

FOUNDED IN 1946

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

Jack L. Mancione



DEPUTY CHIEF

William F. Just
Edward J. Gergits

TRI-STATE

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

419 PLAINFIELD ROAD • DARIEN, ILLINOIS 60561 • (630) 323-6445

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT HELD 25, AUGUST 2015
AT STATION 3.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 18:30 hours by Trustee Jewell. On roll call: Trustee Jewell, Trustee Habercoss, Chief Mancione, Deputy Chief Just, Deputy Chief Gergits, Attorney Ottosen and Adm. Asst. Radek.

II. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET

Trustee Jewell opened the Public Hearing asking if there were any questions or comments regarding the pending budget. Attorney Ottosen stated that the budget was posted in the local newspaper. Resident John Curcio stated he hoped the budget will pass. Trustee Habercoss made a motion to close the Public Hearing, motion seconded by Trustee Jewell, motion approved. 2-0-0.

II. MINUTES

Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept the minutes of 20, July 2015, 18, May 2015, 15, June 2015. Trustee Habercoss seconded the motion. Motion approved by the Board 2-0-0.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for June 2015. Trustee Habercoss would not second the motion. Trustee Habercoss stated he needed to review all credit cards and receipts before he would approve the Treasurer's report.

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III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept the resignation of Trustee Orrico, there was no second. Trustee Habercoss stated he could not accept the Orrico's resignation because once he moved out of the district his position became vacant. Attorney Ottoson informed the board no motion was required. Trustee Orrico submitted his resignation to Chief Mancione August 12th 2015 creating a Board Trustee Vacancy as of that date.
2. Tri-State Board of Trustees have 60 days to choose a replacement for former Trustee Orrico. 60 days will fall on 12, October 2015. Trustee Jewell wanted to appoint current Commissioner Kevin Camden, Trustee Habercoss would like the opportunity to interview any interested candidates prior to making a nomination. A notice will be posted in the newspaper with all resumes due by September 9, 2015.
3. 15-R-002 – A Resolution Re-Establishing Opening Balances as of June 1, 2015 for the Corporate, Ambulance, Tort, IMRF, Audit, Pension and Foreign Fire Insurance funds of the Tri-State FPD. Attorney Ottoson explained the Resolution is to redistribute the ending balances of the 2015 budget. Final audit will reflect different end/beginning balances. Reserves will be placed in the corporate account and it is recommended to consolidate smaller accounts. Trustee Habercoss suggested and it was agreed upon that the budgetary process start earlier next year and a detailed line budget account would be provided to the Trustees quarterly. Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept Resolution 15-R-002, Habercoss seconded the motion, motion approved by roll call vote. Jewell – aye, Habercoss- aye, 2-0-0.
4. 15-R-003 – Risk Management Policy – a resolution for future training and its funding, authorizing protective activities. Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept Resolution 15-R-003, Trustee Habercoss seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call vote, Jewell – aye, Habercoss – aye, 2-0-0.
5. Pension Board President Bill Just recommended Battalion Chief Patrick Brenn be appointed to the Pension Board thru April 2017. The Board of Trustees accepts Board President Bill Just's recommendation and appoints B/C Patrick Brenn to the Pension Board.

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IV. COMMUNICATIONS

1. FOIA from IL Leaks regarding Trustee pay and benefits. Trustee Jewell stated there is no salary, pension or medical benefits given to this Board of Trustees. Trustee Habercoss asked why the IL Leaks articles were not included in communications. Chief Mancione stated it would greatly increase the length of the board packet, however the FOIA response page is included in the Board packet.
2. Chief Mancione stated the ordinance on Trustee pay has not been recovered and that some Fire Trustees exercise the right to collect 50% more pay if they participate in 12 hours of continuing education. Attorney Ottoson stated that an additional ordinance would have to be in place to be in compliance with the state statute for Trustees that have obtained educational hours to be paid the additional \$1500.00 stipend. Without an ordinance there may be a legal question in regards to an increase in pay to \$4500 while serving a current term, but the statute clearly established the \$3000 pay. Trustee Habercoss stated he was not interested in an increase in pay and that he wanted no legal risk to the district. Trustee Jewell stated he was ambivalent about a pay increase.

V. COMMISSIONERS REPORT

1. The Board of Commissioners recommending the approval of Timothy McMahon to the post of Commissioner of the Tri-State FPD. Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept the recommendation of Timothy McMahon as commissioner, Trustee Habercoss seconded the motion. Motion approved 2-0-0.
2. Commissioners will be attending a conference in October 2015. The Tri-State website is current with Commissioners minutes.
3. The process has begun for the hiring of 3 new firefighters. 4/6 had responded with interest. Battalion Chief testing dates and place will be available after 23, November 2015, following a 120 day study period.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

15-O-003 – Budget & Appropriations

1. Attorney Ottoson stated he took Trustee Habercoss's suggestions and did his best to implement them.

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Old Business cont.

2. Trustee Jewell asked Chief Mancione if The Fire Prevention Bureau generated revenue and how a reduction would affect the district. The Bureau handles plan reviews, FACP inspections, sprinkler inspections, building dept. inspections. These all generate revenue. The Chief said there is no one on the street currently so we are falling behind on inspections, pre plans & reviews. He also stated he believed the Chief should be able to hire any employees he needs to run his department.
3. Chief Mancione stated the Fire Bureau had 7 arson arrested last year. Also, he focused on improvements in the Bureau this year and it was approved by the last Board. Through the Bureau, the district is striving to improve public safety, fire suppression safety, community education & code enforcement.
4. Trustee Habercoss objected to the hiring personnel in the Bureau with Board approval. Also, he noted there was nothing in previously posted minutes that verifies the approval of the hiring of any additional personnel. Habercoss also stated that personnel were hired prior to the approval of the budget.
5. Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept Ordinance 15-O-003, Trustee Habercoss seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call vote Jewell – aye, Habercoss – aye. 2-0-0.
6. Consideration to fill 5 Person Board. Trustee Jewell noted tax payers want it done quicker. Trustee Habercoss urged caution due to differing legal opinions and possible costly litigation and recommended filling the current Trustee opening and deciding on further action after that.

VII. CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Apparatus 511 is out of service with a bad transmission, the Chief is reviewing options for a replacement and will advise the Board.

VIII. Attorney's Report

1. Board Attorney Ottoson addressed the issue of the validity of the appointment of Trustee Jewell appointment. His opinion was that it was valid according to law valid.

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Attorneys Report cont.

2. Trustee Jewell suggested we retain a new law firm to do certain legal work for the district. The District has worked with multiple law firms for years. This would be no change to how we are currently doing business. Trustee Habercoss stated he was unaware the district looking for new council and wanted to hold an interview process with several law firms to consider the services they could offer the district.

X. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

- Resident John Curcio stated that we NEED a 5 member board.
- Resident Joe Lenhardt stated that he has called 911 3 times in the recent past and complimented the staff.
- Resident Norm Trapp asked the board to stop arguing, he has lived on Clarendon Hills Rd since 1955, was a district volunteer and reminded the board to listen to the Chief and let him make decisions and stop handcuffing him.
- Resident George Logan stated he feels the fire fighters are fantastic, the board needs to remember they are elected by the taxpayers and Trustee Habercoss needs to cooperate more.
- DuPage county Forest preserve Board member and resident Linda Painter thanked the board for passing the budget and informed the board the Attorney Ottosen is highly regarded and highly recommended.
- Pat Devaney, a member of the Association of Firefighters of Illinois, he stressed the need for all to reduce hostility. He has worked with Trustee Habercoss and has only good things to say about him.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

At 8:25 pm Trustee Jewell made a motion to move into Closed Session, Trustee Habercoss seconded the motion. Motion approved 2-0-0. At 8:58 Trustee Jewell made a motion to close the Closed Session meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Habercoss 2-0-0.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Trustee Jewell made a motion to adjourn the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Habercoss. Motion approved by the Board 2-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Habercoss
Eric Habercoss
Board Secretary