

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING

The regular meeting of the Palos Fire Protection Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m., September 8, 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 Russell Miller responded as present.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve minutes of the August 4, 2014 trustee meeting was made by Trustee Nogal, seconded by Trustee Miller. On call of the roll Trustees Nogal, Miller, Thielmann and McCurrie voted. Trustee Adams abstained. The motion carried.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: President McCurrie called for a moment of silence in memory of Orland Fire Fighter Wesley Peak who was killed in an accident yesterday on his way to work.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Howard presented a recap of fund balances for the period ending in July. Outside ambulance billing services from May 1 to date were reviewed which reflect \$152,000.00 in receivables for a two month period. Trends for ambulance billing and receipts will be recorded and reported to the board. Primary district expenses are attributed to paid personnel, health and liability insurance. Property tax receipts are 92% of budget, while matching hands grants and personal property taxes are 17% of budget.

A motion was made by Trustee Adams to authorize expenditures of \$323,721.52 for payroll and \$121,885.19 for accounts receivable and payables as presented. Trustee Miller seconded the motion. On call of the roll Trustees Adams, Miller, Thielmann, McCurrie and Nogal voted aye; motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: There was none.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Station Response Times: All shifts reflect improved response times. As previously requested by Trustee Nogal, the chief noted 67% of calls are for EMS services. Each call is reviewed by an emergency room nurse or physician. Chief Gericke has also spoken with the director of Ingalls Hospital. FF/O'Connor checks services paramedics render for each call and an internal policy is currently being developed. Calls of a more serious nature fall into a specific category as noted by the attending physician.

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 TRUSTEE MEETING – PAGE 2

Oral interviews will be conducted September 9 and 10, with the final test December 3.

Station #2 Roof: The rebidding process has been initiated. An on-site review for bidders is scheduled for September 15. Mr. Courtney noted the prevailing wage is only applicable to this project.

Injury status report: The employee who was injured earlier this spring has returned to duty. However, another has been injured and is scheduled for surgery.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A) Purchase of new engine: Chief Gericke reported specifications have been developed and two bids received which vary somewhat in price. Both vendors have offered financing packages which would be advantageous rather than requiring full cash payment. The chief will prepare a comparison of costs for presentation to the board prior to the next meeting. The availability of a local service unit is of major consideration. The committee met today discussing various aspects of equipment requirements for the engine. President McCurrie directed the committee to include details for all equipment they deemed desirable to assure the engine will serve needs of the district for future operations and safety of Personnel. It is estimated delivery will be made eight months after the final contract is signed.
- B) Mr. Courtney presented a first draft relative to recovery costs for water rescue incidents. Two phases are considered: one relative to recovery of employee costs and also non-employee. Maritime law is also considered. This is a labor relations item in accord with the statute. Possible action will be placed on the next meeting agenda.
- C) Stryker Stretchers: Extensive discussion was held at previous trustee meetings to replace the old stretchers. New units provide improved features to better serve patients and aid responders as well. A motion was made by Trustee Adams to authorize the purchase of three Stryker Stretchers at a cost of \$55,980.60. A grant from IPRF has been received for \$22,122.99 specified for the stretcher purchase. This item has been included in the budget. Trustee Miller seconded the motion; same carried unanimously on roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A) Weather Warning System: Station #2: Extensive discussion was held because the siren did not activate on June 30 when severe storms struck the area. The siren was located at Station #1 originally to notify fire fighters when an emergency call was received. The siren was later moved to Station #2, and repairs are now estimated at \$3,700.00. The original one year agreement to share maintenance costs for newer sirens is divided between Palos Fire Protection District, the Village of Palos Park, City of Palos Heights and the Palos Fire Protection District.

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 TRUSTEE MEETING – PAGE 3

Four sirens are located in Palos Heights, three in Palos Park, one at 82nd Avenue and 123rd Street, and one on Wolf Road. Southwest Central Dispatch activates the sirens every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Trustee McCurrie suggested researching the cost of a new replacement siren. He noted area residents authorized the recent referendum and should be provided with an early warning system. The Board needs to put pressure on Southwest Central Dispatch to include activating the Palos Fire Protection District siren when storms are moving toward the area. Payment of the annual siren maintenance fee will be withheld pending written response from Southwest Central Dispatch. Trustee Adams moved to repair the old siren at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.00. Trustee Nogal seconded the motion. Chief Gericke will seek clarification of what is needed to bring sirens up to date, an estimate of repairs/costs, and length of time sirens will continue to function properly thereafter.

- B) Banking: President McCurrie advised CNB Bank, located at 123rd and Ridgeland, Palos Heights, Illinois has two branches in the Chicago area. The majority of their facilities are in Southern Illinois. As specified in their proposal, CNB Bank will provide necessary securities and collateral to guarantee deposits up to statutory amounts. Mr. Howard advised it will take some time to accomplish moving all accounts to the new bank. A motion was made by Trustee Nogal to approve the CNB Bank proposal, and transfer funds from First Midwest Bank to CNB Bank at the earliest possible date. Further, Chief Gericke is authorized to obtain the necessary documents relative to the change. Trustee Thielmann seconded the motion. On call of the roll Trustees Nogal, Thielmann, Adams, McCurrie and Miller voted aye; motion carried.
- C) Trustee Compensation: President McCurrie noted the yearly compensation for trustees including expenses related to mandatory classes is \$6,000.00. Trustees will be required to submit receipts for reimbursement. Mr. Courtney will prepare a document related to the procedure for review and possible approval by the board.
- D) Equipment Purchase: Mr. Howard will prepare an analysis of receipts to determine if the engine purchase can be made outright. Financing options offered by vendors will be considered by the board. The chief recommended portable money as a means of avoiding the need for tax anticipation warrants. Mr. Howard noted they do not foresee the need for other financing.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Trustee Thielmann to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Trustee Nogal seconded the motion; same carried unanimously on roll call vote.





