

Regular Meeting
February 19, 2008

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Saas at 7:35 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Members Present: President Phillip J. Saas, Secretary George T. Kallas, Trustee Gary L. Muehlfelt, Trustee William R. Thar and Trustee Mark Klage.

Also Present: Chief Phillip A. DiMenza and Attorney Bernie K. Weiler.

Minutes: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of 1/15/08 were distributed prior to the meeting. There being no corrections to either, Trustee Klage made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Thar. All in favor.

Remarks From Floor: None.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Harris reviewed his report for January. The beginning balance in the checking account and general money market account was \$1,079,936.36. After deposits of \$44,322.98 and disbursements of \$308,138.01 (which included the purchase of two \$50,000.00 operating CD's), the ending balance for those accounts was \$816,121.33. The balance for the Capital Projects and Equipment Fund CD's as of 1/31/08 was \$1,490,105.14.

Treasurer Harris next reviewed correspondence he received from Winfield Community Bank, which explained how our funds are invested, what the rates are, the collateralization, etc.

Treasurer Harris then read into the record a report that he prepared for clarification based on recent articles in the local press, which will be attached to these minutes. A Capital Equipment Replacement schedule was also distributed to the Board to show how the reserve funds are to be spent in future years. There being no questions, Trustee Kallas made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Trustee Muehlfelt. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Chief DiMenza discussed with the Board some possible changes in Fire Department operations following another referendum failure. Some of those changes could include trading in one fire engine, selling another and purchasing one engine to replace them both, thereby reducing the fleet; eliminating public relations funding; reducing or eliminating the contributions to the Equipment and Capital Projects funds; reducing manning to two firefighters on the engine, which will prevent participation in mutual aid; and investigate combining or surrendering to a neighboring jurisdiction, which will increase the tax rate to residents anyway.

Trustee Kallas stated that he did not want to reduce the safety factors of the citizens whatsoever. He would be willing to evaluate selling Station #2 or reducing equipment to some degree, but he did not want to see anyone lose their job. Instead, he would like to find a way to hire the three people that are needed. He felt that the department should be run "business as usual," and we should continue to maintain as best we can.

President Saas asked if it would be possible to hire only one of the three additional firefighters desired. Chief DiMenza stated that it would help one shift, but not the other two. Hiring three additional firefighters would cost an additional \$205,000.00 in the first year with salary and benefits.

Chief DiMenza and Deputy Chief Lewis offered to revisit the budget between now and when it is adopted to see if the funds for those firefighters could be made available somewhere. Trustee Klage stated that even if the funds are found now, it is only a Band-Aid, and he did not want the District in the position of hiring three people and then laying them off in another couple of years.

Deputy Chief's Report: None.

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

Old Business: None.

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

New Business: The 2008/2009 Tentative Budget and Appropriations Ordinance was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. After discussion, Trustee Klage made a motion to adopt the Tentative Budget with the understanding that it may be amended to accommodate up to three additional firefighter positions, seconded by Trustee Kallas. All in favor by roll call vote. In addition, President Saas made a motion to set a Public Hearing for the final budget for April 15, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. just prior to the Regular Meeting. That motion was seconded by Trustee Klage, all in favor.

Ordinance No. 269 for continued participation in the Illinois Fire District Employee Benefit Cooperative for full-time employee health insurance coverage was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. After discussion, Trustee Thar made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 269, seconded by Trustee Klage. All in favor by roll call vote.

Deputy Chief Lewis next reviewed his memorandum regarding the District's Equipment Replacement Schedule and asked that the Board adopt Exhibit B as the new Equipment Replacement Schedule, repealing Exhibit A currently in place. In addition, Deputy Chief Lewis requested that the Board authorize he and Chief DiMenza to seek proposals for a new fire engine, which would include the trade-in on Engine 611 and the sale of Engine 622. He has been working with a used fire equipment company that will either purchase Engine 611 outright for approximately \$150,000.00 or sell it on consignment, asking for \$240,000.00, of which the company receives 10%, netting the Fire District approximately \$200,000.00 for that vehicle.

Chief DiMenza and Deputy Chief Lewis discussed the multitude of problems encountered with the American LaFrance Engine 611 since taking delivery of it, much of which has been after the

expiration of the warranty. In addition, American LaFrance has gone bankrupt, so it is unclear as to how any further warranty issues will be handled with that vehicle.

After discussion, President Saas made a motion to authorize Chief DiMenza and Deputy Chief Lewis to seek proposals for new engine, and investigate the terms of a consignment sale prior to making a commitment to offer Engine 611 up for sale by consignment. The proposals and a consignment agreement will be brought to the next meeting. That motion was seconded by Trustee Klage. All in favor.

Payment of Bills: The monthly bill list for January was provided to the Board prior to the meeting indicating a total of \$116,220.75. There being no questions, Trustee Kallas made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by President Saas. All in favor.

Other Business: None.

There being no further business for regular session, Trustee Kallas made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Trustee Klage. All in favor. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:57 p.m.

Phillip J. Saas, President

Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary