

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 7, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The August 7, 2017, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Kevin McCurrie.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** President Kevin McCurrie led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** On call of the roll, Trustees Kevin McCurrie, Richard Nogal, Russell Miller and Todd Thielmann, responded as present. Trustee Gene Adams was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chief James Graben, Deputy Chief Michael McDonald, Attorney Thomas Courtney, James Howard of Governmental Accounting, Inc., Recording Secretary Marianne DeHaan and personnel of the Fire District.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A Motion was made by Trustee Thielmann and seconded by Trustee Nogal to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2017 Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, as written. On a roll call vote, the Trustees responded as follows: Trustee McCurrie, Aye; Trustee Nogal Aye; Trustee Thielmann Aye; and Trustee Miller abstained. Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** James Howard presented the Treasurer's Report, explaining the District's Financial Analysis and the Summary of Revenue and Expenditures.

Mr. Howard stated that the district had \$343,870.10 in payroll and \$141,394.03 in account payables. Trustee Nogal made a Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented. Motion was seconded by Trustee Miller. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed, unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

**CHIEF'S REPORT:**

- A) Chief reported that there is currently one employee still off with a knee injury. The Worker's Compensation Insurance Carrier is awaiting information from the physician regarding recovery progress.
- B) Chief reported that currently the District's 2015 Engine 6303 is in the paint shop for some warranty issues. It should be back in a week or two. There is then an air-conditioning issue that the service shop will be handling. All other apparatus are currently in service.
- C) Chief reported that during the Month of July, the District responded to a total of 294 emergency calls. This included 210 ambulance related calls, 16 auto

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accidents, 3 specialized rescues, which included two dive calls outside the district, and 65 fire-related responses.

- D) Deputy Chief McDonald attended the International Fire Chief's Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. This was part of his required curriculum for the National Fire Academy's program for new fire Chiefs. He has been accepted into a program at the National Fire Academy called "The New Fire Chief". He will be going in October 2017, to Maryland, for eight days, to attend this course. The cost to the District is very minimal for this program.
- E) The District was presented with seven "Project Breathe" pet rescue oxygen mask kits, on July 27, 2017, donated by the Invisible Fence Company. They will be placed on the apparatus.
- F) Chief reported that Firefighter Michael Patti will be retiring on August 15, 2017, after 21 years of fulltime service with the District.
- G) Chief will be filling a temporary, full-time vacant spot beginning August 19, 2017, for a period of Sixty (60) days, with the option to extend the appointment another sixty (60) days. This is in accordance with the State Statute and the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Commissioners and the Collective Bargaining Agreement. This temporary spot will be filled with a current part-time employee, who is number two on the current full-time list. There are no benefits with this temporary appointment.

Trustee Miller stated that he recognized all the work that was done on the Budget and the Contract, and that it was a job well done.

**OLD BUSINESS:** President McCurrie stated that the discussion of the Agreement with the Part-time Union will be moved to closed session.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Current Fulltime Firefighter/Paramedic Vacancy. Chief Graben stated that with the retirement of Fulltime Firefighter Michael Patti, there will be a vacant position that will need to be filled. Discussion regarding making a presentation of recognition to Mike Patti at a future Trustee Meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Miller, and seconded by Trustee Nogal, to make an Offer of Employment to the next individual, on the current posted list, to fill this vacancy. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Chief Graben will move forward on this matter.

Employee Health, Dental and Life Insurance Policy Renewals: Chief Graben explained the renewal of employee health insurance and dental insurance. Life insurance does not expire until the end of 2018. Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO Plan currently costs the District \$46,781.00 in premium costs monthly. Renewal increase is 23.8% for the same plan. The trend in our area is 8.3%. Beginning October 1, 2017, Gary Kosnoff gave the Chief some comps. Basically, we can decrease the premiums, but the deductibles will be significantly higher. Chief Graben met with Gary Kosnoff and members of the Union. The

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comparisons were Humana and United Health Care. Chief Graben suggests that we don't make a decision yet. We should have Gary Kosnoff attend a Board meeting and make a presentation of what exactly is available to the District. Trustee McCurrie agrees that we should discuss the options with Gary Kosnoff.

Chief Graben suggests that the District does renew its current dental coverage with Principal Dental. It expires in September 2017, and there is only a 4.9% increase. A motion as made by Trustee Thielmann and seconded by Trustee Nogal to renew the District's current dental insurance coverage. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Chief Graben will handle this renewal.

**CLOSED SESSION:** A motion was made by Trustee Nogal and seconded by Trustee Miller to adjourn the open session and move to closed session to discuss issues concerning personnel, contract(s), part-time negotiations and/or matters of possible litigation. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:42 P.M.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** The meeting returned to open session at 8:03 P.M. Trustee Miller made a motion to accept the part-time Union Contract. The motion was seconded by Trustee Nogal, and on a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M. on a motion made by Trustee Thielmann and seconded by Trustee Nogal. The motion carried by a roll call vote. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, September 11, 2017.

