

Regular Meeting  
7/20/21

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Kallas at 7:37 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Members Present: President George Kallas, Secretary Phillip Saas, Treasurer Robb Hannen, Trustee Jenny Saylor, and Trustee Randy Simpson.

Also Present: Chief Steven Evans, and Attorney Bernie Weiler.

Minutes: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of 6/15/21, Executive Session of 6/15/21, Special Meeting of 6/28/21 and Executive Session of 6/28/21 were distributed prior to the meeting. There being no corrections, Trustee Saas made a motion to approve the four sets of minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Hannen. All in favor.

Remarks From Floor: Resident Eileen Tibble spoke to say that she appreciates the Fire Department and staff and that there is a very large group of support for the Department. She then talked about the TIF II, asking that the Fire District take a hard look at how TIF II affects the District, and requesting that the District take a strong position on more community issues.

Resident Dave Hempe sent an email with his concerns regarding TIF II, stating that he and many members of School District 34 have questions about its legitimacy until there is transparency.

Resident Luke Allen reiterated Ms. Tibble's sentiment and stated that the Board is in the best position to advocate for the needs of the District with regard to the TIF.

The Board thanked the residents for their feedback.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for 6/30/21 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. As of 6/30/21, the beginning balance in the checking account and general money market account was \$1,160,286.11. After deposits of \$1,059,571.69, and disbursements of \$251,472.54, the ending balance for those accounts was \$1,968,385.26. The combined balance of the Capital Projects and Equipment Fund, including CD's was \$1,821,508.86, giving a total of all funds of \$3,789,894.12. 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 reviewed the Water Rescue Special Operations Drill for this month as well as the Multi-Company Rural Operations drill, both hosted by Winfield. He also highlighted several incidents which occurred over the last month.

For service anniversaries, FF/PM Jeff Littledale and FF/PM Andrew Martin now have 8 years of service, and Robin Youngberg reached 30 years of service.

Chief Evans gave an update on Engine 31, which should be returning soon. There were additional issues found, and they are being addressed. He also gave an update on the status of Utility #31, stating that it needs replacement, and he will have more information in the near future.

The Administration is proceeding with the new hire for full-time firefighter/paramedic.

With regard to purchasing a new fire engine, the engine committee has been formed, they have begun meeting, and they are in contact with vendors. They may attend the FDIC conference for a day to meet with manufacturers.

Chief Evans informed the Board that the Pension Board met this morning, and he gave a brief update on the upcoming process of transitioning funds to the Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund.

The Annual Audit is nearing completion, and a presentation to the Board is expected in August.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Weiler deferred his report to Executive Session.

Old Business: Chief Evans provided the Board with a market analysis from a commercial realtor on the three (3) properties owned by the District. He stated that if the Board would like to have a full appraisal on each property, he received four (4) proposals from appraisal companies and would recommend utilizing Marshal Stevens. After discussion, Trustee Saas made a motion to contract with Marshal Stevens to conduct a full appraisal of each property owned by the District, seconded by Trustee Hannen. All in favor by roll call vote.

Letters of Intent were received by Gateway Development for the two (2) District stations. Attorney Weiler stated that the problem with letters of intent is that they are not binding, but they require the properties to remain off of the market during that time. In addition, the values offered are significantly less than the market analysis that has already been done. Trustee Saas made a motion to notify Gateway Development that the District is not interested in pursuing a relationship with them, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor by roll call vote.

The Administration advertised a request for proposals for the new SCBA's being purchased with the assistance of a FEMA grant. Only one proposal was received from MES for \$184,160.00. FEMA provides 90% of the funding, requiring a matching 10% contribution from the District. After discussion, Trustee Saas made a motion to accept the MES proposal as presented, seconded by Trustee Hannen. All in favor by roll call vote.

With Regard to the Deputy Chief Selection process, Attorney Weiler stated that the submission period ended on July 18, 2021, and he recommended adjourning into Executive Session for discussion and possible action on this matter.

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

New Business: Trustee Hannen began a discussion regard TIF II, stating that the Fire District has spent many years claiming financial hardship, so he strongly felt that the District needs to

oppose the TIF District, which would withhold fund from the District for 20 years. President Kallas stated that there is also a cost of fighting issues as well. He is not opposed to being against the TIF, but is hesitant to spend any money fighting that right. Trustee Saas felt that the District should at least take a stance verbally, and Trustee Simpson agreed that the TIF does not help the Fire District at all. Trustee Hannen felt that the Fire District needs to have someone at that Joint Review Board meeting to represent the citizens and the Fire District, and Trustee Saylor agreed. After lengthy discussion, Trustee Hannen made a motion for Chief Evans, Attorney Weiler, Trustee Saas and perhaps Trustee Saylor attend the Joint Review Board meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor by roll call vote.

Chief Evans spoke about the many phone calls the administration receives with complaints about ambulance fees from residents. Discussion ensued regarding the many failed referendums and that the high ambulance fees for a few are making up some ground for those failed referendums.

Payment of Bills: The monthly bill list for July was provided to the Board prior to the meeting indicating a total of \$100,948.88. Trustee Saas made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor.

Other Business: None.

There being no further business for Open Session, President Kallas made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the appointment of specific personnel pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), seconded by Trustee Hannen. All in favor. The Regular Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:53 p.m.

---

George Kallas, President

---

Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary