

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

JULY 7, 2014 REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Palos Fire Protection District Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m., July 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, Rich Nogal and ~~Murray~~ Miller responded as present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Patrick Gericke, Administrative Assistant JoAnn D'Altorio, Attorney Thomas Courtney, Sr., Captain James Graben, CPA James Howard, Recording Secretary Gladys Nash, and members of the fire department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the June 2, 2014 Regular Trustee Meeting were approved on a motion by Trustee Nogal, seconded by Trustee Miller. On call of the roll Trustees Nogal, Miller, Thielmann and McCurrie voted aye. Trustee Adams abstained; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Howard reviewed current interest rates for CD's and money markets for several banks. Investments are comparable at present. He suggested the board consider consolidating funds which may result in added savings for the district. The tax extension rate for Cook County is 6.204%, which is very close to the district's estimate, and presents a strong foundation for the 2015 budget. Larger revenue will be reflected in the next few months as property taxes are received. Mr. Howard reported meeting with Chief Gericke to discuss consolidation of the capital reserve and retirement insurance accounts. Combination of the accounts will negate the need for tax anticipation warrants and interest payments. The district will continue to utilize services First Midwest Bank. The capital fund will reflect one-time expenditures. Chief Gericke noted the district currently has ten sets of new turnout gear; 50% of the cost paid by the fire district and the balance from the Foreign Fire Tax. Replacement of the Station #2 roof will be from the capital reserve fund. New stretchers have been ordered, and there is a plan for equipment replacement. A motion was made by Trustee Adams to adopt a resolution to combine \$406,569.00 from Capital Reserve Account #9816 and \$330,179.00 from the Retirement Insurance Account #9840 into one account. Trustee Thielmann seconded the motion; same carried unanimously on roll call vote. The chief will advise First Midwest Bank of the decision reached by the trustees.

A motion was made by Trustee Adams to accept the report as presented and authorize expenditures totaling \$465,603.26 which include Accounts Receivable and Payables for \$138,601.44 and \$327,001.82 for payroll. Trustee Miller seconded the motion. On call of the roll Trustees Adams, Miller, Thielmann, McCurrie and Nogal voted aye; motion carried unanimously.

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PUBLIC COMMENTARY: Lt. McDonald commented that Ms. DeHaan has been an exemplary employee, capable, dedicated and with multiple talents. He noted her resignation was unexpected and she will be sorely missed. The Board will discuss this further in closed session.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- A) Incident Report: The call response time report for May and June was submitted to the Board. Chief Gericke noted they are relatively consistent. Large number of calls during the recent storms have affected some response times in June. When large numbers of calls are received in a short time span, they are prioritized as needed. Trustee Adams inquired which agency is responsible for activating the tornado sirens, and their location in the district. Although the fire district was responsible for sirens in the past, authority for siren activation now rests with the Cook County Management System. The fire district shares some costs for sirens at 123rd and 80th Avenue, and at Palos Middle School (131st and 83rd Avenue). Captain Graben noted the siren at Station #2 is tested the first Monday of the month. The chief will seek to determine how far reaching each siren blast is heard in the district.
- B) 1. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Renewal: A representative will attend the August trustee meeting to discuss changes made last October, and aspects regarding functions of the program.
2. New Engine Purchase: Conceptual drawings were presented which included reducing the height of the fire hose on the truck to make operations more functional. Captain Graben is in charge of the six-man committee working on the specifications. Many meetings have been held to develop a simplified engine. A 750 gallon poly water tank (250 GPM) is essential for fire responses. The unit will have a 4-man cab, and ALS equipment can be easily moved to another vehicle when necessary. Each rig carries five inch hose. The committee will meet with three other fire departments to assess trucks they have in operation. The engine will be a Cummins 425. It is important to consider service options; currently the district has issues with E-1. Workmanship and performance of vehicles will be discussed with those who operate units as well as maintenance personnel. Captain Graben advised the Board that committee members pursue these matters on their own time. They estimate a new unit will cost less than \$400,000.00.
3. Firefighter Testing: Applications for full-time Firefighter/Paramedic were open from June 16-24, 2014. Thirty nine applications were taken and 36 returned. Orientation and written tests are scheduled for August 8, 7:00 P.M. and August 9, 9:00 A.M., at Palos West School.
4. Dive Box: Palos Fire District was one of several departments responding to a water rescue incident on the Cal Sag and Route 83 where three people lost their lives. The district was on the scene for a total of eleven hours over two days. Extended discussion followed regarding possible recovery of costs for the response. Mr. Courtney will prepare an ordinance addressing future incidents which may occur involving barges for consideration and possible approval by the Board.

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OLD BUSINESS:

- A) 2014 Tax Anticipation Warrants: The bank has not approved the warrants as yet, but funds will be available for the district if needed. Mr. Courtney advised no action is required by the board. Mr. Howard does not foresee the district needing these funds.
- B) Bids for Station #2 Roof: The RFP was distributed to 13 different roofing companies, and only one responded by July 7 as set forth in the notice. The bid for \$39,500.00 was opened in public with Ms. D'Altorio and Chief Gericke present. Mr. Courtney noted the Board has the right to reject the bid and advertise the project again. The Prevailing Wage Ordinance adopted by the Board had a significant effect on responses. A motion was made by Trustee Nogal to reject the bid and reopen the bidding process. Trustee McCurrie seconded the motion which passed unanimously on roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS: There was none.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made to adjourn into closed session at 8:00 P.M., by Trustee Adams, seconded by Trustee Thielmann for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. The Board invited Captain Graben and Lieutenant McDonald to join the closed session. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING: The closed session ended at 8:30 P.M., and open meeting convened at 8:31 P.M., on a motion made by Trustee Adams, seconded by Trustee Thielmann; same carried unanimously on call of the roll.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M. on a motion made by Trustee Thielmann, seconded by Trustee McCurrie; same carried unanimously on roll call vote.










