

Regular Meeting
November 20, 2012

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Klage at 6:42 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Members Present: President Mark Klage, Secretary Phillip Saas, Treasurer Dan Keck, and Trustee Jenny Saylor. Absent: Trustee Jeffrey Lockard.

Also Present: Chief Phillip A. DiMenza and Deputy Chief Bryan J. Lewis, Attorney Bernie Weiler and Auditor Andy Miriani from Miriani & Associates.

Minutes: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of 10/16/12 were distributed prior to the meeting. Trustee Keck made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Trustee Saylor. All in favor.

Remarks From Floor: None.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Keck presented the Treasurer's Report for 10/31/12. As of 10/31/12, the beginning balance in the checking account and general money market account was \$1,344,646.74. After deposits of \$69,341.13 and disbursements of \$195,373.07, the ending balance for those accounts was \$1,218,614.80. The combined balance of the Capital Projects Fund and Equipment Fund, including CD's, was \$1,530,248.40 (\$1,029,236.64 for Capital Projects and \$501,011.76 for Equipment Fund), giving a total of all funds of \$2,748,863.20. There being no further questions, Trustee Saas made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Trustee Saylor. All in favor.

Mr. Miriani reviewed the Annual Audit for the District, summarizing each section. There being no questions, the Board thanked Mr. Miriani for attending the meeting, and Trustee Keck made a motion to accept the Annual Audit, seconded by Trustee Saylor. All in favor.

Chiefs' Reports: Chief DiMenza referred to a letter of appreciation received from the West Chicago Fire Protection District for Winfield's assistance at a structure fire on 11/4/12. He summarized the events of the fire, the structural collapse, and stated that Winfield firefighters were on the scene from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Attorney's Report: Deferred his report to Executive Session.

Old Business: With regard to the Strategic Plan, the Board next discussed some of the goals and objectives on what direction the District wanted to move from this point forward. Trustee Keck felt that the Board needed to decide if the current goals and objectives have significantly changed from the ones established a year ago based on the Illinois Fire Chiefs evaluation. The original recommended goals were to move the headquarters station to a more central location, open the south side station, and hire additional personnel to staff that station. He also reminded the Board that there is going to be land made available to the District for the purpose of eventually relocating the headquarters station. However, he stated that none of those goals and objectives will be achievable without pursuing a referendum of some sort. If the District purchases that land, there is an assumed commitment to relocating the station at some point. So a decision will also need to be made whether

to even pursue the purchase of the land if the decision is not to pursue a referendum or establish another sort of sustainable income.

Trustee Saas stated that the previous referenda were never for the purpose of purchasing land or building a new station. They were for the purpose of hiring additional personnel and shoring up the District's financial base. He felt the District should purchase the land for now so that it is available. Then at some point, if a developer expresses interest in the station's current location, the District has some bargaining leverage since this station will still be occupied. Then perhaps the offer received for the current property will be a substantial portion of what is needed to build a new station without going to the taxpayers to ask that they fund it entirely. Trustee Saas felt that if the Board decides to pursue a referendum, it should be for the purpose of staffing the south side station and shore up the financial base only. He was in favor of moving forward with determining how much it was going to cost to build a new station so that the Board knew the target amount. Then if an offer is received for the current property, if it is not enough to cover the entire cost, perhaps the citizens would be more amenable to a small bond for the balance of what is needed to build a new station if the amount is too much for the District to finance.

Trustee Saylor stated that she would not be in favor of a referendum to be used for building a new station. She would, however, consider discussing a smaller referendum request to staff the south side station and shore up the financial base.

Trustee Keck said that regardless of the path chosen, the District will still need to look at hiring more personnel and more resources, etc., over the next few years and there is a significant amount of preparation that needs to be done prior to that. After discussion, it was agreed that if the Board decided to pursue a referendum, a decision would need to be made on exactly how much to ask for so that it is not more than what is needed. The very earliest opportunity to accomplish this goal would be in November of 2013, but if that is not enough time, the Board would look towards April of 2014. Trustee Saas stated that he would like to see the Response Time Committee work on getting general costs on both building a new station, as well as remodeling both existing stations so the Board can make an informed decision. Trustee Keck agreed that the committee will get that information as well as concentrate on the cost of staffing the south side station as well as get some various operational plans to pursue an increase large enough to sustain the District for the next 10-15 years.

Trustee Saylor asked if the Board was going to address any of the other goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan. Trustee Keck stated that without a successful referendum to fund the two goals currently being pursued, additional goals will be unachievable without funding.

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda consisted of the Monthly Run Report for October and two Thank You letters. Trustee Saas made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Trustee Keck. All in favor.

New Business: Deputy Chief Lewis reviewed his memorandum regarding the MABAS Watercraft and Trailer that will soon be stored by the District and available for use at no cost to the District.

Trustee Klage informed the Board that he was asked by a Village Trustee to attend a village plan commission meeting and show Fire District support for the Roosevelt Road Redevelopment. He informed the trustee that he did not have the authority to act alone, so he was then asked to see if

there is Board opinion on this matter. After discussing the redevelopment project, the Board agreed that it was not appropriate for the Fire District to show support one way or another for the specific project, as it does not directly impact the Fire District. However, the Board agreed that it would be in support of any project that would produce additional revenue for the Fire District. Trustee Keck made a motion that the Fire District take a stance in favor of increasing revenue, seconded by Trustee Saylor. All in favor. Chief DiMenza will draft a letter to that effect to the Village of Winfield for President Klage's signature.

With respect to the Policies and Procedures, since they were last updated in 2007, Trustee Saylor felt that there were some items that needed to be updated or changed. Trustee Keck also noted a few recommended changes, and the Chief and Deputy Chief met with the employees and requested their input as well. Trustee Saylor agreed to accumulate any recommended changes and provide the administration with a compiled list for easier review.

Payment of Bills: The Bill List for October was presented reflecting a total of \$42,264.83. Trustee Saylor asked that Check #37553 be voted on separately from the remaining list. She then made a motion to pay the remaining bills as listed, seconded by Trustee Saas. All in favor. After discuss regarding Check #37553, Trustee Keck made a motion to pay that bill, seconded Trustee Saas. Motion carried by majority vote.

Other Business: Trustee Saylor stated that she would like to see the District pursue Requests for Proposals for all services that the District contracts with. Trustee Keck stated that the District doesn't have that many services that are contracted out, and that the cost for the ones that are contracted out are at a very good price. He felt that in many cases, an effort to save a few dollars could very result in lower quality service or much higher prices. He cautioned against making decision for change simply for a few thousand dollars out of the entire budget. Trustee Saas asked Chief DiMenza to review the ongoing costs of the District and see if there areas where those costs can be compared with other quotes.

Trustee Saylor next referred to the recent full-time firefighter vacancy created and the fact that the District is temporarily filling that position with part-time personnel. She asked Attorney Weiler if there is any law limiting the number of hours a part-time person can work per month in that capacity. Attorney Weiler explained the FLSA laws with regard to when overtime is required. However, the District does not allow the hireback employees to work over the amount of hours that would impose overtime.

There being no further discussion in open session, Trustee Keck made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss possible land acquisition – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) seconded by Trustee Saas. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:21 p.m.

Mark Klage, President

Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary