

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The September 10th, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Kevin McCurrie at Station #1, 8815 W. 123<sup>rd</sup> Street, Palos Park, Illinois.

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

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chief Mike McDonald, Attorney Thomas Courtney, Brad O'Sullivan of Governmental Accounting, Inc., Recording Secretary Maxine Bell and personnel of the Fire Department.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A Motion was made by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Nogal to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2018 meeting of the Board of Trustees, as written. On a roll call vote, with Trustee McCurrie abstaining due to his absence last month, the Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Brad O'Sullivan, who stepped in for vacationing 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 and Brad stated that everything was within budget. Trustee McCurrie stated that the District had \$259,794.27 in payroll and \$125,258.17 in account payables. Trustee McCurrie asked for a Motion to Approve Treasurer's report, as presented. Motion was made by Trustee Adams and seconded by Trustee Miller. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

**CHIEF'S REPORT:**

- A) Chief McDonald's addressed the issue of having two employees off work on worker's comp injuries. Nick Agostinelli has been off for an extended amount of time and has filed for his disability pension. Lieutenant Stukel broke his right leg and is scheduled for his next doctor's appointment on September 18<sup>th</sup>. He will be in therapy for 4 months per IPRF. Chief added that Paul Snyder has returned to work from his injury to his left knee. Chief also advised that a firefighter recently had an eye injury which required stitches and will be off work, hopefully for a week.
- B) Chief McDonald advised Trustees that the new Ford Explorer Shift Commander vehicle has been delivered and is three weeks away from being completed per Captain

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- Rath. Radios and lighting have been installed and lettering will be done soon. Chief mentioned that the engine committee was working with Pierce in Appleton, WI to put together an engine and witnessed the process of how an engine is installed. The committee is in the initial process of building this engine and are just “spec’ing” things out. Trustee McCurrie stated that the committee should get the engine that they want with all specifications that they need and that the District was very fortunate to have gotten the donation.
- C) Chief advised that the District’s station lighting project is completed. Commonwealth Edison and the installer are scheduled for a final walk through and final adjustments of fixtures. That is scheduled for this Friday. The project went
- D) very well and we look forward to the financial benefit of this decision.
- E) Chief McDonald then advised the Trustees that Palos Fire Protection District has been working very closely with our neighboring departments such as North Palos, Lemont and Orland Park. It is Palos Fire’s goal to familiarize all parties with each other’s equipment and know the location of all such equipment. Palos Fire Protection District will be teaching North Palos in the use of our rescue boat and, as a result, Palos North will be able to borrow the boat for a period to train their staff in the operation. Palos Fire Protection District has been added to Orland Fire’s Cad system to allow us to communicate easier with them. Orland Fire has asked Palos Fire to cover the north portion of their town both with our equipment and our shift commander when needed. Another advantage of being on the Cad System is if Palos Fire is busy with back to back calls and there is an emergency such as a heart attack in our District, the closest ambulance will be directed to the scene. This provides better service to those in need. This also works in the opposite direction. If Orland Fire had a heart attack and Palos Fire was the closest ambulance, Palos Fire would provide the same service to them. It is this collective effort of all departments that will, ultimately, serve the public with the best possible service.
- F) Chief McDonald alerted the Trustees that Palos Fire had an ambulance that was out of service for a week. North Palos was kind enough to allow us to use their ambulance while ours was being repaired. Chief thanked Chief Makin of North Palos and his department for their cooperation. Orland Fire did offer their ambulance as well.
- G) In regards to the testing issue, the news article was placed and applications are being taken until 4:00 P.M. today. Currently we have 16 applicants. The next step is orientation on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at Palos South Middle School. Steve Hale from Resource Management Associates will hold the written test the next day at 9:00 A.M. sharp. The applicants will know immediately after the test whether they have

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passed or not and that will determine when to schedule them to meet with the Commissioners.

- H) Chief next indicated that the District responded to 264 requests for service this month, including fire alarms (31), general alarms (6), vehicle fire (1), box alarms (3), assistance to other agencies (15), rescue and EMS (176), auto accidents (12), hazard no fire (4), service call (1) and miscellaneous (15).
- I) Palos Fire has completed training at Palos Heights pool with Tom O'Connor as the instructor. The training involved an emergency where a firefighter, with full gear on, became immersed in water and was able to breathe under water and self-rescue himself. Chief commended and thanked Palos Heights and Tom O'Connor for their efforts in this endeavor.
- J) Chief McDonald alerted the Trustees that he will be on vacation starting tomorrow, September 11<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Palos Heights Fire District, North Palos Fire District and Orland Fire District will provide coverage in the Chief's absence. The Chief's vehicle will remain at the station also.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

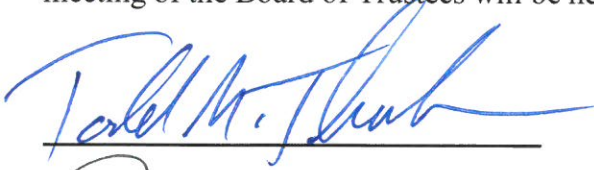
**CLOSED SESSION:** A Motion was made by Trustee Adams and seconded by Trustee Thielmann to adjourn to closed session to discuss personnel issues, contracts, full and part-time negotiations and/or matters of possible litigation. On a roll call vote, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:20 P.M.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** Trustee Miller, at this time, made a Motion to Amend Agenda to add Ben Stubblefield as a new hire for full time employment with the Union agreement that minimum manpower remain at 10 and was seconded by Trustee Nogal. On a roll call vote, with Trustee Thielmann agreeing without precedent, the motion carried. At this time there was a heated discussion regarding the VEBA plan for employees between Trustees, Mike Gabriele and Mr. Tom Courtney. Trustee McCurrie read from the minutes of June that VEBA was addressed. Mike Gabriele said that he sent language from Union to Trustees and that there were a lot of specifics and variables involved with the creation of VEBA. Discussion ensued. Trustees never received Letter of Intent from the Union in regards to their request for creating a VEBA plan. Trustee Thielmann spoke about 1% contribution from employees regarding VEBA plan and Battalion Chiefs and Board approval. Discussion ensued. Trustee McCurrie stated that the Trustees needed to read the language provided by the Union before they could pursue this issue further. Mike Gabriele proceeded to hand out the language for Trustees' review and Trustee McCurrie said that Trustees will act upon it and perhaps have a special meeting.

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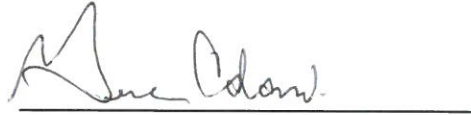
A Motion was made to hire Ben Stubblefield from part time to full time employment by Trustee Thielmann and seconded by Trustee Nogal. On a roll call vote, the Motion passed. Ben Stubblefield was there and the Chief wanted Trustee McCurrie to reiterate the Motion. Trustee McCurrie stated that all Trustees unanimously voted to hire Ben as a full time employee and Ben thanked all present. Applause ensued and Trustee McCurrie stated that the Union made an exception for Ben as well.

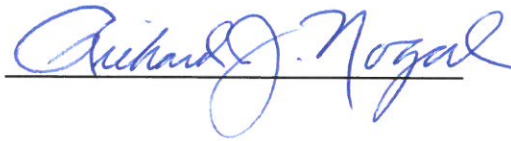
**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M. on a Motion to Adjourn made by Trustee Adams and seconded by Trustee Miller. On a roll call vote, the motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, October 1, 2018.

  
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