

August 25<sup>th</sup>- First Responders Night at RHS football game

September 13<sup>th</sup>- Health Fair in Harwood Heights

October 7<sup>th</sup>- Open House

Flu shot dates have yet to be determined.

Trustee Santoro asked Trustee Mezzano to explain Battle of Badges. Trustee Mezzano explained that he would like to have a softball game in the summer followed by a community BBQ and in the winter to do a Blood Drive. If money needs to be raised for the events, then he would go to businesses for donations. Trustee Mezzano stated he would gather all the people to run the events.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Massaro stated that he is looking forward to his first pension meeting.

**Old Business:**

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Santoro to adopt and approve Resolution #23-2, a Resolution relating to the terms of employment for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Chief of the Fire Department.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

### **New Business**

Motion by Trustee Evans and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the preparation of a request for bid packet for asphalt.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

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

David Sanchez 78 hours \$3,043.26

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Massaro and seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the payout of sick time, vacation time, and personal days to retired firefighter Steven Henmueller in the amount of \$44,652.92. (\$32,478.28 paid out on the August 1, 2023, payroll and \$12, 174.64 banked for medical insurance premiums per the contract).

Total Vacation/Personal Time \$32,478.28

Total Sick Time \$12,174.64

Total payout for all days \$44,652.92

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the purchase of three MTS Power Load Stretchers (Quote #10709549) from Stryker medical, at a cost not to exceed \$175,000.

Trustee Cichon asked if the Township can donate towards this. Discussion.

Trustee Kolaski asked about the warranty on the ambulance. Chief stated that the Deputy Chief has been trying to get an answer and just received warranty documents today. There is also an email history. Discussion.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Evans to approve the reimbursement in the amount of \$5,871.35 to Roberto Hernandez for the cost of Paramedic School.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes,

Trustee Rybak; yes, Trustee Santoro; yes,  
Trustee Evans; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes, Trustee Massaro; yes.  
MOTION CARRIED

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the purchase of a squad through a Co-Op at a cost not to exceed \$70,000.

Chief explained that this is for approval to authorize the purchase. He will keep the board informed. This price should include the sirens and lights. Currently looking to get an Expedition or Tahoe but will have to see what is available through the Co-Op.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Cichon to ratify the payment to Chase Card Services in the amount of \$5,855.24 for the mount for the monitor, IDPH registration, VMO class, FAE class, PubEd supplies.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to go into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) of the Open Meetings Act, selection of a person to fill a public office.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Went into Closed Session at 7:25pm,

Returned from Closed Session at 7:46pm, no decisions made, no votes taken.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Cichon; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Evans; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; yes, Chief Blondell; yes.

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Santoro to adjourn the meeting.  
AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

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Joanne Rybak  
Secretary

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Andrew Cichon  
President