

Regular Meeting
11/17/20

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Klage at 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Members Present: President Mark Klage, Secretary Phillip Saas, Treasurer George Kallas, and Trustee Randall Simpson. Absent: Trustee Jenny Saylor.

Also Present: Chief Steven Evans and Attorney Bernie Weiler.

Minutes: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of 10/20/20 were distributed prior to the meeting. Trustee Saas made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by President Kallas. All in favor.

Remarks From Floor: None.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for 10/31/20 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting, showing a beginning balance in the checking account and general money market account of \$2,900,023.80. After deposits of \$132,717.32 and disbursements of \$348,333.24, the ending balance for those accounts was \$2,684,407.88. The combined balance of the Capital Projects and Equipment Fund, including CD's was \$1,817,550.63, giving a total of all funds of \$4,501,958.51. There being no questions, Trustee Saas a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Chief Evans reminded the Board that Alliance training has cancelled due to COVID-19 issues. He also reviewed several incidents that the District responded to over the last month.

With regard to the department membership, Lt. Dave Formento has 25 years with the District and FF/PM Matt Smith has 11 years.

Chief Evans then spoke about the progress with FEMA Grant purchase, and he noted that two part-time FF/PM's requested a leave of absence. Andrew Martin has now been included in the IRMA Focus Group for worker's comp injuries.

Chief Evans then informed the Board that each firefighting member needs a 2nd set of gear for use when the initial set gets compromised or needs service, so he is in the process of establishing that program to achieve that goal over the next year.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Weiler advised the Board and Administration to put some resources into methods of broadcasting board meetings electronically.

Old Business:

None.

Consent Agenda: The consent agenda consisted of the Monthly Run Report for October. Trustee Saas then made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor.

New Business: The Pension Fund provided the District Board with their Municipal Compliance Report for 2020 as well as their Tax Levy Request Letter, and Chief Evans explained some of the changes that took place recently to impact the Pension Fund. Trustee Saas made a motion to accept the Municipal Compliance Report, seconded by Trustee Kallas. All in favor. Trustee Saas then made a motion to accept the Tax Levy Request and agree to levy \$463,039 for the Pension Fund, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor by roll call vote.

The Board discussed the 11/3/20 Election Results as well as looking at the Spring election and moving forward. Chief Evans referred to his report, which provided several options for the Board to consider, one of which is the ability to transfer property in 60-acre parcels from the Winfield Fire Protection District to an adjoining fire district. That action would need to be by agreement between both fire districts, and if successful, those parcels would immediately assume the tax rate of the acquiring fire district and will no longer be protected by the Winfield Fire Protection District. That option, while not ideal, would eventually reduce the size of this District to be more easily protected by the limited resources currently available.

Attorney Weiler then spoke about a resident who came into the firehouse while he was meeting with Chief Evans and presented a check in the amount of \$360.00 as a donation to the District, representing the amount of increase he would have experienced if the referendum had been successful. The Board agreed to accept that donation and appreciated the generosity of that resident.

Chief Evans informed the Board that, with two full-time firefighter/paramedics off with significant work-related injuries, as well as the extremely limited pool of part-time firefighter/paramedics available, the remaining full-time members of the department are working a significant amount of overtime, sometimes not going home for up to 96 hours at a time. He stated that the situation is taking its toll on the full-time membership with respect to the physical health, work-related injuries, and their mental well-being. He stated that he would like to hire two more full-time firefighter/paramedics and only rely on the part-time employees for fill-in purposes for vacation time and Kelly days. In the long run, it would be a cost savings for the District and would provide a more stable environment for all of the staff. After discussion, Trustee Saas made a motion to approve the hiring of two full-time firefighter/paramedics, seconded by Trustee Kallas. All in favor by roll call vote.

Chief Evans gave a summary of the repair process of Engine #31, which will be going out in late December for several months. He is currently looking for a vehicle to either reasonably rent or borrow from a neighboring community in the interim.

Payment of Bills: The monthly bill list for November was provided to the Board prior to the meeting indicating a total of \$61,509.35. There being no questions, Trustee Saas made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Kallas. All in favor.

Other Business: None.

There being no further business for Open Session, Trustee Saas made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of discussing potential litigation and appointment of personnel, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

Mark Klage, President

Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary