

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: The February 4, 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, and Russell Miller responded as present. Trustee Nogal was not present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Mike McDonald, Deputy Chief, Chris Courtney, Attorney Thomas Courtney, James Howard of Governmental Accounting, Inc., recording secretary Maxine Bell, Attorney Shawn Flaherty of Ottosen & Britz, Associate Attorney Meganne Trela from Ottosen & Britz and personnel of the Fire Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A Motion was made by Trustee Miller to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting, and seconded by Trustee Thielmann. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

A Motion to Revise the Agenda to Allow Attorney Shawn Flaherty to give a brief presentation of just how his law firm, Ottosen & Britz, will serve the Board's needs should they be retained by the District was made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Adams. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

Mr. Flaherty stood up and started to speak about the virtues of his law firm. Attorney Flaherty stated that he presented the Trustees with a copy of some materials about the firm. He further stated that he has worked with Palos Fire in the past and was very much anticipating working on current Labor Relations. He will work towards setting the goals of the Board. His firm will work toward getting a fair contract. Trustee McCurrie stated that the Board has had little luck with Labor attorneys and, currently, the Board has no firm representing them. Trustee Thielmann brought up the subject of wages. Attorney Flaherty stated that the Board would benefit by Ottosen & Britz charging them by the hour. Trustee Adams brought up the issue of a recent bill from Ottosen & Britz and Mr. Courtney explained what the charges were for. Trustee Miller made a Motion to Hire Ottosen & Britz as the Board of Trustees' Labor Attorneys and Trustee Thielmann seconded. 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

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Summary of Revenue and Expenditures, property taxes and ambulance fees. Trustee McCurrie stated that the District had \$261,132.34 in payroll and \$123,142.08 in account payables. Trustees addressed the issue of ambulance service and why private ambulances are being called for everything other than emergency issues. Chief explained a bit about that situation and Mr. Courtney also added his thoughts on the matter regarding costs, residency, etc. Trustee McCurrie asked for a Motion to Approve Treasurer’s report, as presented. Motion was made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Adams. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

CHIEF’S REPORT: Chief McDonald addressed the issue of Nick Agostinelli being granted his duty disability on January 14th. He is no longer employed at Palos Fire Protection District.

Chief McDonald advised Trustees that Engine 6304 is back in service. Chief stated that the District is working with Pierce to negotiate some paint repairs. Trustee McCurrie asked why the paint repairs weren’t attended to while Engine was in Pierce’s facility. Trustee Thielmann asked about Pierce’s denial of some paint repair and firefighter Josh Goldschnikl explained the situation to the Trustees.

Chief McDonald stated that the District experienced a basement fire on 123rd Street on January 24th. Chief commended the Gold Shift on their great job. Captain Adams was first on the scene and there was not one injury. Everything worked out very well.

The final issue on Chief’s Report was that last month, the Fire District responded to 229 requests for service. The calls are broken down as follows:

Fire	1
Fire Alarms	19
General Alarms	5
Box Alarms	4
Assist Other Agencies	9
Rescue & EMS	175
Auto Accidents	5
CO Alarms	4
Service Calls	2
Trouble alarms	3
Lock Outs	2

At this point, Trustee Thielmann inquired about how the Fire Station faired in the very cold weather of last week. Chief replied that, at one point, Orland Park called Palos Park to get some meds for residents. Chief said that the firefighters went to

each house in District's subdivision and asked if there was anything that needed to be done. Chief stated that this built good community relationships. Trustee Adams talked about an organization called Ipwman and gave the Chief one of Ipwman's business cards for further review.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: The next issue presented to the Board was a discussion regarding the adoption of forest areas. Mr. Courtney said that he and Mr. Morrison had a conversation about this. Mr. Courtney stated that there were about 9 obstacles to overcome regarding this issue and that he will not give up. Mr. Courtney stated that he would contact some Commissioners and that all issues would need a majority vote. Mr. Courtney said he would prepare a letter to Commissioners telling them why we want to adopt these forest areas and hope that we get a sympathetic ear.

Chief McDonald then demonstrated the ballistic equipment that he would like to purchase for the firefighters. Both he and Mike Gabriele explained the need for this equipment and why it was essential for firefighters in a rescue. Chief stated that there are currently 8-10 people being rescue task force trained. Chief gave several descriptions of different scenarios wherein this equipment would be used. Foreign Fire Tax people agreed to go in with the District to purchase this equipment taking half of the financial responsibility off the District's shoulders. Trustee Thielmann suggested we also use the donations we receive toward the purchase of this equipment. Trustee Adams stated that he was against the purchase of this equipment because he didn't want our firefighters subjected to this. Trustee Miller stated that he agreed with Trustee Adams but that this was a crazy world and our firefighters need protection. Firefighter O'Connor spoke of the benefits of this equipment and the responsibility of the firefighters to protect life and property. Kevyn Holdefer and Chip Adams also spoke of the need for this equipment stating that firefighters would go into the warm zone with or without the equipment and having this protective equipment would be a great benefit. At this point Trustee McCurrie asked for a Motion to Approve the Purchase of Ballistic Equipment at Chief McDonald's Discretion. Trustee Miller approved this Motion and Trustee McCurrie seconded. By a roll call vote, with only Trustee Adams responding "No", the Motion passed.

The next issue that Chief McDonald presented was the date for a Promotional Ceremony. Chief inquired as to getting the Board's approval to have this ceremony. Trustee McCurrie stated that no alcohol would be served; just food and drink at a proper venue. Trustees thought this was a good idea. Chief will

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come up with a date and a venue and present to the Board. All Trustees were agreeable.

Trustee McCurrie asked about changing the day of the Board of Trustees Meetings and stated that he would be out of town for March's meeting. It was agreed that the Board of Trustees meeting would now occur on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The March meeting of the Board of Trustees, however, will occur on March 13th at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION: A Motion was made to adjourn to Closed Session to Discuss the Deputy Chief's contract and hiring of full time members with potential Board action and to discuss pending issues concerning personnel, grievances, contracts, full and part-time negotiations and matters of possible litigation. Trustee Miller approved this Motion and it was seconded by Trustee Thielmann. By a roll call vote, the Motion passed. Mr. Courtney recused himself from this closed session meeting. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 8:07 P.M.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: The Board of Trustees meeting returned to open session at 8:27 p.m. Trustee McCurrie asked for a Motion to Offer Contract to Deputy Chief Courtney with the change to 12 Sick Days and a salary of \$134,000. This Motion was approved by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Adams. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M. A Motion to Adjourn was made by Trustee McCurrie and seconded by Trustee Thielmann. On a roll call vote, the motion passed. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on March 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
