

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 14, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: The March 14, 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.

At this point, Trustee McCurrie stated that a reorganization of the Board of Trustees was to be had. He asked for a Motion to elect a President of the Board. Trustee Adams made a Motion to have Kevin McCurrie act as President of the Board of Trustees for Palos Fire Protection District. Trustee Thielmann seconded the motion and by a roll call vote, the Motion passed. Trustee Miller made a Motion to have Gene Adams act as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for Palos Fire Protection District. Trustee Nogal seconded the motion and by a roll call vote, the Motion passed. Trustee Nogal made a Motion to have Russ Miller act as Secretary of the Board of Trustees for Palos Fire Protection District. Trustee Adam seconded the motion and by a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

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, Bill Shandley from Southwest Central Dispatch and personnel of the Fire Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A Motion was made by Trustee Miller to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2019 meeting. This Motion was seconded by Trustee Thielmann. On a roll call vote, with Trustee Nogal abstaining, 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, property taxes and ambulance fees. Trustee McCurrie stated that the District had \$245,614.60 in payroll and \$167,182.14 in account payables. 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: Trustee McCurrie stated that Director Shandley from Southwest Central Dispatch was present and the Trustees will address the Board's concerns regarding SWCD in a few minutes in the Chief's Report.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief McDonald advised that he received three grievances; two from Full Time Union which were denied and one from Part Time Union, also denied. President McCurrie stated that we would discuss these grievances later in closed session.

Chief McDonald stated that Engine 6304 is back in service. Chief stated that the District is working with Pierce to negotiate some paint repairs. Chief is very disappointed as Pierce told him they would only cover 25% of the cost. Chief stated that this was unacceptable. The Chief had numerous conversations with the top people at Pierce and told them that he would take strong action and go to great lengths to get his desired resolution. Trustee Thielmann asked if there was anything in writing. Chief answered "No". The Chief reiterated that there were issues with bubbling in windows and with the turntable. Chief stated that the paperwork has not been signed yet and Mr. Courtney stated that Pierce is waiting for the Fire District's drawings. Trustee McCurrie asked if we can get Pierce to attend a Board Meeting. Mr. Courtney spoke a little about the contract and the 10-year warranty and the fact that the District would incur a 5% penalty if we pulled out of contract. Discussion ensued between trustees and Mr. Courtney. It was determined that the Board would see what transpires with Pierce before any action is taken.

Chief informed the Trustees that North Palos has returned our Fire District's boat.

The next topic for discussion was SWCD and the District's computer problems. Chief stated that the District was having problems for about 9 months. Trustee McCurrie asked Mr. Shandley from SWCD if he would elaborate on this issue. Mr. Shandley went on to explain a few facts regarding why these problems were occurring and the Chief wanted him to know that the computers on the vehicles would log off and the firefighters would have to log back on and this was dangerous. Chief reiterated that the firefighters look to SWCD to resolve these issues and SWCD has not. Trustee Miller asked of Deputy Chief Courtney if these problems caused a delay in the firefighters' performance. Trustee McCurrie states that these problems show our District as not being efficient. Discussion ensued and it was decided that more discussion would take place in closed session.

The final issue on Chief's Report was that last month, the Fire District responded to 237 requests for service. The calls are broken down as follows:

Fire	0
Fire Alarms	26
General Alarms	5

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Box Alarms	4
Assist Other Agencies	13
Rescue & EMS	162
Auto Accidents	10
CO Alarms	0
Service Calls	8
Trouble alarms	8
Lock Outs	1

OLD BUSINESS: Trustee McCurrie asked the Trustees what they thought about Thursdays as the new day for Board meetings. The Trustees agreed on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. to hold Board meetings and a Motion was made by Trustee Miller to change the Board of Trustees meeting to the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Thielmann and by a roll call vote, the Motion passed. The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The next issue brought up was the hiring of firefighter Nikolas Elfter. Chief McDonald stated that he was working out very well.

Deputy Chief Courtney mentioned that Palos Country Club would offer their venue for the District's Promotional Ceremony at no cost. Discussion ensued between trustees regarding what day of the week to set this up in the months of April or May. Discussion ensued. Trustee Thielmann asked about budget guidelines. Deputy Chief Courtney will get specifics and address this matter with the Chief and Trustees at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The next issue presented to the Board was a discussion regarding the rate change for ambulance calls. Chief McDonald stated that a rate change will not impact a significant number of people that the District serves. Chief mentioned that the District is not going after families, just insurance companies. Chief mentioned that Palos Fire District will service people with a financial constraint and also will service people that are not in Palos Fire District. Discussion ensued as Trustees viewed other local District's fees. The increase in fees was also up for discussion. Trustee McCurrie asked for the thoughts of the other Trustees regarding this increase. Discussion ensued. By a unanimous decision the Trustees voted to increase the fee to \$1,000 across the board for Palos residents and \$1,600 across the board for non-residents. There will be an increase to 16 cents per mile also. Trustee Miller made a Motion to direct Tom Courtney to create an Ordinance to increase the Palos Fire District's ambulance fees to \$1,600 for non-residents for services across the board and \$1,000 for residents for services across the board and an increase to 16 cents per mile.

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Trustee Thielmann seconded the Motion and by a roll call vote, the Motion passed. Mr. Nogal made a Motion to direct Tom Courtney to create an ordinance for Palos Fire District ambulance to charge a fee of \$500 for an extraction from auto rescue. Trustee Miller seconded and by a roll call vote, the Motion passed. These new fees will be in effect once Mr. Courtney drafts the ordinance and it is adopted. Mr. Courtney states he will have the ordinances ready by the next Board meeting.

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 Adams. By a roll call vote, the Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 8:00 P.M.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: The Board of Trustees meeting returned to open session at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 P.M. A Motion to Adjourn was made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Adams. On a roll call vote, the motion passed. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on April 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.





