

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
NORWOOD PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
7447 W. LAWRENCE AVE.  
HARWOOD HEIGHTS, IL 60706**

The Board of Trustees of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, Illinois convened at the regular meeting place of said Board on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023, at 6:30 P.M. at 7447 W. Lawrence Ave., Harwood Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order and upon roll call the following named members answered present:

Roll Call:                   Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes, Chief Blondell; yes.

The pledge was said at the start of the meeting.

Recognition for cardiac arrest save through our partnership with Zoll Medical:

Brian Krueger

Paula Zalazar - Paz

Ron Schneider

Steve Swank

Ryan Nieva

George Pappas

Dan Veach – HHPD

Danielle DeVries – MCD

Jocelyn Schmidt – MCD

These individuals were presented with a certificate and medallion.

**COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE (Public Participation)**

A motion was made by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Santoro to suspend the rules to permit visitors to be recognized. The Board retains the right to refuse to recognize any individual if they feel their comments are not relevant or to "put them off" if they exceed their time allotment. After all, have had an opportunity to address the Board, the President moves the rules be reinstated, and the Board will proceed with meeting.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0           MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Wegrecki to approve the following minutes:

1- Approve the Rescheduled Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on November 6, 2023. Trustee Palazzo abstained from Treasurer's Report in the November minutes. Correction will be made.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

### **Chiefs' Report:**

Chief stated he hopes all is well and that all Trustees received a written report.

Call volume is currently 6% higher than last year which was our busiest year. We have had a 20% increase of call volume over the last couple years.

Firefighter Kieras graduated from the Romeoville Fire Academy.

We are in a good financial position and would like to explore moving some money into CDs. We are comfortable with putting \$500,000 into a CD, we will shop around rates.

Will need to meet with the Building and Equipment Committee to discuss the Day Room. We need to revamp the room and possibly get an interior designer involved. We believe the room remodel could cost from \$20,000-\$50,000.

We have been waiting for a quote for a new engine from Seagrave and they are very slow on getting back to us. Discussion. It has been over 2 months we have been waiting on the quote, we need to be prepared to move on.

We must create a formal RFP for the parking lot project.

The audit approval is on the agenda.

Trustee Wegrecki and Trustee Palazzo both attended Trustee Training. They were given certificates.

Chief thanked everyone for coming to the Christmas party.

Deputy Chief Peistrup was put on the Pension Board as a young firefighter, that board at that time purchased 4 or 5 annuities on undisclosed employees. Due to the recent death of retired Chief Dennis Stefanowicz the Pension Fund is receiving \$1.4 million. The annuities were not

always a popular option with past board members, but thankfully D/C Peistrup stuck to his guns, and it paid off.

Chief Blondell met with Trustee Kolaski about the celebration and bereavement policy, this was just a starting point for the policy. He appreciated Trustee Kolaski meeting with him.

Motion by Trustee Santoro seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the Chief's report for November 2023.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**President's Report:** Trustee Rybak thanked everyone for a good year. Stated the Christmas party was great. Trustees have expressed some concerns on the policy for celebrations and bereavement. Discussion.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Schedule of Assets  
(Arising from Cash Transactions)  
November 30, 2023

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	656,685.21
Wintrust -MM #2776	1,244,359.68
Wintrust- Checking #9771	63,660.59
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	1,531,047.20
Wintrust- Medical #0599	4,377.38
Wintrust- Donation #4129	1,142.81
Wintrust- FSA #0713	8,371.26
Wintrust- Business Account #6537	9,887.95
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$3,519,532.08</u>

**Certificates of deposit (interest rate and maturity):**

Belmont Bank (4.75%, 02/10/24)	724,122.36
Belmont Bank (4.90% 07/21/24)	605,479.47
Belmont Bank (4.75% 01/19/24)	423,827.33
Total certificates of deposit	\$1,753,429.16

Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit \$5,272,961.24

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Rybak to approve November's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$475,614.27 and the Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for November 2023.

Trustee Santoro stated that we paid GEMT over \$500,000, property tax money is still being received, and the Levy and Audit are on the agenda for approval. Once approved, they will be filed.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

### **Committee Reports:**

Finance Committee- Trustee Santoro stated once we receive additional information regarding the parking lot and engine, we will hold a meeting.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Wegrecki stated there is nothing to report.

Policy Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated there were some concerns and issues with the proposed policy for celebration and bereavement, we can table it until everyone can agree. Discussion. Chief Blondell stated that he did a survey of 5 departments and can share the information. It was decided to discuss the policy and the changes that were requested. Trustee Rybak stated that it seems many of the trustees want to have badges, key fobs are not needed, and they are okay with purchasing a cake if they feel it is necessary for a fellow trustee. Flowers will be at a cost not to exceed \$150 for bereavement. Discussion. There will also not be a time frame on when you can receive a shirt, it will be as needed, and trustees will receive a badge when elected and/or appointed. The policy will be amended to reflect the changes to the trustee portion.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated that the department was part of the tree lighting and there is a senior talk tomorrow.

Pension Fund Member & Commissioner Oversight- Trustee Massaro was not present. Trustee Rybak stated that she talked to him, and he wishes everyone a Happy Holiday.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business**

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Palazzo to pass and approve Ordinance #23-6, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District 2023 Tax Levy in the amount of \$8,114,879.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,

Trustee Palazzo; yes.  
AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to pass and approve Ordinance #23-7, and Ordinance giving Cook County Clerk direction related to the 2023 Tax Levy.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.  
AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Palazzo to approve the renewal for Workers Compensation through Illinois Public Risk Fund, effective January 1, 2024, through January 1, 2025, at an estimated cost of \$261,848.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.  
AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the Liability Insurance renewal with Assured Partners, effective January 1, 2024, through January 1, 2025, at an annual cost of \$65,447.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.  
AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Palazzo to approve the payout of elective sick time buyback to:  
Ronald Schneider 96 hours \$3,320.64.  
Total elective sick time buyback \$3,320.64.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.  
AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Wegrecki to accept the audit for the 2023 fiscal year as presented by Sikich, LLP.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Palazzo and seconded by Trustee Wegrecki to approve the 2022 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant (AFG) Program Regional Grant Application Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Norwood Park Fire Protection District award amount is \$214,857.56 and the District's obligation will be \$21,485.76.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to approve the Norwood Park Board of Trustees' Policy Manual addition (1.35 Ceremonies and Bereavements).  
With the changes that were discussed earlier. Discussion.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the consent agenda:

- Approve the Board of Trustee meeting dates for 2024. Meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month except for October, which will be held on the third Monday. Meetings will be called to order at 6:30pm.
- Approve the payment of \$50,408.30 to the Foreign Fire Insurance Board.
- Ratify the payment to HFS Bureau of Fiscal Operations in the amount of \$593,386.95 for GEMT.
- Ratify the payment to Chase Card Services in the amount of \$5,540.54 for 2 chainsaws, cakes, High Vis jackets, hoods.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,  
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0      MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0      MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

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Louis Mezzano  
Secretary

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Joanne Rybak  
President