

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 13, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A Motion was made by Trustee Miller to call the August 13, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:02 P.M. and seconded by Trustee Richard Nogal at Station #1, 8815 W. 123<sup>rd</sup> Street, Palos Park, Illinois. On call of the roll, the Motion passed.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** A Motion was made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Thielmann to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. On call of the roll, the Motion passed.

**ROLL CALL:** On call of the roll, Trustees Gene Adams, Todd Thielmann, Richard Nogal and Russell Miller responded as present. Trustee Kevin McCurrie was on vacation and thus was not present.

**MOTION TO REVISE:** At this time, Trustee Adams made a Motion to Revise Agenda to appoint Trustee Richard Nogal to act as President Pro Tempore in the absence of President Kevin McCurrie and to allow Mr. Mike Lebarre to speak to the Trustees. Motion was seconded by Trustee Thielmann and on call of the roll, the motion passed. President Pro Tempore Nogal then introduced Mr. Lebarre of Palos Hills Horsemen Association. Mr. Lebarre then wanted to extend his gratitude to Chief McDonald and Captain Rath who were the most influential in their endeavors on behalf of the Horsemen Association and who really stepped up to the plate. Trustee Nogal asked Mr. Lebarre to explain a little about his association. Mr. Lebarre stated that the Horsemen Association was a group of people whose main goal was to promote horsemanship and to keep the concept alive. They strive to keep the trails clean in the forest preserves and to promote horseback riding. He then spoke a little about the two horses that were killed last year in a car accident.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chief Mike McDonald, Attorney Thomas Courtney, James R. Howard of Governmental Accounting, Inc., Recording Secretary Maxine Bell, and personnel of the Fire Department.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A Motion was made by Trustee Thielmann and seconded by Trustee Adams to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting of the Board of Trustees, as written. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed. Another Motion was made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Thielmann to approve the minutes of the July 9, 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, Aging and Collection highlights and fund balances. Trustee



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Nogal stated that the District had \$363,016.26 in payroll and \$136,467.04 in account payables. Trustee Nogal 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:**

- A) Chief McDonald's addressed the issue of having three employees out on worker's comp. The first employee, Nick Agostinelli, has been out for an extended period of time and has filed for disability pension. Chief alerted the Trustees to Nick Agostinelli's case being questionable at best in getting disability. Chief gave a brief synopsis of Nick's workman's comp cases over the span of 19 years and elaborated a little about his physical and mental issues. Paul Snyder injured his left knee and is scheduled for a doctor's visit. It was determined that he still needed two more weeks of therapy. Lieutenant Stukel broke his right leg and ankle while performing a rescue training exercise in the hose tower. His anticipated time off is between three and six months.
- B) Chief McDonald went on to advise Trustees that the above injuries leaves the District in a serious situation with manpower. Chief stated that he has moved Lieutenant Lenzen to the Gold Shift to fill Lieutenant Stukel's position. Chief suggestion would be to do a temporary hire of Ben Stubblefield for three months to reduce the significant overtime that will be incurred because of Lieutenant Stukel's injury. In anticipation of Nick Agostinelli's disability pension, the Fire District also recently hired Joe Hicks, who started his employ on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- C) The Fire District's new Ford Explorer Shift Commander vehicle has been delivered. It is now in the process of being lettered. Captain Rath has been working with vendors to get the lighting and radio installed at the same time. Once all is completed, the District will place the vehicle in service. The District will determine the fate of the current shift commander vehicle.
- D) Chief advised that the station lighting project is going well. Most areas in Station 1 have had lighting installed except for the apparatus floor in the truck bay. Station 2 is in the latter stages of completion.
- E) Chief McDonald then advised the Trustees that the District has received and deposited the check from our generous donor towards the purchase of the new engine. The engine committee is scheduled, in late August, to go to the Pierce plant. They will coordinate the construction and changes necessary to complete our rescue pumper.



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- F) Chief has concluded the renewal of the Fire District's health care package. The District will continue with the same package but will also have a \$10,000 per month or \$120,000 per year savings. Gary from Digital One stated that this is the best price reduction he has ever seen. Chief informed the Trustees that the Government can still come in and insist that we go to Obama care.
- G) The Chief made mention of the letter from Captain Rath that was included in each Trustee's packet this month.
- H) Chief stated that the District's Fire Recovery program has continued to be a good resource for additional income. To date the District has received \$13,176.96 in revenues.
- I) The Chief indicated the need to schedule full time testing dates. He explained that he spoke to Steve Hale from Resource Management Associates. The dates that Mr. Hale has open are August 21<sup>st</sup>, September 15 and September 22. Chief suggested the September 22<sup>nd</sup> date and when questioned, he explained about time restraints.
- J) Chief next indicated that the District responded to 260 requests for service this month including fire (3), fire alarms (21), box alarms (4), assist other agencies (13), rescue and EMS (186), auto accidents (12), hazard no fire (4), service calls (8) and miscellaneous (9).
- K) Chief also mentioned, at this point, that John Hancock Insurance had sent a letter (and proceeded to read aloud to Trustees) that Chief McDonald will be the current authorized contact person. James Graben's name was taken off contract.

**OLD BUSINESS:** (a) discussion regarding a VEBA plan for employees with possible Board action; (b) review discussion regarding Deputy Chief position and potential action regarding changing Captains/Shift Commanders to Battalion Chiefs.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Possible closed session to discuss issues concerning personnel issues, contract, full and part-time negotiations and/or matters of possible litigation.

**CLOSED SESSION:** A Motion was made by Trustee Adams and seconded by Trustee Thielmann to adjourn to closed session to discuss personnel issues, contracts, full and part-time negotiations and/or matters of possible litigation. On a roll call vote, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:26 P.M.

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**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** The meeting returned to open session at 8:32 P.M. Trustee Nogal made a Motion to Amend Agenda to allow for the temporary appointment for three months of firefighter Ben Stubblefield. Motion was seconded by Trustee Miller. By a roll call vote, the Motion passed. A Motion to Amend Agenda to approve a \$5,000 pay increase to Dana Fischl pursuant to her six- month review effective September 1, 2018 was made by Trustee Adams. Motion was seconded by Trustee Miller. By a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

Trustee Miller brought up the fact, at this time, that we had last referendum in 2012. We are supposed to have one every 7 years. It is something we have to think about in the near future. Trustee Miller does not want to increase taxes, but it is something that needs to be done. Trustees agreed. Discussion ensued.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M. on a Motion to Adjourn 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, September 10, 2018.

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