

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: The September 12, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Kevin McCurrie.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Kevin McCurrie led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief James Graben, Attorney Thomas Courtney, James Howard of Governmental Accounting, Inc., Recording Secretary Maxine Bell and personnel of the Fire District.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A Motion was made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Thielmann to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2016 Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, as written. Trustee Adams and Nogal abstained. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: James Howard presented the Treasurer's Report. Revenue highlights: End of 3 months \$1.3 million was spent in operations on a \$6.4 million budget and that puts us down 20% on our budget; 7% from prior year. Mr. Howard concluded his Treasurer's report and asked if there were any questions. Trustee Adams questioned expenditure of \$34,000 for roof when, in fact, the district received reimbursement from insurance company for \$24,000 and Mr. Howard stated that these amounts were not netted and had to be presented that way. Trustee McCurrie stated that the district had \$160,160.53 in payroll and \$186,162.29 in account payables and Trustee Nogal made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented. Motion was seconded by Trustee Miller. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- A) The first issue was regarding an employee that was out on workman's comp; Chief had some good news; employee was released by his own doctor regarding his orthopedic problem and he has been directed to go see the district physician before coming back to work and Chief hopes to have him back to work in a week or so. Second employee lifted a patient onto stretcher and tweaked his back so he is off on workman's comp. He will see a specialist this Thursday and chief will give an update. Both employees are on the same shift so chief had to fill position with overtime manpower. Trustee McCurrie asked to be updated if there is any delay on these two employees as soon as Chief knew anything.
- B) Engine 6303 is the vehicle that was involved in an accident with a tree and we did get it back. Chief and maintenance supervisor went to inspect it and then went to drive it back home. Engine 6313 went in for extensive repair and was gone for three weeks. The expense for repair was budgeted in this year's budget. 6302 Ambulance had an issue with dash lights and then went dead. Towed it to Ford and it turned out to be a wire loom inside vehicle and it was a warranty issue and it hurt us for a few days because we were out an ambulance. Borrowed an ambulance from Palos Heights for a few days; was returned and now all three of our ambulances are up and running. Chief will call Ford to see if tow bill will be covered.
- C) Chief stated that Tom Foley is working diligently to get district a grant to purchase a new fire engine and he is hoping that he has an opportunity and the narrative we put together will

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look good to us and Chief sent pages of maintenance repairs to justify needing a new fire engine.

- D) In past month, we responded to three structure fires; first on 8/15 late evening and it came in as smoke coming from house; crew was very aggressive; no one was home and no one was injured. Candles may have caused fire. Second fire was 8/26 on Old Creek Road; attached garage was on fire and burned through roof. Excellent job of crew in keeping all damage to garage. Saved 6 animals that they got out of house. The third fire was on 9/3 at 85th and Pawnee; a detached garage. Inspection report showed electrical issues; no injuries but crew was very busy this month.
- E) We are working on dental and life insurance premiums and we changed carriers and got this portion at reduced costs for employee benefit package. Health insurance premiums have escalated quite a bit. The district is netting a 22% increase in employee benefits. In changing dental and life the district saved about \$9,000 in costs for this year. We are renewing our Blue Cross/Blue Shield as is.
- F) Lieutenant testing process in on its way. Firefighters are studying the materials and we are progressing along.
- G) Trustee Adams stated that chief should address the Purple Heart award given to firefighter Tom O'Connor for his efforts regarding a structure fire in October, 2014 with a ceiling collapse which injured Tom and even though injured he went back in to help rescue a firefighter from North Palos who was trapped. Firefighter O'Connor wanted no recognition because while he was healthy, one firefighter was still injured. Award was presented at station with firefighter's family present. Chief also addressed letter that Captain Rath wrote commending the diligent maintenance efforts of firefighter Josh Goldschnikl to get our engines out on the road.

OLD BUSINESS: Revolving ambulance loan. The district has completed process and received a check for \$100,000 on Thursday to use towards the purchase of a new ambulance. It is a 10-year loan payable in installments of \$10,000 a year with no interest and first payment due in November. We did this to realize a discount and this will replenish some of the money for new ambulance due to be here in December or January. Chief addressed fact that he would like to install Power Load system in ambulance; Foster Coach has given quote and is aware that we are interested.

Full time testing process is almost complete; we had 22 applicants that came for written exam and we have 21 applicants for oral interviews; one was a no-show. We have a list of 21 applicants that have written and oral scores. The candidates must turn in preference points that they can add on to their score and once the preference points are validated, we'll have a final eligibility list. We did abide by ILCS50 statute.

Regarding the Station 2 parking lot lease, Chief has that lease and paid this year's portion and it is a five year lease so we don't have to worry about it for some time.

NEW BUSINESS: The district lost a firefighter. He resigned to go to Oak Lawn and Trustee McCurrie instructed Chief to put it on the agenda knowing that our new list is coming up soon and we should have an agenda item to replace that firefighter at our first meeting in October. Chief thinks that he can hire someone six weeks sooner from the new list instead of sending out letters.

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Trustee McCurrie stated that the district would get the best firefighter from the new list because they have been tested and it is our obligation as the Board to hire the best people available and that's what we should do. Chief will direct Commission to choose the next firefighter.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Adams and seconded by Trustee Thielmann to adjourn to closed session to discuss personnel issues, contract negotiations and/or matters of possible litigation. On a roll call vote, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:48 P.M.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: The meeting returned to open session at 8:29 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. on a motion made by Trustee Nogal and seconded by Trustee Miller. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, October 3, 2016.

	
	
	