

**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 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024, at 6:31 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; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes, Chief Blondell; yes.

The pledge was said at the start of the meeting.

**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: 7 NAY: 0           MOTION CARRIED

Swearing in of Firefighter Louis Golebiowski.

Motion by Trustee Mezzano and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to go into recess.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0           MOTION CARRIED

Entered recess at 6:37pm                   Returned from recess at 6:49pm

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

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

- Approve the Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes held on October 21, 2024.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

### **Chiefs' Report:**

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

Calls volume is 2% off last year's pace. We have run over 4,000 calls which is tough on crews and equipment.

The department Christmas party was great, thank you to all that came.

Our family is growing, we have multiple firefighters' wives that are pregnant or recently gave birth.

The auditors filed for an extension with the comptroller. The MD&A will be completed by the administration and the audit will be on the agenda in January for approval.

The three trustees that filed for the upcoming election will be uncontested. Trustee Palazzo ran for the two-year unexpired term. Trustee Santoro and Trustee Wegrecki are six-year terms.

Deputy Chief Peistrup will be sworn in as Chief at the next board meeting.

January 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting could have a larger crowd and will be on the apparatus floor.

Chief Blondell will be in the meeting and give his last Chief report, we will swear in Chief Peistrup, and he will take over the meeting.

Motion by Trustee Palazzo seconded by Trustee Rybak to approve the Chief's report for October and November 2024.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**President's Report:** Trustee Rybak stated she is sad that Chief Blondell will be retiring and appreciates all that you do. Trustee Rybak stated that there were some questions that board members wanted the attorney to answer:

- You can exempt the school requirement with having 10 years of experience in the district.
- Deputy Chief Peistrup will have a special meeting and it just needs to follow OMA.
- There is no time frame regarding meetings.

- The contract is not available yet, but you cannot make someone work and not retire.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Schedule of Assets  
(Arising from Cash Transactions)  
October 31, 2024

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	\$273,032.51
Wintrust -MM #2776	3,590,351.75
Wintrust- Checking #9771	60,716.84
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	2,707,125.42
Wintrust- Medical #0599	6,530.25
Wintrust- Donation #4129	1,200.38
Wintrust- FSA #0713	10,996.13
Wintrust- Business Account #6537	28,544.98
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$6,678,498.26</u>

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

Belmont Bank (5.15%, 02/10/25)	1,025,395.54
Belmont Bank (4.90% 07/21/25)	635,838.58
Belmont Bank (5.15% 01/19/25)	1,038,747.18
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$2,699,981.30</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$9,378,479.56</u>

Schedule of Assets  
(Arising from Cash Transactions)  
November 30, 2024

Assets

**Checking and money market accounts:**

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	\$290,363.42
Wintrust -MM #2776	3,115,318.77
Wintrust- Checking #9771	56,863.10
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	2,738,016.23
Wintrust- Medical #0599	7,213.04
Wintrust- Donation #4129	1,204.96
Wintrust- FSA #0713	7,823.66
Wintrust- Business Account #6537	33,835.15
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$6,250,638.33</u>

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

Belmont Bank (5.15%, 02/10/25)	1,038,706.02
Belmont Bank (4.90% 07/21/25)	635,838.58

Belmont Bank (5.15% 01/19/25)	1,038,747.18
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$2713,291.78</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$8,963,930.11</u>

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Massaro to approve the following:

- October's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$550,500.76.
- The Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for October 2024.
- November's accounts payable expenditures in the amount of \$638,388.88.
- The Treasurer's Report as presented from the Financial Statements for November 2024.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

**Committee Reports:**

Finance Committee- Trustee Santoro stated that there is a CD maturing January 19<sup>th</sup>. When it gets closer, we will call around for rates. We will have a second CD maturing in February. The Levy and Order of Direction is on the agenda for approval. The attorney has reviewed the documents.

Chief explained the Levy process and that it will be filed online tomorrow.

Building and Equipment Committee-Trustee Wegrecki stated the Day Room is on the agenda and there are some questions that will be talked about at the motion.

Chief sent an email that the asphalt is complete, and the concrete proposal has been sent out. Bid opening will be held at the firehouse. Clark Dietz is handling everything.

Policy Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated there was nothing to report and to have a safe holiday.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated that yesterday Gratitude Generation came to the firehouse and dropped out things for the employees and took pictures.

Pension Fund Member- Trustee Massaro stated the Levy for the Pension Fund increased. The fund is 53.9% funded.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business**

Motion by Trustee Massaro and seconded by Trustee Rybak to pass and approve Ordinance #24-4, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District 2024 Tax Levy in the amount of \$8,514,285.00.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,

Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,  
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,  
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to pass and approve Ordinance #24-5, an Ordinance giving Cook County Clerk direction related to the 2024 Tax Levy.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Palazzo to approve the renewal for Workers Compensation through Illinois Public Risk Fund, effective January 1, 2025, through January 1, 2026, at an estimated cost of \$253,490.00.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Massaro to approve the Liability Insurance renewal with Assured Partners, effective January 1, 2025, through January 1, 2026, at an annual cost of \$71,035.00.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve at a cost not to exceed \$60,000 for the Day Room remodel.

Chief explained over the year they have had several ideas and felt \$40,000-\$50,000 would be enough. As they were gathering information, it was decided to approve a designer and Lieutenant Mark Blondell will be the General Contractor and work with the designer. Basic plans and costs were completed. There is water damage, and a trench needs to be dug. Some of the design we can afford and some we cannot. The 2% Fund will be adding money to the project.

Discussion on how and what was going to be accomplished during this remodel. Chief asked if there are questions to please call him anytime.

No single contractor will be completing over \$20,000 in work.

Trustee Wegrecki stated that it is not all cosmetic work and they will be fixing some actual issues.

Trustee Rybak and Trustee Santoro amended the motion to read: to approve at a cost not to exceed \$80,000.00 for the Day Room remodel.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Chief stated that once this is completed, we will need to move onto the Training Room. It really needs to be upgraded.

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

- Approve the Board of Trustee meeting dates for 2025. Meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month except for October and November, which will be held on the third Monday. Meetings will be called to order at 6:30pm.
- Ratify the October payment to Chase Card Services in the amount of \$7,938.13.
- Ratify the October payment to American Express in the amount of \$6,054.16.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion to go into Closed Session was tabled.

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

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

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Louis Mezzano  
Secretary

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Joanne Rybak  
President