

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 5, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER: The March 5, 2018 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 Kevin McCurrie, Todd Thielmann, Gene Adams, Russell Miller and Richard Nogal responded as present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief James Graben, Deputy Chief Mike McDonald, Attorney Thomas Courtney, James Howard of Governmental Accounting, Inc., Recording Secretary Maxine Bell and personnel of the Fire District and public individuals and family of Lieutenant Will Stukel.

REVISION OF AGENDA: Trustee McCurrie asked for a Motion to Revise Agenda to Award the Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Will Stukel at the beginning of the meeting. Motion was so approved by Trustee Adams and seconded by Trustee Nogal and by a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

President McCurrie gave Chief Graben the floor and the chief stated that he recently received word from Lieutenant Rutter that the District should recognize the selfless act performed by Lieutenant Will Stukel on September 15, 2016. Chief explained that, while in dive training, Lieutenant Will Stukel came to the aid of a fellow diver who, while diving to an approximate depth of 60 feet, became distressed because his scuba bottle was nearly empty. This diver proceeded to rapidly ascend to the surface. Lieutenant Stukel used his training and composure to assist this fellow diver in an emergency situation so as to avoid internal injury, pulmonary trauma, etc. Lieutenant Stukel's selfless act and personal commitment to a fellow diver demonstrates the highest in moral character and standards and exemplifies his selfless courage above and beyond the call of duty. Chief then presented Lieutenant with the Medal of Honor to much applause from all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A Motion was made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Thielmann to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2018 meeting of the Board of Trustees, as written. On a roll call vote, 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. Trustee McCurrie stated that the District had \$322,587.25 in payroll and \$35,928.26 in account payables and Trustee McCurrie asked for a Motion to

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approve the Treasurer's report, as presented. Motion was approved by Trustee Nogal and seconded by Trustee Adams. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: Chief stated that Phyllis Adams was present to address the issue of getting a firefighter statue for the District's station. Ms. Adams stated that perhaps she and Chief Graben can go look at statues and make a decision for one. President McCurrie and the trustees approved of this idea and the Chief told Ms. Adams that he would reach out to her to set a date for this.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- A) Chief summarized the issue of having one employee out on worker's comp. This employee has had an Independent Medical Evaluation which was scheduled by worker's comp. The chief stated that he is in discovery mode in regards to this employee at this time.
- B) Chief stated that the District recently hosted a "Part-Time Employee Academy" and had five candidates participate. The instructors for this academy worked very hard to train the candidates, evaluate their progress and prepare them for shift work. This program was developed to improve the hiring process of part-time employees. Chief went on to commend the instructors, Lieutenant Jim Hackett, who headed up the program, as well as Lieutenant Aaron Rutter, firefighters Kevyn Holdefer and Tom O'Connor for their time and effort in making the academy a success. These instructors worked for hours in preparing the curriculum and the Chief stated that this program will enhance as time goes on. Questions were asked by the Trustees and the Chief answered all.
- C) Chief mentioned that on Friday, February 23rd during the rainstorm the station had a sump pump fail and had some minor flooding to the kitchen and weight room area. The fire station's personnel were able to manage the cleanup and sump pump replacement at a minimal cost to the District. This endeavor by the fire station employees saved the District a great amount of money.
- D) Chief mentioned that in the wake of the mass shooting in Broward County, Florida, the District is working collectively with local police and fire departments as well as the schools to ensure good communications and preparedness for any such mass casualty incidents. Deputy Chief McDonald is spear heading a 16-hour rescue task force class. Deputy Chief McDonald explained that Carl Sandburg High School will host a meeting with the police, firefighters and anyone interested in attending the meeting to get a better understanding of what the School District will do and how they will prepare for rescue task force operations. The program will provide basic training and equipment needed for medical treatment for bleeding control. Chief McDonald answered questions from Trustees and explained about "warm zone" and how a great deal of people can be saved with this training. The interest level from firefighters was great and the District is interested in supporting this program.

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- E) The next issue Chief brought up was that in February the station responded to 266 requests for service and he broke it down in categories for the Trustees.
- F) Chief mentioned the “Fire Recovery Program” at this point. Chief stated that for this year the District submitted claims for \$4100 and have gotten paid back \$4300 this year, which includes some claims from last year. We have gotten back just shy of \$26,000 from this program since it’s inception and Chief mentioned that this is a fruitful venture.
- G) Chief mentioned that he received a very nice thank you card from a resident named Sandy who wanted to thank firefighters for their professionalism in treating her recently deceased sister in the past. Sandy included a \$200 donation and was thanked profusely by the Chief.

OLD BUSINESS: Trustee Adams asked about the status of 457 Plans and VIBA accounts as explained last month by Mr. Joel Babbitt of IPPFA Benefits. Chief stated that actually he reached out to Joel Babbitt and Mr. Babbitt’s colleague, Kevin Reynolds from the same company will be meeting with the Chief, James and Mike Gabriele this Thursday at 1:30. Chief will begin by listening to this person, who has met with the Union already, and possibly trying to get the ball rolling with this program.

NEW BUSINESS: Trustee McCurrie noted that a discussion regarding review of Deputy Chief, Mike McDonald’s contract after one year was next on the agenda. Chief wanted to discuss this issue in closed session.

The next issue on the agenda was the purchase of a new shift commander vehicle to replace the current 2004 Ford F350 pickup truck. Chief has mentioned that he has worked with Captain Rath and they have come to the realization that a new Ford Explorer package would be the best fit for a new shift commander vehicle. Chief mentioned that the current vehicle would be costly to the District to keep. Chief thinks that the vehicle would sell conservatively for \$15,000 to \$17,000. Chief said that Captain Rath researched the purchase price to be approximately \$25,000 and the District budgeted \$40,000 for this purchase. Chief explained that this purchase was discussed at great length as well as the sale of the current vehicle. Chief asked for approval from Trustees to go about with the sale and purchase of the shift commander’s vehicle. President McCurrie asked for a Motion to Approve Chief Graben’s Recommendation to Purchase a New Shift Commander Vehicle. This Motion was made by Trustee Adams and seconded by Trustee Miller. By a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

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CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Nogal and seconded by Trustee Thielmann to adjourn to closed session to discuss personnel issues. On a roll call vote, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:43 P.M.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: The meeting returned to open session at 8:16 P.M. A Motion was made to Increase Deputy Chief McDonald's Salary by 2.5% by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Adams. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M. on a motion made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Adams. On a roll call vote, the motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, April 2, 2018.





