

**Minutes of the January 27, 2022  
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the  
West Chicago Fire Protection District  
Held at Fire Station Six  
200 Fremont Street, West Chicago, Illinois**

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Opened meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Charles Bratcher with Jim Grobe, Steve Usedom and Ruben Campos in attendance. Also present were Chief Patrick Tanner; Assistant Chief Tim Leidig, Firefighters Greg Zudis, Mike Buenrostro Jr., Erik Therkildsen and Noel Repticak, B/C Jeff Buccola, B/C Jeffrey Keefe, Lt. Mike Myers, Retired Lt. Mike Buenrostro, Sr., Melissa Medeiros, Attorney Joe Miller, Accountant James Howard, and Administrative Assistant Kimberly Lezza.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment heard during this meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on December 16, 2021 were reviewed. Trustee Grobe made a motion to accept the minutes as written, the motion was seconded by Trustee Campos, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 22, 2021 were reviewed. Trustee Campos made a motion to accept the minutes as written, the motion was seconded by Trustee Usedom, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Accountant James Howard presented the financial report for the period ending January 27, 2022.

Trustee Bratcher announced that the account payables for the District for the period of December 16, 2021 through January 27, 2022 totaled \$350,533.65. Trustee Bratcher also announced that the payroll for the District as of January 27, 2022 was \$440,976.93. Trustee Usedom made a motion to approve the total amount of expenditures for the District of \$791,510.58. The motion was seconded by Trustee Grobe. Roll call vote showed:

Trustee Campos- Aye

Trustee Bratcher – Aye

Trustee Usedom – Aye

Trustee Grobe - Aye

Motion passed 4 – 0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. **Finance and Planning:** Chief Tanner informed the Board that he and James will be putting together a presentation on the Medicaid GEMT program for February meeting,

- b. **Divisional Reports:**

- i. **Administration:**

- a. Chief Tanner presented Retired Lt. Mike Buenrostro, Sr. with his retiree badge.
    - b. Chief Tanner mentioned that Asst. Chief Leidig has participated in the Naperville Survey, which is a comprehensive study on ambulance fees. Once that information has been published, we may want to consider increasing our ambulance billing fees, as it's been 5 years.
    - c. Trustee Campos attended a training with the IAFFP and has brought back a Trustee Handbook that will be available in the library.

- ii. **Emergency Medical Services**

- a. Chief Tanner has had discussions with PSI regarding the EMS Coordinator position. Waiting to hear back from them regarding how the numbers are going to work for payment.

- iii. **Fleet**

- a. Chief Tanner discussed the field trip that he and 4 other committee members took to Seagrave, the manufacturer of the tower ladder we are entertaining. Hoping to have a preliminary price in the next couple of weeks. Time to build days have come down into the 500s.
    - b. Chief Tanner announced that the pick-up truck that was ordered back in June has finally been delivered. Should be ready to respond in the week.

- iv. **Buildings and Grounds**

- Nothing to report at this time.

**v. Commissioners**

- a. Candidate interviews commence the week of January 31, 2022. Chief Tanner stated that we have 1 candidate who has passed the background check and is now at the physical stage. Still looking to fill 1 more open position. Had to re-open the list. Staffing is a challenge for everyone.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Adoption of Ordinance 2022-R-01.** A resolution creating an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of West Chicago for the installation and maintenance of Vehicle Pre-Emption Equipment.

Trustee Usedom made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-R-01, a Resolution creating an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of West Chicago for the installation and maintenance of Vehicle Pre-Emption Equipment. Motion seconded by Trustee Grobe. Roll call showed:

Trustee Campos- Aye                      Trustee Bratcher – Aye                      Trustee Usedom – Aye

Trustee Grobe - Aye

Motion passed 4 – 0.

- b. **Motion to approve the purchase of a QuantiFit2 Respirator Fit Testing machine from Air One Equipment, South Elgin, Illinois in the amount of \$9,555.00**

Chief Leidig explained that the District is required to do Fit Testing annually. Up until now the District has been borrowing Wheaton’s machine. This can become problematic with crew scheduling. Not only will having our own machine benefit the District but will benefit the Police Department as well. This allows us to maintain records for OSHA.

Trustee Campos made a motion to purchase the QuantiFit2 Respirator Fit Test machine from Air One Equipment. Motion seconded by Trustee Usedom. Roll call showed:

Trustee Campos- Aye                      Trustee Bratcher – Aye                      Trustee Usedom – Aye

Trustee Grobe - Aye

Motion passed 4 – 0.

**c. Motion to approve the purchase of a Western 6' V-Blade from AHW LLC, Elburn Illinois, in the amount of \$5,282 for the John Deere Gator UTV at the Kress Rd Training Academy.**

Chief Tanner described the challenges that we face when we have a significant snow fall and there are training classes scheduled at Kress. Having the gator equipped with a plow will allow the training officer to plow the lot before the class starts. It is difficult to manage otherwise as shift change/roll call are typically at the same time as the classes. Trustee Bratcher added that the lot not being plowed could pose a safety hazard. Chief also stated that we are working on a partnership with Romeoville Fire Academy for use of the facilities which would equate to more classes being held at Kress.

Trustee Campos made a motion to approve the purchase of a Western 6' V-Blade from AHW LLX in the amount of \$5,282. Motioned seconded by Trustee Grobe. Roll call showed:

Trustee Campos- Aye                      Trustee Bratcher – Aye                      Trustee Usedom – No

Trustee Grobe - Aye

Motion passed 3 – 1.

**d. Discussion/Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with B&F Construction Code Service Inc. to provide Fire Inspection Services for the West Chicago Fire Protection District.**

Chief Tanner provided the Board with a one-page informational summary detailing reasons and costs for B&F Construction.

Chief Tanner explained that we currently only have two employees that show interest in doing the inspections at the 7G rate. We need more inspectors to handle the number of buildings we need to inspect. He also stated that the 7G rate is a topic of discussion in the contract negotiations, the union Board wants to possibly eliminate the 7G rate. He described some of the challenges that we are faced with when our FT employees do inspections such as scheduling and accountability.

Trustee Usedom suggested that this discussion be tabled until next meeting. Would like to get more information regarding qualifications and possibly obtain a few more quotes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business to discuss.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

None.

**ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

Attorney Joe Miller commented that the CPIU will need to be discussed for the next fiscal budget year. The new rate is at 7%, which he noted is a dramatic increase. Trustee Usedom asked that the discussion include what the impact of not choosing to go with the current CPIU would be.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

At 7:08pm Trustee Campos made a motion to go into closed session. Enter Closed Session under statute(s): 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1): The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2): Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) The motion was seconded by Trustee Grobe. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The Board returned to open session at 7:43 pm with no further action to be taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made by Trustee Usedom and seconded by Trustee Campos to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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Charles Bratcher      President

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James Grobe              Secretary