

**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 12th day of February 2024, 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 Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; 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: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

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

- 1- Approve the Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on January 8, 2024.
- 2- Approve and keep closed the January 8, 2024 Board of Trustees' Closed Session meeting minutes.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes
Trustee Palazzo; 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 stated it is great to see everyone here for our two senior firefighters moving up in rank.

January had 436 calls which is the 3rd busiest month in the history of Norwood Park.

The power stretcher has been installed and everyone is very pleased with them.

Chief held the "State of the Union" meeting with all employees, it was positive.

The District's next large expense will be power stair chairs. We will be discussion financing options and may ask the Township to help fund.

Finance Committee and Building & Equipment Committee met, they will discuss when we get to committee reports.

Chief and Cyndi have met with Wintrust Bank. They are discussing option to protect the District. We do not receive the same protection that individuals receive. Discussion.

Motion by Trustee Santoro seconded by Trustee Palazzo to approve the Chief's report for January 2024.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to promote Leigh Unger to the rank of Lieutenant effective February 16, 2024.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Chief stated that Leigh Unger is a veteran firefighter, here for 24 years. He was involved in the Fire Prevention Bureau and received a commendation. He also is part of the MABAS Division 20 Honor Guard.

Swearing in of Lieutenant Leigh Unger.

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Palazzo to approve the Chief's appointment of Lawrence Curran to the rank of Commander effective February 16, 2024.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Chief stated that Larry Curran has had an extraordinary few years. He led the revamping of our communications which was a massive project involving, dispatch, administration, and

installation company. He has taken on training, is a union representative, on the 2% Foreign Fire Board, and went college to receive his Bachelor's Degree.

Swearing in of Commander Lawrence Curran.

Motion to go into recess at 6:43pm.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Went into recess at 6:43pm

Returned from recess at 6:59pm.

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

President's Report: Trustee Rybak stated she has nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schedule of Assets
(Arising from Cash Transactions)
January 31, 2024

Assets

Checking and money market accounts:

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	119,943.26
Wintrust -MM #2776	2,116,744.42
Wintrust- Checking #9771	66,716.14
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	1,958,430.00
Wintrust- Medical #0599	6,597.83
Wintrust- Donation #4129	1,153.37
Wintrust- FSA #0713	25,347.17
Wintrust- Business Account #6537	9,813.25
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$4,304,745.44</u>

Certificates of deposit (interest rate and maturity):

Belmont Bank (5.15%, 02/10/25)	732,549.72
Belmont Bank (4.90% 07/21/24)	612,971.29
Belmont Bank (5.15% 01/19/25)	1,000,000.00
Total certificates of deposit	\$2,345,521.01
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$6,650,266.45</u>

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Massaro to approve January's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$530,555.48 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for January 2024.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee- Trustee Santoro stated there was a meeting. We have another CD maturing and will be adding \$261,641.74 from the general fund to make it One Million. This will be our 2nd million-dollar CD. It will be another 12-month CD at a rate of 5.15%.

At the committee meeting we discussed: March's tax bill, CDs, driveway, dayroom remodel, and changing signer on the accounts to add the Chief as on up to a certain dollar amount. We will also have the president, secretary, and treasurer as signer and stop having all 7 trustees.

Discussion.

There will need to be a policy drawn up. Today we started doing Bill Pay. Written checks are being washed and there is a lot of fraud. Discussion.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Wegrecki stated they discussed at their committee meeting: the engine which is about 880 days out, ambulance rebox or purchasing new, the dayroom and what will be needed (Chief wants to survey the crews).

A new ambulance could cost about \$400,000 and a rebox would be around \$150,000.

Discussion.

Policy Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated they will schedule a time to meet.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated the Firefighter/Paramedic Keating presented at a parenting class through the Salvation Army and will be teaching them CPR next month. Firefighter Blondell, Paramedic Delia, and the Chief spoke about becoming a firefighter/paramedic to over 50 students at Ridgewood High School.

April 20th is Kindness Day, we will most likely hand out Vial of Life information.

Trustee Mezzano stated that the Battle of the Badges is moving forward. There is another meeting February 21, 2024. The park has approved the location and is allowing alcohol.

Discussion.

Open House is going to be October 5, 2024.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Rybak stated that they will be discontinuing the Commissioner Oversight part of this Committee. Trustee Massaro stated there is a Pension meeting on Zoom this Thursday at 7pm.

Old Business:

None

New Business

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Massaro to approve the Paramedic Services of Illinois ambulance billing contract extension at a rate of 3.5%.

Chief stated the rate was 3% for many years without an increase. This rate is still lower than what many offer.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Wegrecki and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the consent agenda:

Approve the Finance Committee meeting minutes from February 5, 2024.

Approve the Building and Equipment Committee meeting minutes from February 5, 2024. Ratify the payment to Chase Card Services in the amount of \$6,012.95 for two months of adNET IT, office chairs, and trustee training.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

Louis Mezzano
Secretary

Joanne Rybak
President