

PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 9, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: The January 9, 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 in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief James Graben, Attorney Thomas Courtney, Recording Secretary Maxine Bell and personnel of the Fire District.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A Motion was made by Trustee McCurrie and seconded by Trustee Nogal to approve the amended minutes of the December 5, 2016 Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. On a roll call vote, with Trustee Miller abstaining due to his absence at the last meeting, the Motion passed.

President McCurrie, at this time, made a Motion to Amend the Agenda to postpone hearing the Treasurer's Report until James Howard arrived at the meeting and Trustee Adams seconded. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: Trustee Adams asked about new ambulance and President McCurrie stated that Chief would discuss this matter.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Chief extended his wishes for a Happy New Year to everyone present and then summarized the issue of having two employees out on worker's comp; one firefighter with knee injury came back to work and reinjured the same knee. This employee will be back to work very soon. The other employee has a lower back injury. This employee is no longer on worker's comp; worker's comp had denied his claim. Trustee Adams asked what does this mean. Chief went on to state that this means that worker's comp did an independent medical exam and felt that his injury was not caused by work; that it was a pre-existing condition. Worker's comp paid through December 31, 2016. Chief sent him to the District's doctor for an evaluation and this employee is not ready to come back to work yet so he is scheduling some surgery and he will have to use sick days.
- Chief went on to explain the status of the new ambulance. The Horton Factory in Ohio scheduled delivery for the first weeks in February. Three members of the ambulance committee will be going to factory for a pre-inspection with the full specification list. The District should expect delivery by the middle of February.

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- The training division has been working on the development of a new training program called Target Solutions. The District purchased this program and we are building and developing our training and the District is tied in with other suburbs and every topic will be touched so all Districts will be on the same page.
- Chief went on to explain that he has remedied his administration help for now. Two part-time people, Cathy and Marianne, are working to alleviate some of the burden from the Chief. Discussion ensued as to whether full time administrative help would be better. The Trustees and the Chief and Mr. Courtney discussed different solutions for this issue and Chief stated, for the time being, he was satisfied with the administrative help.
- Chief stated that the Lieutenant testing process was completed. Commissioners met on January 5, reviewed the written exam scores, and posted a preliminary list, which is prior to military or veteran preference points. The candidates have ten calendar days to post military points. Commissioners have a special meeting scheduled for January 19 to review the military points and a final list will be posted.
- On Thursday, December 29, 2016, firefighters responded to two separate head-on vehicle crashes two hours apart. Chief explained the details to the Trustees and stated that the firefighters did an excellent job. The equipment performed flawlessly and Chief wants to budget for another set of this same equipment.

OLD BUSINESS: Chief directed Trustees to a copy of a check to the District for \$22,124.00. This is the grant fund from 2016 and this money was in jeopardy when Chief was investigating other carriers. Since District renewed with IPRF, the District received this check. Chief will apply on January 23 for 2017 grant for \$26,000. Chief has earmarked this money for a power load for the new ambulance to pick cot up and carry into ambulance. Discussion ensued as to the cost of these power loads and the weight it will handle.

The next issue to be addressed was the renewal of general liability insurance. Chief has been working with several insurance brokers and received quotes from several different companies. For over 30 years, we have gone with VFIS but after lengthy reviews with Mr. Courtney and James, Chief has decided to go with Corkill Insurance Agency, Inc. We have Selective Insurance for property, auto, general liability, District's stations, Inland Marine, liquor liability and umbrella. Traveler's for crime; Access Insurance Company is accident and sickness policy and this company included an EAP (Employee Assistance Program). Chief went on to explain premiums, deductibles, renewal dates and the cost benefits to the District. Trustee Adams asked about EAP and chief explained. Discussion ensued among the Trustees. Mr. Courtney noted that these companies had all A+ ratings and the District will now have better coverage. Trustee Thielmann commended the Chief for initiating the EAP this year and stated that he did a very good job. President McCurrie made a Motion to Approve the Insurance as recommended by James and Mr. Courtney and the Chief. Trustee Adams seconded. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

The next issue addressed by the Chief was the Auto Accident Billing Program with Fire Recovery. Mr. Courtney had been in touch with this company and has a contract with revisions

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that were negotiated. Mr. Courtney then gave a rundown on the contract that Fire Recovery will follow. They will follow District's ordinance, which follows Illinois Statute. Chief discussed how beneficial and timesaving this program would be for the District. Trustee McCurrie made a motion to approve the contract for an Auto Accident Billing Program and Trustee Miller seconded. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In James absence the Chief summarized the basic facts in the District's Statement of Revenue and Expenditures. The Chief went on to highlight expenditures and stated that miscellaneous expenditures were James' territory. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of a lock and Chief explained. The report presented had payroll at \$285,429.86 and account payables at \$99,041.72. President McCurrie made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Trustee Adams seconded. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: President McCurrie brought up the subject of an Awards Dinner planned for February 18, 2017. The Chief included, in the Trustee packet, a letter from Lieutenant Rutter explaining what will take place. The new hires and promotions would be recognized. Discussion ensued regarding Commissioners choosing Firefighter of the Year and Instructor of the Year.

President McCurrie mentioned that Captain Rath wrote a letter commending a crew for saving the life of a patient who had an occluded airway. Captain Rath felt that it was important to recognize these three men.

Mr. Courtney received a letter from law firm challenging if the District had reasonable reserves or unreasonable reserves. Mr. Courtney stated that he thinks we have the reserves and he and James will respond.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee McCurrie and seconded by Trustee Thielmann to adjourn to closed session to discuss personnel issues, contract negotiations and/or matters of possible litigation. On a roll call vote, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:56 P.M.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: The meeting returned to open session at 8:11 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M. on a motion made by Trustee McCurrie 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, February 6, 2017.










