

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

Jack L. Mancione

FOUNDED IN 1946



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 21, SEPTEMBER 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, and Attorney Ottosen.

II. MINUTES

Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept the minutes of 08-25-2015 meeting. Trustee Habercoss seconded the motion. Motion approved by the Board 2-0-0.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for June 2015 presented by Chief Mancione. Trustee Habercoss stated he would second the motion however going forward he wanted copies of credit card receipts, invoices and receipts or he would be unable to approve future financial reports. Motion approved by the Board 2-0-0.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chief Mancione presented the Board with a Inter Governmental Agreement with Hinsdale South High school which would provide the school district with an Ambulance staged at the Field. The agreement would provide for billable hours for the District. Trustee Jewell made a motion to accept, seconded by Trustee Habercoss. Motion approved by the Board 2-0-0.

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2. Board discussion of policy and procedure of Trustee e-mails. Trustee Habercoss stated he believed that Trustee business should not be shared via e-mail with the Fire Commissioners or other non-essential personnel unless directed by the Trustees. Both Trustees were in agreement.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Several FOIA requests from IL Leaks regarding Trustee pay and benefits.
 - a. The first request was for 1200 plus e-mail from Chief Mancione. This request was deemed cumbersome and the district agreed to provide one month of e-mails. Chief Mancione stated he believed once this was complete IL Leaks would than request other months.
 - b. The second request was for disposal forms, donated equipment, and an Ambulance call which Chief Mancione stated was of a personal nature. Chief Mancione stated he believed their request may be a potential HIPA violation and he had to decide what he was going to do with the duty crews in regards to this release it was under review. Mancione reiterated that only restaurant personnel and on duty crews were aware of this call.

V. COMMISSIONERS REPORT

1. The process has begun for the hiring of 3 new firefighters. 3 have passed the fingerprinting and polygraph portions and the Commissioners are moving along with the rest of the process.
2. The Lieutenants List has been exhausted and Commission Anderson stated he was concerned about the low number of individuals testing especially since the process cost the district 6 to 8 thousand dollars.
3. The Commissioners are testing two individuals for Battalion Chief. The testing date is planned for 11-09-2015. Anderson invited Chief Mancione to the testing process, however Mancione stated him and his staff were not involved in the testing process.
4. Discussion on lack of interest to take promotions exams from within the staff. Trustee Habercoss stated he believed it was due to low morale, being without a Contractual Agreement, and not receiving a raise (as Chiefs have) in the last 3 years. Chief Mancione stated he has made efforts to solve these issues but litigation is stopping both sides from coming to the table to negotiate. Mancione also stated Trustee Habercoss was implying it was one sides fault, Habercoss denied that was his intent.

VI. OLD BUISNESS

1. Dr. Timothy McMahon was sworn in to the post of Commissioner of the Tri-State FPD.

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2. Discussion on General Order 11-002A. Trustee Jewell inquired about an order in place that does not allow the Trustees to talk to the Fire Fighters. Jewell also inquired if the order had a negative impact and if any other fire departments had similar orders. Chief Mancione stated this issue is in reference to a IL Leaks Article in which they referred to it as a gag order and it is the same order Trustee Habercoss insisted be rescinded. Mancione further stated he did not write the order it was from the past Chief and its intent is to enforce the chain of command, also this order was not an issue until Trustee Habercoss came into office. Board Attorney Ottleson stated he has not reviewed the order but is aware of chain of command orders are common in other departments. Ottleson also asked if there is a Trustee Step in the Contractual Agreement (there is none). Trustee Habercoss stated that as insinuated he was not nor did he give the order to IL Leaks. Habercoss further stated he believed the order restricted fire fighters who live in the district from speaking to their elected officials and it impedes the process forcing them to file grievances, ULP's, and lawsuits instead of using the Trustees as a last resort. He also stated that the districts legal fees are enormous and this order may be a factor also he has tried to establish a Labor Management Committee and was outvoted.
3. Consideration and possible action to fill the Trustee Position. Trustee Habercoss stressed his concern as to why they were not selecting the new Trustee at this meeting as he had requested. Habercoss asked why he was informed by Chief Mancione 15 people applied for the last Trustee spot when the actual number was 8 with only 5 interviewing. He was also concerned board decisions were being made outside of meetings. Chief Mancione stated he was mistaken. Both Trustees agreed they would have a special on September 29th 2015 to hold interviews and possibly select a new Trustee.

VII. CHIEF'S REPORT

1. Lt. Frank Masek retired from the TSFPD. Board discussion on having an exit interview with Lt. Masek. Chief Mancione stated he had an unofficial interview with Mr. Masek. The Trustees agreed to hold an exit interview with Lt. Masek at the 09-29-2015 special meeting.
2. The Districts point of order call center is dissolving. Proposals for service have been requested from DuComm and ACDC. The transition can take 6 to 8 months.
3. IL Leaks articles, concerns and questions:
 - a. Article on release of medical records and possible HIPA violations. Chief Mancione stated that blood pressures were release on training records but that was not a HIPA violation.
 - b. Article on the gag order violation was already discussed.
 - c. Article on Chief Mancione not paying his personal and business taxes. Chief Mancione stated the State of Illinois in not always up to date and that his taxes are in and out of good standing. Mancione further stated all his taxes are up to date.

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d. Article on Chief Mancione calling off Ambulance. Chief Mancione stated this call was of a personal nature and he has concerns over staff that he believes released this information. Mancione also stated he believes a case is being built against him and is disappointed.

VIII. Attorney's Report

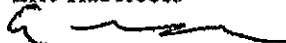
1. Board Attorney Ottoson informed the board of a Legislative Workshop being held 10-03-2015 at Lisle Woodridge Fire Department.
2. Attorney Ottoson also informed the board of the 100 Club Gala being held 10-28-2015.

IX. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

1. John Curcio stated he thought having more than one law firm was in the best interest of the district as a specialist. Also Mr. Curcio stressed his concern that the Fire Fighters have not received a raise in over 3 years. He also asked how the board was going to resolve their issues.
2. Joe Wolski asked why Tri State did not have a presence at this year's Darien Fest.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board and no need for closed session, Trustee Habercoss made a motion to adjourn the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Jewell. Motion approved by the Board 2-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Habercoss

Board Secretary