

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 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 Mezzano; yes, Trustee Massaro; 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 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: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Mezzano and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to appoint Steven Wegrecki to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees until such time as his/her successor is duly elected and qualified.

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

Swearing in of Trustee Steven Wegrecki.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Trustee Cichon stated that he will be stepping down as Trustee on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He has reflected on the accomplishments, sadness, memories, and bonds that he has made. He has a deep gratitude for the fire department and all the members.

Chief Blondell stated that Trustee Cichon started as a commissioner and then was appointed to Trustee. He has been with the fire department for 8 years. His presidency had some speed bumps like COVID, staffing, call volume being at an all time high, and the referendum which he put his political career on the line. We are eternally grateful for everything.

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to go into recess at 6:46pm.

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

Returned from recess at 7:08pm.

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

#### PUBLIC HEARING (Budget and Appropriations 2023-2024)

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Santoro to adjourn the Public Hearing and resume the Regular Meeting.

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

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

- 1- Approve the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on July 17, 2023.
- 2- Approve and keep closed the July 17, 2023, Board of Trustees' Closed Session Meeting Minutes.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

#### **Chiefs' Report:**

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

July was the busiest month in the history of the fire department.

We have been able to hire civilian paramedics and keep them. Our fire department is still desirable and when we hold our civil service firefighter test, they will receive points. We will be losing a couple of paramedics to the Chicago Fire Department.

We have been talking about purchasing a squad, there are no cars in stock and the Co-Ops are not able to get vehicles either. Best case scenario is looking to purchase through a dealership.

We have increased the budgeted amount to \$85,000 and may need to change the amount that was previously approved. We should know more at the next meeting.

The asphalt bid is not ready yet. Chief has spoken to Ron from Harwood Heights and was introduced to the engineer that they use. He is going to assist with the bid.

Motion by Trustee Santoro seconded by Trustee Cichon to approve the Chief's report for July 2023.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Schedule of Assets  
(Arising from Cash Transactions)  
July 31, 2023

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	589,512.92
Wintrust -MM #2776	1,154,751.79
Wintrust- Checking #9771	11,952.80
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	1,638,052.41
Wintrust- Medical #0599	11,196.42
Wintrust- Donation #4129	1,122.02
Wintrust- FSA #0713	9,638.92
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$3,416,227.28</u>

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

Belmont Bank (4.75%, 02/10/24)	715,701.48
Belmont Bank (4.90% 07/21/24)	598,179.21
Belmont Bank (4.75% 01/19/24)	418,898.60
Total certificates of deposit	<u>1,732,679.29</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$5,148,906.57</u>

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve July's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$517,224.83 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for July 2023.

The Chief stated that we renewed a CD through Belmont Bank for 4.9%. We have been working on setting up ACH and BillPay. Trustee Rybak will receive a token so she can log in to approve the ACHs. All trustees will receive a report of payments being made.

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

Trustee Wegrecki; abstain.  
AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Policy & Strategic Planning Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated he will speak with the Chief about the policies we need added. USBs need to be returned so they can be updated.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro asked Trustee Mezzano to explain the Battle of the Badges. Trustee Mezzano stated that they plan to have a Police vs Fire Department Softball game and BBQ. He has spoken to Norridge Park for use of the facility, both Norridge and Harwood Heights Police Department, Vince Fanelli for umpires and fundraising. Discussion. There will also be a blood drive at a different time.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Massaro stated there is a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm.

### **Old Business:**

#### **New Business**

##### Election of Officers

Trustee Mezzano was nominated by Trustee Santoro as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Rybak to elect Louis Mezzano as Secretary of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for a two-year term.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Rybak was nominated by Trustee Santoro as President of the Board of Trustees. Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to elect Joanne Rybak as President of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for a two-year term.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Santoro was nominated by Trustee Cichon as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees.  
Motion by Trustee Cichon and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to elect Gina Santoro as Treasurer of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for a two-year term.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Cichon to adopt and approve Resolution #23-3, a Resolution confirming and declaring the election of District President Joanne Rybak, Secretary Louis Mezzano, and Treasurer Gina Santoro, commencing on August 14, 2023.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion to approve the committee appointments as presented by the President was tabled.

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Cichon to adopt and approve Ordinance #23-5, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Budget and Appropriations for fiscal year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$10,280.575.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

#### Consent Agenda

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Cichon to approve

- the minutes from the Community Relations Committee meeting held on July 17, 2023.
- ratify the payment of \$6,403.71 to MacQueen Emergency for repairs to Engine 101 and miscellaneous supplies.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

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Louis Mezzano  
Secretary

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Joanne Rybak  
President