

Regular Meeting
2/18/20

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Pro Tem President Saas at 7:36 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

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

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

Minutes: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of 1/21/20 and the Executive Session of 1/21/20 were distributed prior to the meeting. There being no corrections, Trustee Kallas made a motion to approve the 1/21/20 Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor. Trustee Saylor made a motion to approve the 1/21/20 Executive Session minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Kallas. All in favor.

Remarks From Floor: None.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for 1/31/20 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. As of 1/31/20, the beginning balance in the checking account and general money market account was \$1,820,777.61. After deposits of \$78,083.40, disbursements of \$400,022.47, the ending balance for those accounts was \$1,498,838.54. The combined balance of the Capital Projects and Equipment Fund, including CD's was \$1,809,553.35, giving a total of all funds of \$3,308,391.89. There being no questions, Trustee Simpson a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Trustee Saylor. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Chief Evans gave a summary of the Alliance training throughout the month, and he reviewed some of the call activity as well, including one where Officer Olson from the Winfield Police Department was able to intervene and lend tremendous assistance. Chief Evans also informed the Board that there has been progress with the Village with respect to inspections and communicating with the business in the Village about those inspections, answering questions, etc. In addition, Chief Evans read a letter from Retired Chief DiMenza into the record, thanking the Board and the Members of the Department, stating how much he enjoyed his time as the Chief of this Department.

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 then made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor.

New Business: The 2020/2021 Tentative Budget & Appropriations Ordinance was presented to the Board prior to the meeting. There being no questions, Trustee Kallas made a motion to accept the Tentative Budget, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor. The Public Hearing on the final budget will be on April 21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Payment of Bills: The monthly bill list for February was provided to the Board prior to the meeting indicating a total of \$47,944.35. There being no questions, Trustee Simpson made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Kallas. All in favor.

Other Business: None.

Trustee Kallas made a motion to recess to Executive Session for purposes of discussion personnel, salaries and/or discipline and possible litigation, seconded by Trustee Simpson. All in favor. The meeting was recessed at 7:47 p.m.

(Executive Session)

Following the Executive Session, the open meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 18, 2020, was reconvened at 8:40 p.m. Present were Trustee Saas, Trustee Saylor, Trustee Simpson and Trustee Kallas. Also present were Fire Chief Evans and Attorney Weiler.

Trustee Saas opened the meeting indicating that the terms of the employment contract of the Chief would be prepared in final form incorporating revisions discussed during the closed session and that the agreement would be submitted to the Board at its regularly scheduled March meeting for approval, and, if approved, execution.

The Fire Chief then reported that he, along with Board President Klage met with Peter Poulos, a real estate broker representing commercial developers interested in developing land in the vicinity of the intersection of Roosevelt and Winfield Roads pursuant to development plans adopted by the Village. The Chief indicated that Mr. Poulos wished to discuss how the District's Station #2 might fit into the development plan. Mr. Poulos was given a tour of that station and expressed surprise that it was a one-story building given its exterior profile. The meeting was conducted as a courtesy to the Village who wishes to explore how the District Station #2 located just north of Roosevelt Road on Winfield Road might fit into its development plan and whether relocation opportunities for the District might materialize. The meeting ended without any proposal being offered by either party.

Trustee Saylor inquired about the status of the Referendum, and Chief Evans reported that information about the Referendum, without advocating for or against the Referendum, had been posted on the District's website and that the information has been relayed by interested citizens throughout the community via their own social media accounts. Trustee Saylor indicated that her observations of social media activity indicated that significant attention has been devoted to the subject and that information posted by the District had been forwarded by interested citizens to a significant number of others, along with mostly favorable commentary. The Chief reported that his observations of the social media activity indicated that any negative commentary did not relate necessarily to the tax rate, but to the commentators' preference for consolidation. The Chief indicated that a number of citizens had arranged for the publication of yard signs advocating the passage of the Referendum, which would be placed at strategic locations around

the District. He also indicated that information meetings had been scheduled in order to provide interested voters information concerning the Referendum, and the consequences of both a favorable and unfavorable result. Trustee Kallas inquired about and recommended pursuing press releases to print media, including the Daily Herald. Chief Evans indicated that a favorable article had already been published in the local print newspaper and that an interview with a columnist was scheduled for a follow-up article. He indicated that he would be contacting the Daily Herald concerning the Referendum. Trustee Saylor, during the meeting, was able to access data concerning the circulation of information via social media accounts other than the Fire Protection District's, which showed that there was a significant amount of traffic concerning the Referendum.

Trustee Saas inquired whether there was a plan to make a presentation about the Referendum to the Village of Winfield Board at one of its regular meetings. Chief Evans indicated that the interests of the Village regarding another taxing body's tax Referendums were not necessarily in harmony with the District's and that such a presentation might generate discussion concerning the possible conflicting interests which would not necessarily generate support for the Referendum.

There being no further business before the Board, upon the motion of Trustee Simpson, seconded by Trustee Kallas, with all Trustees present voting in favor thereof, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Phillip J. Saas, President, Pro Tem

Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary