

Regular Meeting
11/21/23

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Kallas at 7:33 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

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

Also Present: Chief Steven Evans, Admin. Assistant Robin Youngberg, Attorney Joe Miller, Financial Advisor James Howard (via Zoom), and Jenny Fleming.

Minutes: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of 10/17/23 and Closed Session of 10/17/23 were distributed prior to the meeting. There being no changes, Trustee Saas made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor.

Public Comment: Resident James Annis lives near where the proposed new fire station is to be located and expressed his concerns about the new fire station and what restrictions will be put in place for noise mitigation, etc. Attorney Miller explained how the process work with the Village during the approval process. Resident Jane Karier stated that she is concerned as to how the station would impact the surrounding properties. Resident Aswin Dave felt that the District didn't care about resident concerns because we don't live in those neighborhoods. Resident Larry McNutt asked if there will be a cell tower on the property, to which he was assured that was not going to happen. Resident Tim Gaumer asked if there are outside lights and alarms or sirens going to be right outside of the station. Chief Evans stated that the station alert alarms cannot be heard outside, and he clarified as to when sirens will be utilized. Fred Karier spoke about living behind the proposed fire station property and felt that the language in the referendum was misleading to the public. Attorney Miller explained that referendum questions are specifically written by statute and cannot be changed. Chief Evans then explained exactly what was being asked for when the referendum was passed. Resident Naresh Nair stated that, as a resident, he felt that it was of tremendous value to have a great fire department in the community.

Treasurer's Report: James Howard presented his Monthly Financial Report, and the Board reviewed the monthly Schwab statement from Sawyer-Falduto as well. The Treasurer's Report for 10/31/23 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. As of 10/31/23, the beginning balance in the checking account, general money market account and Schwab General Fund was \$3,277,503.49. After deposits of \$577,380.88, and disbursements of \$378,840.27, the ending balance for those accounts was \$3,476,044.10. The combined balance of the Schwab Construction Fund and Schwab Equipment Fund was \$2,096,706.39. After discussion, Trustee Saas made a motion to accept the Monthly Treasurer's Report and Financial Reports, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor by roll call vote.

Chief's Report: Chief Evans gave an overview of the Alliance training for the month of November, and he highlighted some recent emergency responses since last month. Service anniversaries included Lt. Dave Formento with 28 total years and Lt. Matt Smith with 14 years of service.

Chief Evans gave updates on the fleet, stating that the new engine has arrived and is now getting upfitted, and the new ambulance is still expected in late 2024. The recently acquired Utility Vehicle is still being upfitted, and T31 is out for repairs.

The Board of Fire Commissioners has begun the process of testing to establish a full-time firefighter/paramedic eligibility roster, with the anticipation of filling two more vacancies. He stated that Caleb Miner was hired on 10/16/23 and Jordan Isaacs starts on 11/27/23, both of whom were under the SAFER Grant.

Chief Evans stated that the Architects have gone out for bids for a General Contractor for the construction project of the new fire station, and they are also working with the Village to adhere to their requirements.

With the nearing expiration of the 5-year grant provided by NW/CDH to the Fire District, Dawn Rosnowski from NW/CDH gave Chief Evans the information needed to apply for grants with NW/CDH from this point forward. Chief Evans provided the Board with some draft ideas for their review and input.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Miller spoke about the Veto Session, stating that Tier II benefits for Chicago were enhanced with the hope that downstate will update their benefits as well. The Paid Workers Leave Act will take effect in January, and Meganne Trela from Ottosen Britz will send a draft policy addressing that.

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 Simpson. All in favor.

New Business: The final Annual Financial Statement was provided by Lauterbach & Amen for Board approval. There being no questions, Trustee Saas made a motion to accept the Annual Audit as presented, seconded by Trustee Allen. All in favor by roll call vote.

Tax Levy Ordinance No. 2023-352 for 2023/2024 was previously discussed at the Public Hearing just prior to this meeting. There being no changes, Trustee Saas made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-352, seconded by Trustee Hannen. 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 \$123,170.73. Trustee Saas made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Simpson. Motion carried by roll call vote.

There being nothing further for discussion, Trustee Saas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Hannen. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

George Kallas, President

Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary