

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING – APRIL 7, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Palos Fire Protection District Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m., April 7, 2014 by President Kevin McCurrie. The meeting was conducted at 8815 West 123rd Street, Palos Park, Illinois.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: On call of the roll Trustees Gene Adams, Todd Thielmann, Kevin McCurrie, Rick Nogal responded as present. Trustee Russell Miller joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Patrick Gericke, Attorney Thomas Courtney, Sr., Administrative Assistant Marianne DeHaan, Recording Secretary Gladys Nash, CPA James Howard, James Staszczuk, Robert Stevens, Orland Fire Protection District Chief Ken Bruecks, Battalion Chief Michael Schofield, Lt. James Hynes and members of the public and fire department.

REVISED AGENDA: A motion was made by Trustee Nogal to revise the agenda to address three items listed under NEW BUSINESS. Trustee Adams seconded the motion; same carried unanimously.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS: President McCurrie administered the oath of office to James R. Staszczuk for another three year term on the Board of Fire Commissioners. The trustees noted Mr. Staszczuk has served very capably on the board for a number of years.

President McCurrie administered the oath of office to newly appointed Fire Commissioner Robert Stevens. The trustees welcomed Mr. Stevens and expressed appreciation for his willingness to serve the district in this capacity.

RESOLUTION: President McCurrie read a resolution thanking the Orland Fire Protection District for the use of their ladder truck while Palos was waiting for delivery of a new vehicle. President McCurrie expressed the appreciation of the Board of Trustees, fire fighters, staff and residents of the district for Orland's generosity and cooperation. Chief Bruecks stated there has always been a spirit of cooperation between personnel of both districts, and they were fortunate to make the ladder truck available.

The regular meeting agenda was resumed at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March 12, 2014 Regular Trustee Meeting were approved on a motion made by Trustee Adams, seconded by Trustee Thielmann. On call of the roll Trustees Adams, Thielmann, Nogal and Miller voted aye. Trustee McCurrie abstained; motion carried.

The minutes of the March 12, 2014 Special Trustee Meeting were approved on a motion by Trustee Thielmann, seconded by Trustee Adams; same carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As requested by the Board, Mr. Howard presented a comprehensive financial analysis including expenditures per capita for six fire protection districts. Information for two districts were for 2013 and the other four from 2012 data. Expenditures for Palos are reasonable. Revenue highlights were also reviewed. Property taxes for the first installment were 55%. Also, the 2014 CPI is 1.5%. Collection rates for ambulance fees are 81% of budget and personal property replacement taxes at 63%. The district charges \$850.00 for nonresident responses and \$550.00 for residents. Ms. DeHaan reported unpaid ambulance fees are not sent to collection because the rate of return was insufficient. Percentage of funds needed for future retirement benefits will be determined. Mr. Howard noted a portion of full time salaries (\$122,000.000) have been included in the tort fund.

A motion was made by Trustee Adams to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize disbursements totaling \$434,317.33 as presented. Trustee Nogal seconded the motion. On call of the roll Trustees Adams, Nogal, Thielmann, McCurrie and Miller voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: Mrs. Pam Assimakopoulos stated she is a district resident and appreciates the board discussions and transparency of district operations. She requested a copy of the budget and pension reports. She is concerned that funds from the recently approved referendum will be properly allocated. Mr. Courtney reported referendum receipts are for one year only. Chief Gericke offered to meet with Mrs. Assimakopoulos to discuss her concerns in greater detail at her convenience. Trustee Nogal suggested budget information may also be placed on the district website. The board further noted residents may stop in the administrative office to present specific requests.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

RESPONSE TIMES: Station #2 has a faster response time due to proximity with calls from Peace Village.

STRUCTURE FIRE: The fire on 123rd Place in Palos Park originated in the garage, resulting in approximately \$80,000.00 in damage. There were no injuries sustained at the scene. Palos Heights also responded to the call.

STATION #2: The insurance claim for ceiling damage has been satisfactorily resolved.

STATION #1: We are still waiting for a response from vendors to resolve problems encountered.

President McCurrie reminded the board members that the May trustee meeting will be conducted at the Palos Park Administrative Building.

Trustee Nogal complimented the chief, honor guard and other district personnel for the excellent program dedicating the new fire district truck and ambulance.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A) Discussion was held regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement with College of DuPage Firefighter Applicant Testing. President McCurrie reemphasized his position regarding hiring

procedures utilized in the past to establish hiring lists for new firefighters. Chief Gericke noted that utilizing the College of DuPage would provide a greater number of applicants. Persons participating in the process may test for different departments at the same time. There have been about 16,000 firefighters involved in past testing. Testing gives applicants the opportunity to develop confidence in the process. Minimum requirements for the position are established by each department. Testing, advertisements and administrative procedures are performed by the college. The test is scheduled to be held in October and Palos must decide whether to contract for the services by June 14. Trustee McCurrie suggested opinions from district personnel should be considered in reaching a decision. Trustee Nogal moved to pursue further discussion, seconded by Trustee Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

- B) Tax Anticipation Warrant Series #2013-6 (Principal Amount \$750,000.00). As required by the agreement, the bank will be notified that the district will repay warrant. A motion was made by Trustee Thielmann, seconded by Trustee Miller to authorize the repayment. On call of the roll Trustees Thielmann, Miller, Adams, McCurrie and Nogal voted aye; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution/Creation of Capital Fund: Mr. Courtney reported this has been discussed with Mr. Howard and would provide for transfers for capital expenditures. This will include insurance transfers. A motion was made by Trustee Nogal to authorize the resolution, seconded by Trustee Adams. On call of the roll Trustees Nogal, Adams, Thielmann, McCurrie and Miller voted aye; motion carried.

2014-2015 Budget: A special trustee meeting will be scheduled for April 30, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed budget. A draft budget will be provided to the board at least one week prior to the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Thielmann, seconded by Trustee Adams to adjourn in to closed session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: The board reconvened to open session at 8:27 p.m. No decisions were reached as a result of the closed session.

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










