

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: The October 1, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Kevin McCurrie at Station #1, 8815 W. 123rd Street, Palos Park, Illinois.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Kevin McCurrie led in the 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.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A Motion was made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Adams to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting of the Board of Trustees, as written. On a roll call vote, with Trustee Thielmann and Trustee Nogal abstaining due to their absence last month, the Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: James Howard, presented the Treasurer's Report and did an excellent job in explaining the District's Financial Analysis and the Summary of Revenue and Expenditures and James stated that everything was within budget. Trustee McCurrie stated that the District had \$295,442.74 in payroll and \$229,537.79 in account payables. Trustee McCurrie asked for a Motion to Approve Treasurer's report, as presented. Motion was made by Trustee Nogal and seconded by Trustee Thielmann. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- A) Chief McDonald advised the Trustees of Colin Zofkie's resigning his position with Palos Fire. Chief stated that he has sent letters to the next three candidates for processing. Chief indicated that a further discussion will be had on this subject in closed session.
- B) Chief McDonald explained that a fire occurred at 12511 Iroquois on Friday night. Early reports indicated there were people trapped. That turned out not to be the case. The building was unusual from the perspective that there were 2 separate residencies in this home. The second entrance was next to the

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garage. The families were very thankful to crew members for recovering their belongings which included a wallet, purse, computer and medications. The crew went in multiple times to retrieve these items. The crew from Palos Fire included Gabriele, Hackett, Rutter, Snyder, Barcus, Hamrick, Torpy, Klekamp and Baron. The Chief commended these firefighters on doing an excellent job.

- C) Chief McDonald gave an update to the Trustees regarding Engine 6333. It has been placed in service. The engine has been loaded with equipment to serve in a fire and rescue capacity. It has been in operation without any issues.
- D) Chief McDonald stated that Tom Foley has returned to work from a workman's compensation injury to his foot.
- E) Chief mentioned that he also attended the parade for Palos Day in the Park. He further mentioned that he spoke to Joe Miller, Chief of the Palos Police Department, at the parade. They are going to institute formal training on a regular basis regarding Rescue Task Force Training. Chief stated that this training was done in the past with Cook County. The mutual training that was done at Holy Family Villa was well received by both departments.
- F) Chief next indicated that the District responded to 194 requests for service this month.

Trustee Nogal asked if the Palos Fire Protection District is going to acknowledge the donor of our new engine and have a ceremony to honor him. The Trustees agreed that this would be done. Chief mentioned that he had ordered language for the outside of the engine and when it is delivered the ceremony will take place.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion and approval of Chief level VEBA with Board
Action will be discussion in closed session.

NEW BUSINESS: Chief mentioned that the District is keeping one old engine for backup and we will be selling the 6323 engine.

Discussion of Retiree Health Insurance. Chief mentioned that the District had an issue with collections. One person, who is no longer with Palos Fire, is still in arrears for two months. One currently employed individual was two months in arrears and sent a check. Chief gave him a call stating that he needs to send a second check. As a result of this, chief stated that he invoked Shawn Flaherty's opinion and Shawn basically indicated that if we really wanted to pursue this matter, and as a last resort, we can cut off the insurance. Chief stated that we certainly do not want to do that but we must be assured that everyone is current with insurance premiums. Trustee Adams asked if this was family coverage and why would these individuals not make their payments. Deputy Chief Courtney said that the District does not want to be in the business of losing money. The

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people have money in their sick pay so we asked Shawn Flaherty if we can withdraw the money from the bank without violating the CBA. The answer was No and the District would have to cut off their insurance. Deputy Chief stated that it would benefit the employee by going to Medicare and use BC/BS as supplemental insurance. Trustee Adams said that these individuals just don't realize how important insurance is. The individual who owes the District for 4 months has dropped his insurance coverage but still owes the District. James Howard mentioned that money can be taken out of pension fund and paid to Palos Fire Protection District. The Trustees stated that if James' solution can be implemented; it would be the perfect solution. The Trustees agreed to talk to Mike Gabriele and have him look into this matter.

Discussion and approval of TASC. This matter will be discussed in closed session.

Tom Courtney has researched the subject of medical marijuana policy in the workplace. Tom did suggest that at this time the District do nothing and this issue will be covered at a meeting attended by Trustee McCurrie and Trustee Adams. Discussion ensued.

CLOSED SESSION: A Motion was made by Trustee Thielmann and seconded by Trustee Adams to adjourn to closed session to discuss personnel issues, contracts, full and part-time negotiations and/or matters of possible litigation. On a roll call vote, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:24 P.M.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Trustee Miller made a Motion to Return to Open Session and this Motion was seconded by Trustee Adams. By call of the roll, the Motion carried.

At this time Trustee Adams brought up the issue of the Opticon at McCarthy and 104th. He stated that it was not working properly because he noticed that a Lemont ambulance with siren was going there and it had to stop in the intersection. Firefighter Rutter went out there and was informed that it was the ambulance emitter that was not working and Lemont will rectify this situation by repairing their emitter. Chief McDonald explained to Trustee Adams that fire trucks must proceed with extreme caution.

Trustee McCurrie made a Motion to Approve the VEBA for Retired Chiefs and Trustee Adams seconded. By a call of the roll, the Motion passed.

Trustee Miller made a Motion to Approve the VEBA for the category of Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs and potential Battalion Chiefs and Trustee McCurrie seconded. By call of the roll, the Motion passed.

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Trustee McCurrie made a Motion to Approve TASC as the administrator for the 115 trusts and Trustee Nogal seconded. By call of the roll, the Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. on a Motion to Adjourn made by Trustee Nogal and seconded by Trustee Adams. On a roll call vote, the Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Palos Fire Protection District Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Jim McCurrie
Charles Hall

Todd M. Rush
Gene Adams

Richard J. Nogal