

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MAY 5, 2014 REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Palos Fire Protection District Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m., May 5, 2014 by President Kevin McCurrie. The meeting was conducted at the Palos Park Village Hall, 8999 West 123rd Street, Palos Park, Illinois.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: On call of the roll Trustees Russell Miller, Gene Adams, Kevin McCurrie and Todd Thielmann responded as present. Trustee Rich Nogal was absent because of a special ceremony being conducted at Carl Sandburg High School.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Patrick Gericke, Administrative Assistant Marianne DeHaan, CPA James Howard, Recording Secretary Gladys Nash, Fire Commissioner James Staszuk, members of his family and the public.

REVISED AGENDA: At 7:05 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Miller to revise the agenda for presentation of a special recognition to Fire Commissioner James Staszuk. Trustee Adams seconded the motion which carried unanimously. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and district residents, President McCurrie thanked Mr. Staszuk for 25 years of service to the district, presenting him with a commemorative plaque.

The regular agenda was resumed at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the April 7, 2014 Regular Trustee Meeting were approved on a motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Thielmann. The motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

The minutes of the April 30, 2014 Special Trustee Meeting were approved on a motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Thielmann. The motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Howard presented a financial analysis of district receipts, expenditures and fund balances. The pension fund ratio was 76% in 2010. Over the next few years the percentage funded is expected to increase to 80%, due in part to the successful referendum. As requested by the board, Mr. Howard will prepare data relative to anticipated costs for fire fighters who may apply for pension benefits in the coming years. The CPI for the coming year is 1.5%. Property tax receipts are estimated at \$5.5 million and ambulance fees are currently 89% of budget. Expenditures for personnel, debt service, capital expenses and health insurance were also reviewed.

A motion was made by Trustee Thielmann to accept the report and authorize expenditures of \$433,734.62 in payables as presented. Trustee Miller seconded the motion. On call of the roll Trustees Thielmann, Miller, Adams and McCurrie voted aye; motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

April response times reflect Station #2 is faster due to proximity to calls initiated. Chief Gericke advised the Board he will be on vacation from June 4-10. Acting Chief Knez will be in charge of the district during his absence. However, the chief will be available via mobile phone if necessary.

The Fire Commission discussed utilizing the College of DuPage for fire fighter testing this fall. This will be addressed by the board later in the meeting.

Structure Fire at 12406 S. 80th Avenue occurred at approximately 3:00 AM on Easter Sunday. Captain Adams was first on the scene and ordered a "Defensive Attacked" because of the extent of the fire. No one was home at the time, and one fire fighter suffered a small laceration to his arm requiring a few sutures. Task force Investigators spent about eight hours seeking the origin and cause of the fire. This was a very labor intensive operation.

New Engine: Captain James Graben is in charge of a five member committee pursuing requirements for a new engine which includes layout for the hose bed. A 3% cost increase for manufacturing vehicles is anticipated in June.

Station Facilities: Information is being sought regarding replacement of the roof at Station #2. Mr. Courtney has been consulted regarding reimbursement for roof shingles which were defective.

Part-time bargaining will be discussed by the board in closed session.

Ambulance billing procedures will be discussed under new business.

A memo of understanding with Cook County relative to utilizing Oak Forest Hospital as a command area for disaster situations will be discussed in the future. Attorney Courtney has received a memo copy for review.

OLD BUSINESS: President McCurrie noted the Intergovernmental Agreement with the College of DuPage has been discussed thoroughly by the trustee board. Although the chief and fire commissioners have indicated they favor the agreement, the board unanimously concurred to initiate past procedures to conduct the hiring process.

NEW BUSINESS: Ambulance fees and billing procedures were discussed by the board. Residents are billed \$550.00 and nonresidents \$895.00 for ALS #1, and \$995.00 for ALS #2 services. A survey of area departments indicated Palos fees are lower than their counterparts. Chief Gericke reported Medicare has a specific amount they will pay regardless of services rendered. Private insurance companies (where applicable) often make up the difference in costs. Outsourcing ambulance billing has been discussed in the past. Andres Medical Billing charges a 5% fee for amounts collected. Medical Reimbursement located in Mokena also charges 5% for amounts collected and may provide a greater local presence flavor in the collection process. The firm will provide technical support to utilize fire district programs.

Information on the call will be provided by the ambulance officer directly to Medical Reimbursement. The district will develop follow-up procedures for nonpayment of invoices. Chief Gericke will obtain a contract from Medical Reimbursement for review. The board requested a company representative attend the next trustee meeting to discuss this in further detail.

Retirement Insurance Fund: A motion was made by Trustee Miller to direct Mr. Howard develop an investment program for the fund, taking into consideration strict pension requirements. Trustee Adams seconded the motion; same carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION: Trustee Adams moved to adjourn into closed session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss issues concerning personnel, contract negotiations and/or matters of possible litigation. Trustee Thielmann seconded the motion; same carried unanimously on roll call vote.

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING: The open meeting was reconvened at 8:38 p.m. The board reported no decisions were reached in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m., on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.










