

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

APRIL 6, 2015 REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Palos Fire Protection Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m., April 6, 2015 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, Richard Nogal and Russell Miller responded present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Patrick Gericke, Administrative Assistant JoAnn D'Altorio, Attorney Thomas Courtney, Sr., CPA James Howard, Recording Secretary Gladys Nash, Fire Commissioners Paul Boehlke and James Staszak and members of the public and fire department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Miller to approve the March 2, 2015 trustee minutes as presented. Trustee Thielmann seconded the motion; same carried unanimously on roll call vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Howard presented a comprehensive, concise report of the district financial records. Property tax collections are 66% of budget (\$1.6M) received in March. Ambulance fees collected are 84% of budget (\$34K) in March. Interest income is minimal. Remainder of monies in accounts at First Midwest Savings Bank will be closed out as soon as outstanding checks have cleared. Chief Gericke noted savings have been realized for the district health insurance policy. Procedurally some employees must monitor their health care.

President McCurrie submitted \$293,917.72 for payroll and \$143,702.81 in accounts payable to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Thielmann to accept the report presented and authorize payment of \$437,620.53 as confirmed by Mr. Howard. Trustee Adams seconded the motion. On call of the roll Trustees Thielmann, Adams, McCurrie, Nogal and Miller voted aye; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: There was none.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Incident Activity: Excellent response times for both stations average 3.2. There were 240 calls in March, of which 172 were EMS. In response to a request from Trustee Nogal, the chief will seek to determine the nature of specific calls. Some individuals refuse transport for EMS calls. A report will be prepared relative to daily district operations.

Board members were reminded to electronically file their Statements of Economic Interest with Cook County by May 1.

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Good of the Order: Chief Gericke has been elected President of Southwest Central Dispatch Center's Executive Committee for a period of twelve months.

Ground ladders from #6304 were donated to Romeoville Fire Academy in exchange for two student enrollments in the Fire Officer Academy valued at \$970.00. Three highest ranking fire fighters on our Lieutenant Promotional List will attend the week long practical training in August. This was a good exchange.

A/C Knez is working with North Palos FPD on combined Live Fire Training at the Oak Lawn Burn Tower scheduled for morning and afternoon sessions April 14, 15 and 16, 2015. Training is anticipated with North Palos in a forest preserve project located near the Little Red School House. Overtime costs will be involved for some participants.

The white dive trailer sold for \$3,000.00 and has been removed from our insurance policy.

OLD BUSINESS

- A) Chief's contract with possible board action to be discussed in closed session.
- B) RFP for Audit Services: Bids were opened March 31, 2015. Mr. Howard presented a spread sheet with details of the bid process. President McCurrie noted the prices from Mulcahy, Pauritsch, Salvador are considerably higher than other bids. Although the firm has provided excellent services in the past, it is the responsibility of the Board to be fiscally responsible. Mr. Courtney asked if there is a proposed engagement letter available. Trustee Nogal asked for references from the firms to be considered. Action was tabled until the next board meeting.
- C) Turnout Gear: The committee has been very diligent and thorough in preparation of clothing specifications. FF Brian Vlcek conducted all legwork in researching available gear to meet needs of the district. He worked with several manufacturers and vendors reviewing different styles for many months determining whether they met NFPA standard with as many options available. He did a tremendous job and is well acquainted with materials used. Five vendors were furnished with specifications; one was eliminated because it did not meet specifications.

A motion was made by Trustee Miller to award the contract to 5-Alarm, Lion V-Force Gear for \$63,300.00 which is far below the next lowest proposal. Trustee Adams seconded the motion. On call of the roll Trustees Miller, Adams, Thielmann, McCurrie and Nogal voted aye; motion carried.

- D) Deputy Chief Position: President McCurrie noted a search committee will be formed to establish a pool of candidates from within the department as well other departments. The

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Board reviewed information from Resource Management and Illinois Fire Chiefs. Cost variables will be considered, as well as the approximate length of time to complete the procedure. The board will request a personal interview with retired Chief Terry Mastandrea relative to various options offered by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. Further discussion will be held at the May Trustee Meeting with possible board action.

NEW BUSINESS:

A) Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016: Mr. Howard presented the proposed budget for 2015-2016. He noted a small surplus is expected this year. The CPI equals 1.5%; factor in tax caps. A 5% increase in ambulance fees is anticipated. To offset deficits in Debt Service and Capital Projects a transfer of \$225,000 has been budgeted. Mr. Courtney noted that borrowed funds are reflected as revenue. Audit expenses will be adjusted as it affects the tax cap. Extensions as a whole are taken into consideration in preparation of the budget. The district anticipates \$25,000 in grant money next year. The district will continue to build funds in the reserve accounts. Fees for ambulance services are \$550.00 for residents and \$850.00 for nonresidents plus mileage. Further discussion and possible action by the trustees will be held at the next meeting.

B) Fire Commissioner Reappointment: Motion was made by Trustee Adams to reappoint Paul Boehlke for another term. Trustee Nogal seconded the motion which passed unanimously on roll call vote.

Mr. Staszek advised the trustees that the fire commission had been extremely active in 2014 conducting three testing processes. A great deal of time and effort was put forth by the board. The commission is currently reviewing and updating their rules and regulations. A final draft will be submitted to the attorney for review before being adopted. New fire fighters are required to take psychological testing prior to hire. The psychological test is not part of the promotional process. Mr. Courtney suggested placing the new commission rules on the website to help reduce costs for printing. There is an employee assistance program for fire fighters who request help with various situations.

C) CLOSED SESSION: Motion was made by Trustee Miller to adjourn into closed session at 8:13 p.m., to discuss personnel issues, contract negotiations and possible litigation. Trustee Adams seconded the motion; same carried unanimously on roll call vote. The closed session ended at 8:42 p.m.

RECONVENED OPEN MEETING: The open meeting was reconvened at 8:43 p.m. No action has been taken by the board.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. on motion made by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Nogal. The motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.






