

Regular Meeting
11/16/21

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Kallas at 7:30 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, DC Eric Ermer and Attorney Bernie Weiler.

Minutes: The minutes of the Executive Session of 9/21/21, the Regular Meeting of 10/19/21 and Executive Session of 10/19/21 were distributed prior to the meeting. There being no corrections, Trustee Saas made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Hannen. All in favor.

Remarks From Floor: Citizen Matt Rich from School District #34 thanked Chief Evans for participating in the school's ROE walk-through, stating that he was able to clarify any questions that came up during the process.

Citizen Randy Voss stated that he was just sitting in to observe the meeting and expressed his hope that the residents of the District start becoming more involved and start to appreciate the Fire Department.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for 10/31/21 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. As of 10/31/21, the beginning balance in the checking account and general money market account was \$2,924,685.14. After deposits of \$116,523.79, disbursements of \$386,747.46, the ending balance for those accounts was \$2,654,461.47. The combined balance of the Capital Projects and Equipment Fund, including CD's was \$1,823,2236.95, giving a total of all funds of \$4,477,698.42. There being no questions, Trustee Saas a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Trustee Saylor. All in favor.

Chief's Report:

Chief Evans reviewed the Alliance training for this month, as well as a summary of incident activity over the last month, including a series of incidents involving the need for SWAT medics to be on scene. He then asked FF/PM Seth Lamb, who is a SWAT Medic for Winfield Fire District, to come forward and be introduced to the public.

Service anniversaries for the month of October included Lt. Dave Formento with 26 total years of service, and FF/PM Matt Smith with 12 years of service.

Chief Evans gave the Board an update on both Tender #31, which is still out for repairs, and Engine #31, which had been returned to service but had another failure on a call today. Engine #31 is also an item under New Business on the Agenda.

The FEMA grant funds of \$147,936 were awarded and received for the purchase of SCBA's. Chief Evans gave a brief demonstration on the SCBA's to the Board.

Chief Evans gave an update on TIF II, stating that he has not seen a finalized draft of the IGA yet. He also informed the Board that the radio previously provided by the ETSB has reached the end of its life, and replacement radios will be coming soon, the bulk of the cost being assumed by the ETSB once again.

Firehouse Software is no longer going to be supported, so Chief Evans and DC Ermer worked with staff to find a suitable replacement. ESO Solutions was selected as the new vendor and will be implemented in the near future.

DC Ermer submitted a grant for a new air compressor to compliment the new airparks, and he should get a response within the next couple of weeks.

Chief Evans and DC Ermer have been working on developing policies through Lexipol, with an 18-24 month anticipated finish time.

DC Ermer stated that the RFP for the roof repairs should be available at the December meeting.

Chief Evans stated that the District has received an additional \$135,000 in GEMT funds so far, half of which will be owed back to the State.

The Village of Winfield has been conducting hydrant flushing and maintenance.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Weiler stated that the Fire District was asked to consider contributing to an IGA between the taxing bodies within the Village of Winfield. He reviewed a couple of areas that needed some attention and provided some input on those issues.

Old Business:

None.

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

New Business: The Pension Board provided an amended Tax Levy Request Letter to the Board with a reduced amount being requested. After review, Trustee Saas made a motion to accept the amount requested in Tax Levy Request Letter, seconded by Trustee Hannen. All in favor by roll call vote.

DC Ermer has been working with the Engine Committee to expedite the new fire engine specification preparation process to get the RFP complete before the next round of price increases. Bids will be due early enough to be presented to the Board in December. Trustee Saas made a motion to approve the RFP, seconded by Trustee Hannen. All in favor by roll call vote.

DC Ermer provided the Board with an updated list of surplus items and recommendations for disposition of the items. Trustee Hannen made a motion to approve the recommended disposition for the items on the list, seconded by Trustee Saas. All in favor by roll call vote.

Chief Evans reviewed his Sustainability Report, giving an overview of the report for the residents attending the meeting via Zoom. The report included the recommendation to raise ambulance fees, in light of the latest GEMT report, and discussion of going out, once again, for a referendum to at least hire additional personnel.

Trustee Hannen had concern that asking for a lower amount through referendum would be a very temporary reprieve, and he felt like there should be a middle ground between what was asked for previously, and the minimum amount being considered. Discussion determined that if the District reduces down to a single station, the cost of renovating the current Station #31 far exceeds the overall cost and benefit of a new building on County Farm Road. Selling one or both current stations and perhaps ceding properties that would be better served by a neighboring District after relocation were also discussed as options.

Trustee Saylor struggled with closing and selling Station #32, citing heavy traffic on County Farm Road during rush hour traffic as a problem. President Kallas stated that Station #32 has been technically closed for over 20 years as it is, and that the use of sirens when responding to calls will take care of the traffic issues.

Trustee Simpson suggested putting a survey online to get public feedback to determine why people either voted for or against previous referendums. He also agreed that asking for the minimum through referendum would not be sufficient. Trustee Saas agreed and suggested the Board come to a middle ground on the referendum ask. In the meantime, the survey will be put together, and the decision on the referendum will be tabled until December. With regard to the recommended ambulance fee increase, Trustee Hannen made a motion to increase the fees from \$1,850 to \$2,275, slightly below the GEMT authorized amount of \$2,299.74. That motion was seconded by Trustee Saas. All in favor by roll call vote.

Payment of Bills: The monthly bill list for November was provided to the Board prior to the meeting indicating a total of \$69,177.66. Trustee Saas made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Hannen. All in favor.

Remarks from Floor: Resident Luke Allen did not feel a survey would make a difference, but he encouraged the Board to not wait past December to make a decision, so that the committee can get ramped up and organized.

Other Business: Fire Commission Chris Levan presented his letter of resignation from the Board of Fire Commissioners, as he has moved out of the District. The Board thanked Mr. Levan for his years of service and commitment to the Commission.

There being no further business for discussion, Trustee Hannen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Saas. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

George Kallas, President

Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary