

**Minutes of the October 28, 2021  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the  
West Chicago Fire Protection District  
Meeting held at  
200 Fremont Street, West Chicago, Illinois**

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Opened meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 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; Lt. Jason Day, Lt. Mike Korzen, Lt. Mike Buenrostro Sr. and wife Theresa, Firefighters Greg Zudis, Nick Bulleri, Scott Hamlin and Mike Buenrostro Jr., Accounts James Howard, Attorney Joe Miller, Attorney Steve Dinolfo, guest speaker Ed Lavin and Administrative Assistant Kimberly Lezza.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment heard during this meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 23, 2021 were reviewed. Trustee Usedom made a motion to accept the minutes as written, the motion was seconded by Trustee Grobe, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Minutes of the Closed Session held on July 22, 2021 were reviewed. Trustee Campos made a motion to accept the minutes as written, the motion was seconded by Trustee Grobe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Minutes of the Closed Session held on August 26, 2021 were reviewed. Trustee Usedom made a motion to accept the minutes as written, the motion was seconded by Trustee Campos, and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Roll call showed:

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ed Lavin, Chief Information Officer, from Sawyer Falduto Asset Management, LLC provided a presentation on the risk spectrum as it pertains to our Schwab investment account. Mr. Lavin provided a document with proposed allocations and asset classes. He also inquired as to what direction we may looking to proceed and if the District has any specific cash flow needs. Accountant James Howard stated that the proposed portfolio would work for now. We would look at making adjustments in the future.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Accountant James Howard presented the financial report for the period ending September 30, 2021.

Trustee Bratcher announced that the account payables for the District for the period of September 23, 2021 through October 28, 2021 totaled \$375,300.98. Trustee Bratcher also announced that the payroll for the District as of October 28, 2021 was \$439,750.98. Trustee Usedom made a motion to approve the total amount of expenditures for the District of \$815,051.96. The motion was seconded by Trustee Campos. 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:** Accountant James Howard reviewed the 2021 Proposed Tax Levy material. Levy set to capture up to \$42M. Attorney Joe Miller stated that the Board of Trustees at the review of the figures have made the determination that they will not have to have a taxation hearing because it's levy will be less than 5% of the extension from last year.

Final year's meeting set for November 18, 2021 and December 16, 2021.

### **b. Divisional Reports:**

#### **i. Administration:**

- a. Chief Tanner noted that at the October 20, 2021 meeting, the City of West Chicago announced they are going to terminate the existing downtown TIF district and replacing with a smaller TIF district. Effective December 31, 2021. Some surplus funds will be reissued back to District.
- b. Chief Tanner stated that Mike Day has submitted a letter of interest for the vacant Commissioner position.

Trustee Campos made a motion to appoint Mike Day in the vacant Commission position. Motion seconded by Trustee Usedom. Roll call showed:

Trustee Campos- Aye

Trustee Bratcher – Aye

Trustee Usedom – Aye

Trustee Grobe - Aye

Motion passed 4 – 0.

ii. **Emergency Medical Services:**

Chief Tanner read the Thank You letter from a resident's wife. She praised the department and the firefighters for saving her husband's life on September 12<sup>th</sup>, when he went into cardiac arrest.

iii. **Fire District Website:**

Chief Tanner noted that the District has contracted with a vendor to refresh and update our website. Battalion Chief Jeff Buccola, FF Tim Latas and Admin Kimberly Lezza will be help manage the site.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Resolution 2021-R-03.** A resolution authorizing the sale or donation of surplus property of the West Chicago Fire Protection District. Chief Tanner stated that our boat had failed and would no longer hold air. The property has been destroyed and the District has purchased a new boat.

Trustee Usedom made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-R-03, a Resolution authorizing the sale or donation of surplus property of the West Chicago Fire Protection District. Motion seconded by Trustee Campos. Roll call showed:

Trustee Campos- Aye

Trustee Bratcher – Aye

Trustee Usedom – Aye

Trustee Grobe - Aye

Motion passed 4 – 0.

- b. Motion to approve an agreement with the State of Illinois to fund the traffic pre-emption device for a new traffic signal at Rt 59 and Gary's Mill Road.

Chief Tanner stated that it there is a debate on who is responsible for the \$8059.00. Attorney Joe Miller stated that the IGA with the city specifically named the intersections, but this was not one of them. Decision made to table discussion pending further clarification.

c. Motion to amend the current contract with Paramedic Services, Inc.

Chief Tanner explained that it has become very difficult to hire and retain fire fighter/paramedics and in order for the District to stay competitive with our neighbors, he recommends that we increase our starting salary from \$42k to \$50k. Wheaton starting pay is \$60k and Glen Ellyn is \$72K. The Trustees ask that we have PSI provide an amended contract with new rates and language regarding physical fitness language for review at next meeting,

**MISCELLANEOUS:** None.

**ATTORNEY COMMENTS:** No report.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 7:45 pm. Trustee Campos made a motion to go into closed session, motion seconded by Trustee Usedom. 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)

In attendance: Trustees Bratcher, Grobe, Usedom, Campos, Chief Tanner, Assistant Chief Leidig and Attorney Joe Miller and Attorney Steve Dinolfo.

1. Possible Action on the Closed Session discussion

A motion was made to return to open session at 9:29 p.m. by Trustee Campos. The motion was seconded by Trustee Usedom.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made by Trustee Usedom and seconded by Trustee Grobe to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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Charles Bratcher      President

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James Grobe      Secretary