

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – AUGUST 3, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order on August 3, 2105 at 7:00 p.m. by President Kevin McCurrie. It 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 Todd Thielmann, Kevin McCurrie, Richard Nogal and Russell Miller responded as present. President McCurrie noted that Trustee Gene Adams attending classes related to the fire district.

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO TRUSTEE RICHARD NOGAL: President McCurrie administered the oath of office as trustee for the Palos Fire Protection District to Richard Nogal. The board congratulated Trustee Nogal on his reappointment.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD: President: Motion was made by Trustee Nogal to retain Kevin McCurrie as President, seconded by Trustee Miller. 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 McCurrie. There being no further nominees, the motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Secretary: Motion was made by Trustee Nogal to retain Trustee Miller as Secretary, seconded by Trustee Thielmann. There being no further nominees a roll call vote was taken with the following ayes cast: Richard Nogal, Todd Thielmann and Kevin McCurrie. Trustee Miller abstained; motion carried.

Others Present: Chief Patrick Gericke, Administrative JoAnn D’Altorio, Attorney Thomas Courtney, Sr., CPA James Howard, Tom Burton, BCBS Representative, Recording Secretary Gladys Nash, and members of the fire department and the public.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Trustee Thielmann to approve the July 6, 2015 minutes as presented. Trustee Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously on roll call vote.

Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Howard noted some additional columns were added to the report. Property taxes are up about 14% from last year. Aging and collection for ambulance billings average about \$44,000 per month. Expenditures are 15.8% of the budget reflecting operating expenditures of \$940,440 or 15.4% of budget. The District cash position July 31, 2015 was \$1,560,000 which is federally insured and fully collateralized.

President McCurrie presented for approval \$322,629.47 for payroll and \$92,748.25 in accounts payable. A motion was made by Trustee Miller to approve expenditures totaling \$415,377.72, seconded by Trustee Nogal. There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken with ayes being cast by Trustees Miller, Nogal, McCurrie and Thielmann; motion passed unanimously.

Public Commentary: There was none.

Chief's Report: Response times for the month are basically unchanged. Gold shift has the fastest response times. Total calls for June were 211; 124 were EMS. There are some items that need to be taken care of by September 1, including various training aspects with the new engine. Turnout gear has been received and distributed. Uniform requirements and necessary status reports need to be completed. The Board of Fire Commissioners meets this Thursday to discuss new applicants. The process is pretty well along.

NEW BUSINESS: We have received notice from our health insurance carrier that premiums are expected to increase 33%. Mr. Burton noted the increase last year was reduced to 22%. We have been looking at alternative programs within the Blue Cross network which are substantially similar. Anticipated premiums of \$38,000.00 per month are comparable to the current policy. The number of employees and dependents has increased as well as claims made. All alternatives are being pursued. Chief Gericke reported an 18% increase for premiums has been included in the budget. Trustee McCurrie reported he had received information from Southwest Central Dispatch that they had achieved a lower monthly rate. He will follow-up on this and report his findings to the Board. As part of the bargaining agreement we must keep the coverage comparable to that currently provided. Trustee Nogal expressed concern regarding the proposed 33% increase from Blue Cross which renews in October. Mr. Burton advised the medical industry has based 7 ½% of the increase to demographics as personnel grow older. The substantial claims experience is also a contributing factor. The district pays the deductible for all personnel. The third party administrator has helped to keep costs down as much as possible. Further, deductibles are being utilized at 85%. Claims incurred and anticipated in the future are driving costs up. All other plan options have been reviewed, and the current contract is one that is very rich. The closest option so far would cost an additional \$50,000.

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO LIEUTENANT: Chief Gericke presented the request to help keep overtime from escalating. A motion was made by Trustee Miller to make the appointment, seconded by Trustee Thielmann. On call of the roll Trustees Miller, Thielmann, McCurrie and Nogal voted aye; motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: Mr. Courtney reported he has reviewed the closed session minutes and presented those which can be released. A motion was made by Trustee Nogal to accept the report and release specific closed session minutes as presented. Trustee Miller seconded the motion. On call of the roll Trustees Nogal, Miller, McCurrie and Thielmann voted aye; motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION: Motion was made by Trustee Miller to adjourn into closed session at 7:26 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Trustee Thielmann seconded the motion which carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Motion to reconvene the regular was made by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee McCurrie at 8:27 p.m. No decisions were made during the closed session

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. on a motion made by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Thielmann. The motion passed unanimously on roll call vote.










