

PALOS FIRE PROTETION DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – JULY 6, 2015

Call to Order: President Kevin McCurrie convened the July 6, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:00 p.m. at Station #1, 8815 West 123rd Street, Palos Park, Illinois.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: On call of the roll Trustees Gene Adams, Todd Thielmann, Kevin McCurrie, Richard Nogal and Russell Miller responded as present.

Motion was made by Trustee Miller to administer the oath of office for trustee to Todd Thielmann. Trustee Adams seconded the motion, same carried unanimously on roll call vote. The oath of office was read by Mr. Thielmann. The board members extended their congratulations on his reappointment.

Reorganization of the Board: President: Motion was made by Trustee Thielmann to retain Kevin McCurrie as President, seconded by Trustee Adams. There being no further nominees, the motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Secretary: Motion was made by Trustee Nogal to retain Russell Miller as Secretary, seconded by Trustee Adams. There being no further nominees, the motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Treasurer: Motion was made by Trustee Miller to retain Gene Adams as Treasurer, seconded by Trustee Nogal. There being no further nominees, the motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Others Present: Chief Patrick Gericke, Administrative Assistant JoAnn D'Altorio, Attorney Thomas Courtney, Sr., CPA James Howard, Recording Secretary Gladys Nash, and officers and members of the fire department.

Approval of Minutes – Regular Trustee Meeting - June 1, 2015. A motion was made by Trustee Adams to approve the June 1, 2015 minutes as presented. Trustee Thielmann seconded the motion; same carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes - Special Trustee Meeting – June 10, 2015. A motion was made by Trustee Miller to approve the June 10, 2015 minutes as presented. Trustee Thielmann seconded the motion; same carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Howard summarized the financial information for the first month of this fiscal year ending May 30, 2015. Property taxes collected were \$24,048 with the next major installment due August/September. Ambulance fee receipts were \$52,425 or 9.1% of Budget. There is not a lot going on right now regarding revenue because property tax payments will be received later this month and forward. The Cook County Bills are due August 3, 2015. Aging and collection for ambulance billings is doing much better than last year. A copy of the billing agency report has not been received, but will be furnished to the board. Debt service and capital expenditures were \$91,051 for Truck 6304 payment.

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The district is in a deficit position for this time of year. Funds are adequate to carry us through until the next property taxes are received. Our position is about the same as last year at this time with a cash balance slightly over \$1 million.

President McCurrie then presented for approval payroll in the amount of \$340,725.34 and accounts payable of \$128,758.88. Trustee Adams moved to authorize payment of \$469,484.22 as presented. Trustee Nogal seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Trustees Adams, Nogal, Miller, Thielmann and McCurrie voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Commentary: There was none.

Chief's Report: Chief Gericke distributed a copy of response times for May and June. There is only one significant change in June when a Station 1 response time was over five minutes. This occurred on the day when the funeral for Lt. McHale was conducted. Several area departments had provided fill in units and personnel to augment our firefighters during the wake and funeral service. Trustee McCurrie stated the district is very appreciative to other departments for furnishing personnel and equipment. Their voluntary services were extended as a matter of respect and courtesy for a fellow firefighter. Chief Gericke sent letters of appreciation to all responding departments. Orland Fire District was extremely helpful in numerous ways. Battalion Chief Michael Schofield spent four to five days here and their other personnel were extremely generous. During June there were 245 calls, of which 152 were for EMS.

The July 1, 2015 memo to the Board of Trustees cited the Board of Fire Commissioners completed promotions to Captain and Lieutenant. Lieutenant Jeff Rath was promoted to Captain while FF/CPM Foley and FF/CPM Aaron Reutter were promoted to Lieutenant effective July 1, 2015. Oaths of office will be administered at the next Trustee meeting scheduled for the second Monday in September because of the Labor Day Holiday September 7. Letters were sent out two at a time to persons on the eligibility list. Both have accepted our contract for hiring. The Palos Police Department will conduct background checks. Others passed on the offer, and some have moved on; Eric Flavin and the second person on the list are working for Orland. There are thirteen candidates on the list.

Vehicle Replacement Schedule provides for purchasing a new ambulance in FY 16-17. With the Board's authorization we would like to begin drafting specifications for a new unit similar to 6302 which was purchased in 2013. The unit has been very reliable and replacement cost of \$200,000 is anticipated. The order could be placed this fall, taking delivery and making payments some time after May 1, 2016. Group purchasing is available that may eliminate drafting specifications and working through the bidding process. Currently two of our ambulances have mechanical problems. We are happy with the ambulance we received; however the top of the unit is a little too tall. We must do our "due diligence" and will bring something back to the Board in September or October. Trustee Thielmann asked if the district could use a smaller ambulance such as those used by private companies. Chief Gericke responded those ambulances do not have the space to carry extra tools, SCBA, or other firefighting equipment as we have on our units. It is possible a returning ambulance may be the first responding

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unit at a fire and needs the extra equipment. Chief Gericke noted the query from Trustee Thielmann is an excellent one.

New Engine Inspection: Three men are going to Florida to inspect the new engine prior to delivery to Palos. They will leave next Wednesday and return Friday. Costs for the trip were included in the contract. Captain Graben noted they had inspected the last truck prior to delivery and found many items that needed to be addressed before we accepted it. The manufacturer will deliver the truck to our station. On receipt, we will initiate insurance coverage for the unit before it is driven. The original delivery date was June 15. We have been procuring equipment for the truck and mounting details will be scheduled. The computer and radios will be installed by the manufacturer's representative after the truck is delivered to us.

Turnout gear will be delivered next month. The cardiac monitors have been delivered and should be in service shortly.

Ambulance billing rates: Review of ambulance billing rates should be carefully considered and reviewed prior to making any adjustments. Medicare allows \$7.27 per mile and actually pays \$5.70 per mile. We currently bill non-residents \$10.00 per mile. It is estimated the district will receive an additional \$200,000 per year for mileage billing. Ambulance rates for five neighboring districts were presented for review. Mr. Courtney advised any ordinance involving money should be updated, adopted and published before enactment. This item will be placed on the next agenda for discussion and possible board action.

Trustee Nogal requested an update regarding sirens to alert residents of possible severe weather conditions. The sirens are tested the first Tuesday of each month. Other sirens in the area are activated by Southwest Central Dispatch. The fire department shift commander can request sounding the sirens if the need arises. Station #2 has the only siren owned by the fire district. The Station #2 siren was originally located at Station #1 and was activated to let volunteer firefighters that they needed to respond to Station #1. Discussion was held regarding other up-dated equipment which may be considered for an early alert system. The Board felt it was important to have the sirens activated as necessary. Chief Gericke will check with the county regarding specifics for activation. Information could be placed on the district website for the public.

OLD BUSINESS: An E-mail was received from the Illinois Fire Chief's Association with a list of dates the board will consider to review the list of candidates for the selection process for chief. A notice was posted on several websites which included qualifications and training which will be considered. All candidates will be interviewed by the board. In-house resumes' for Captain James Graben and Lt. McDonald will also be considered. Special trustee meetings will be scheduled for the Assessment Center and interview process. Finalists will be presented to the board on August 15.

CLOSED SESSION: Trustee Miller moved to adjourn into closed session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Trustee Thielmann seconded the motion which passed unanimously on roll call vote.

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RECONVENED REGULAR MEETING: The meeting was reconvened at 9:00 p.m. on a motion made, seconded and carried unanimously. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. on a motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Adams. The motion carried unanimously.








