

**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 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 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 Santoro and seconded by Trustee Kolaski 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 Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Massaro to approve the following minutes:

- Approve the Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on August 12, 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

**Chiefs' Report:**

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

Chief stated that the board did a great job with Battle of the Badges event.

The call volume is currently 5% less than last year but is still the top three of all time.

In 2022 there was a motion approved by the board that our nine civilian paramedics would drop down to six. This was going to be through attrition. Unfortunately, there is difficulty hiring firefighters. We have on the agenda a motion to amend.

We will be swearing in 2 new firefighter/paramedics in October. There are 2 additional firefighters that we are waiting to process while they finish school. Discussion.

The parking lot is lined and able to be driven on., Clark Dietz engineering company was great at keeping us informed and there was a rep here for every step of the way.

The next two board meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month due to holidays. October 21<sup>st</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Some equipment has been in and out of the shop. The firefighters on the maintenance team have been working hard.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**President's Report:** Trustee Rybak stated that they will go into Closed Session to discuss the Deputy Chief's contract.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

Assets

#### **Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	\$236,373.88
Wintrust -MM #2776	4,610,714.14
Wintrust- Checking #9771	79,017.08
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	2,787,164.47
Wintrust- Medical #0599	5,034.80
Wintrust- Donation #4129	1,190.06
Wintrust- FSA #0713	11,732.95
Wintrust- Business Account #6537	20,856.68
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$7,752,084.06</u>

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

Belmont Bank (5.15%, 02/10/25)	1,025,395.54
Belmont Bank (4.90% 07/21/25)	628,067.27
Belmont Bank (5.15% 01/19/25)	1,025,436.18
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$2,678,898.99</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$10,430,983.05</u>

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

- August's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$554,691.19.
- The Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for August 2024.

Trustee Santoro stated property tax money is coming in.

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 explained a few of the higher expenses.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Wegrecki stated there is nothing to report. The Chief stated that Clark Dietz is working on the bid for the concrete.

Policy Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated there was nothing to report.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated that September 28<sup>th</sup> is Gratitude in Motion.

The Fire Department Open House is October 5<sup>th</sup> from noon-3pm.

Drive thru flu shots is October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3pm-7pm.

Save the date was sent out on a Robo Call.

We are working with Resurrection and the Norwood Park Township (they will let us know if they are sponsoring the flu vaccine after they have a meeting).

Congratulations on the Fire Department winning Battle of the Badges.

Pension Fund Member- Trustee Massaro stated they had a meeting and Joshua Pawlowski is in the pension, Arthur Koszczuk has retired.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business**

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Massaro to approve the purchase of two (2) Stair-PRO Model 6252 stair chairs and one (1) XPEDITION Med Config Power Stair chair from Stryker at a cost of \$22,741.12.

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 Mezzano to amend the March 2022 motion to approve the hiring of nine civilian paramedic effective July 2022, reduce to six in July 2023 to keeping nine civilian paramedics until further notice.

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 Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Massaro to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2024, Policy Committee 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

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to go into Closed Session pursuant to Open Meeting Act Section (2)(c)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

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 Closed Session at 7:08pm.

Returned from Closed Session at 7:24pm.

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.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

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Louis Mezzano  
Secretary

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Joanne Rybak  
President