

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 6, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Palos Fire Protection District was called to order on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. by President James Staszczuk at Station #1, 8815 W. 123rd Street, Palos Park, Illinois.

ROLL CALL: On the call of the roll, the following Commissioners responded as present: Commissioners James Staszczuk, and Commissioner Robert Stevens. Commissioner Tom Crowhurst was not present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Mike McDonald and recording secretary, Maxine Bell.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Stevens made a Motion to Approve the minutes of the May 2, 2019 meeting and Commissioner Staszczuk seconded. By call of the roll, the Motion passed. Commissioner Stevens made a Motion to Approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Special Meeting of May 23, 2019 and Commissioner Staszczuk seconded. By call of the roll, the Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: Chief McDonald stated that Jeff Rath turned in his keys and equipment and walked out of the office on June 4, 2019 at 6:20 a.m. Chief said that at 7:00 this evening Tom Tonra will be promoted to Lieutenant. Chief also stated that Colin Zofkie will be hired tonight as a full time firefighter. Commissioner Staszczuk asked if the new hire had passed all testing and background checks. Chief assured him that he did and he talked to the psychiatrist himself, who indicated that he will send Colin's paperwork to the Chief as soon as possible. This being said, Commissioner Staszczuk made a Motion to Hire Colin Zofkie as a Full Time Firefighter. Commissioner Stevens seconded and by call of the roll, the Motion passed. Commissioner Staszczuk then asked the Chief if he had made a choice for the temporary Captain's position. Chief McDonald indicated that Jim Hackett understood that he would not be able to accept the Chief's offer of the temporary Captain position at the present time due to the fact that his wife was ill and slated to be in hospital for six weeks or more. Chief assured Jim that he totally understood and would not think of putting this additional burden on him. Chief asked Jim Hackett if he would be open-minded to the second 90-day scenario as temporary captain and assured him that they would talk as soon as things settled down with his family.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Staszczuk asked who the Chief did assign as temporary Captain. Chief responded that Mike Gabriele would be acting as temporary captain (starting June 5, 2019) for the first 90 days and Mike understood that Jim Hackett might be available for this appointment as temporary Captain after the first 90 days. Chief McDonald stated that he did not make friends with Lieutenant Foley. Chief explained that immediately after he told Chip Adams that he was changing shifts (which Chip was not happy about), he talked to Tom who was upset. Lieutenant Tom Foley kept asking Chief why he wasn't appointed temporary Captain and he kept pushing Chief for an answer. Finally, Chief McDonald replied that he has told Tom Foley, on several occasions, things that were supposed to be held in confidence and each and every time, Lieutenant Foley broke that confidence in seconds. Tom Foley was a little taken back by this. He stated that everyone in the station talks about this and that. Chief said as firefighters everyone does that but Tom Foley would be third in command and Chief stated that he cannot have this happening and that was the reason for not hiring Lieutenant Foley.

The next issue on the agenda was the Chief's appointment of Tom O'Connor to acting Lieutenant for a 90-day period of time. Chief did this because Jim Hackett will be out for about 5-7 weeks due to his wife's health and Tom O'Connor's appointment was done to alleviate overtime.

Chief requested of Commissioners for permission to hire another part-timer, Cody Quillin, to a full time position simply to alleviate overtime. Commissioner Staszczuk asked Chief if this new hire would get similar benefits as full time employees. Chief responded that yes, indeed, he would. He would not have to pay Union dues but he would be considered a full time employee. The Union was okay with this. Commissioner Staszczuk replied that the Trustees would need to approve the hiring of Cody Quillin and Chief agreed. Commissioner Staszczuk then made a Motion to Hire Cody Quillin as new temporary full time firefighter pending the approval of Trustees. Commissioner Stevens seconded and by call of the roll, the Motion passed.

Commissioner Staszczuk then inquired about Union negotiations and Chief McDonald responded that they seem to be going backwards. Chief attributed this to lawyer intervention. Chief stated that lawyers are doing their jobs but in negotiations the lawyers asked if two more people can sit in on negotiations without comment. The two people did comment and that made things worse. Chief said that they will get there eventually. Mike Gabriele and the Chief did talk and he believes that they can work things out. He went on to elaborate on what the Union wants and what orders the Trustees have given to Mr. Flaherty. Discussion ensued.

Chief said that they are going to have Captain testing but there are only 2 people who are eligible. The District would like to move in the direction of Battalion Chief. Discussion ensued regarding Battalion Chief and testing, and Mr. Foley's attitude and Chief's recommendation.

Commissioner Staszczuk asked when the new hire would be available to start and Chief stated that he would like him to start in one week to ten days.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Staszczuk made a Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners and Commissioner Stevens seconded. By call of the roll, the Motion passed. The next scheduled regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be Thursday, July 11th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
