



*Tri-State Fire Protection District  
Board of Commissioners*



Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the Board of Fire Commissioners for  
**The TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
Held March 7, 2016

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1900 hours by Commissioner Camden. Present: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner McMahon. Also Present: Acting Chief Administrator Patrick Brenn; Deputy Chief Edward Gergits; Firefighters Robert Ambuell, Scott Baxter, Kevin Arias, Charles A. Corrao, Liz Stutte, John Ostrander, Joe Ostrander, Richard Littig, Jeff Allenspach, Daniel Heiden, Edwin Pipiras, David Davis, Gary Schluntz, Daniel Niemeyer; Michael F. Paruolo, Kristina Giraf; Recording Secretary, Jacqueline Timmons.

Commissioner McMahon moved that the swearing in be moved to the beginning of the meeting, second by Commissioner Anderson. Voice vote: Commissioner Camden, aye; Commissioner McMahon, aye; Commissioner Anderson, aye. Motion carried. New firefighter Michael F. Paruolo was sworn in. The meeting stood in brief recess so pictures can be taken. Commissioner Camden announced that Firefighter/Acting Lieutenant Daniel Niemeyer has passed the Lieutenant's Examination. He will be promoted officially at another meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF February 9, 2016 and Closed Session of February 9, 2016.

A motion by Commissioner Camden, second by Commissioner McMahon to approve the February 9, 2016, Regular Meeting minutes, as presented. Voice Vote: Commissioner Camden, aye; Commissioner McMahon, aye; Commissioner Anderson, aye. Motion passed. A motion by Commissioner Camden, second by Commissioner McMahon to approve the February 9, 2016, Closed Session meeting minutes. Voice vote: Commissioner McMahon, aye; Commissioner Camden, aye; Commissioner Anderson, aye. Motion passed.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- a) To Commission – Commissioner Anderson received an e-mail from the Clerk of DuPage County for his Statement of Economic Interest filing. Commissioners Camden and McMahon did their filing also and received an e-mail from the Clerk of DuPage County. All Commissioners received notification from the Illinois Fire and Police Commissioners Association of the Spring Conference and Training Session in Springfield in April. Commissioner Camden received an e-mail from the NAIFD regarding the lobbying date at the State House. He will talk to the President of the Board of Trustees and see if they want a representative from the Commission to attend. Acting Chief Brenn will be out of the town that day. Acting Chief Brenn could not think of any pending legislation that there should be concern over.
- b) Voice mail messages update – February to March. There were no messages.
- c) Chief's Report – Firefighter candidates Chris Friegburg and Trevor Goggen have had their physicians from Health Endeavors, which they have both passed. They will start on shift next Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Chief Edward Gergits has announced his retirement. His last day working will be Thursday. He will be coming back three days though to help train the new EMS Coordinator whenever one is hired. Congratulations were given to Deputy Chief

Gergits and he was thanked for his service. The District is looking to hire one more firefighter.

- d) Other Communications – No other communications.
- e) Approve Invoices – An invoice was received from Jacqueline Timmons in the amount of \$25 for the February 9, 2016, Regular Meeting and the Closed Session and preparation of the minutes. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to pay the invoice, second by Commissioner Camden. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Camden, yes; Commissioner McMahon, yes; Commissioner Anderson, yes. Motion carries. An invoice was received from Theodore Polygraph Services in the amount of \$500 for a polygraph and background check. A motion was made by Commissioner Camden to approve the invoice, second from Commissioner McMahon. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Camden, yes; Commissioner McMahon, yes; and Commissioner Anderson, yes. Motion carries. An invoice was received from the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association for the Battalion Chief Assessment Center for \$3,100. Commissioner Camden made a motion to pay the invoice, second by Commissioner McMahon. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Camden, yes; Commissioner McMahon, yes; Commissioner Anderson, yes. Motion carries.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a) New Hire Entry Level FF Candidate status & review – Discussion of candidate Brad Mead will be handled in Closed Session.
- b) Legal Update if any – Nothing has been received in writing. Commissioner Camden stated there is a larger issue that he has come across. There is a recent case from the Supreme Court that did away with the Public Duty Doctrine. Commissioner Camden has concern what that will do for police and fire. He has discussed it with Acting Chief Brenn. Some questions raised with other lawyers was, will that apply to vehicle responses to calls. The way Commissioner Camden reads the case is that it will. It may wind up with a circumstance of good old fashioned tort review, simple negligence for whether someone was driving an inappropriate rate of speed and they have emergency lights and sirens activated and that sort of stuff. He said it was a, quote, horseshit opinion, because the Supreme Court does not pay attention to what guys like himself has to say. It places a burden on those in public safety to do what they do. Commissioner Camden feels it will open the floodgates of litigation for police and fire and municipal workers for not doing certain kinds of things. He feels it was an incredibly misguided decision and he hopes to see some legislation. Currently he feels that you could not get two people in Springfield to agree on anything, so there is no telling what will happen.
- c) Status of Battalion Chief Testing status – The Assessment Center has been completed. Acting Chief Brenn gave to the Commission his points for ascertaining merit. Lieutenant Littig has submitted on his behalf and for Lieutenant Campbell certifications and education. The scores just need to be compiled. Commissioner Anderson said they are now in a position to open the envelopes. There is currently no vacancy for Battalion Chief. Commissioner Camden said it will be handled in Closed and he will get ahold of them if they want to stick around and let them know the results.
- d) Lieutenant Testing dates scheduled – The Commissioners will begin to work on that. The current list is not technically exhausted. By the next meeting, the current list will be exhausted. The Commissioners were happy with the way the tests were handled with the Assessment Center with the candidate commentary afterward. He asked the applicants, those of tested what they thought of it compared to previous tests. Firefighter Niemeyer said the pretest review was unique. He had never done that in his experience before and he felt it worthwhile and he would recommend that. The post test review was helpful as well. It was shorter but he feels it would be helpful for anybody moving forward.

Commissioner Camden was present for that and he stated to Firefighter Niemeyer's credit, it was short because he did exceedingly well on the Assessment Center. The examiners did not have too much to go over. He said if he had had that on his first test 15 years ago, he might have done better in subsequent tests. He only had the post test review on his first examination 15 years ago. After that it petered out. It was very helpful. He said the books were interesting, he said being sarcastic. They have changed what they want the lieutenants to know, but he said next time they will be looking at SOGs, SOPs, Rules and Regulations. He said his was without that because of the nature of the test. He stated the process was good. Lieutenant Littig said there was no post test review for the Battalion Chief test. There was the pre-Assessment Center training, which he said was very helpful. Commissioner Camden said they will follow up on that, because the Commissioners were under the impression, as well as the Acting Chief, that that was supposed to be part of the testing process. It was intentional that they had wanted to add it so the candidates could learn on a prospective basis. For the Written Exam, he said it was nice to have the review afterward. They let them score it, so they already knew where they were. Right when they were done, they were able to compare scores with each other and so they kind of new the results of the written. The volume of the reading material for the number of questions was kind of extreme compared to what it was before. He said there were books and books and books for essentially 20 questions. A lot of it was relevant in its own way. He said it seems like it should be more weighted towards their divisions, their SOGs, stuff like that. They did have SOGs on their test. They were learning the new ones and trying to know those and trying to remember the old ones so they could do the test on because they were doing the test on the old ones.

e) Commissioner record retention/shredding. There is nothing new on the shredding.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Swearing in new Firefighters – Michael F. Paruolo was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting.
- b) Other New Business (While matters not appearing on the Agenda may be discussed and considered under New Business – no specific, final action may be taken until a specific matter appears on an Agenda and the public has notice that the topic is before the Commission)

VI. CLOSED SESSION – (If necessary) – Commissioner Camden made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session for purposes of discussion of personnel matters and promotions. Second by Commissioner McMahon. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Camden, yes; Commissioner McMahon, yes; Commissioner Anderson, yes. Motion carries. The Regular Meeting met in Closed Session pursuant to the following Section:

(5 ILCS 120/2) (Sec. 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 to determine its validity, as well as minutes, previous session.

VII. REGULAR MEETING RESUMED – A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to reconvene the Regular Meeting, second by Commissioner McMahon. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Camden, yes; Commissioner McMahon, yes; Commissioner Anderson, yes. The Regular Meeting resumed at 1953 hours. Commissioner Camden entertained a motion to approve the hire of candidate Mead, second by Commissioner Anderson. Voice Vote: Commissioner Camden, no; Commissioner McMahon, no; Commissioner Anderson, no. Motion failed. The Commissioners will move to the next candidate on the List to fulfill the Chief's and Trustees' request to put on three additional firefighters this year. The Battalion Chief exam scores, Commissioner Camden said the candidates are welcome to come look at the scoring. The Final List without scores will be Littig, one; Campbell, two. The

numbers are not consistent right now with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. They will not be affected by any mathematical juggles one way or another. Candidates were all encouraged to come see their scores so there are not questions. Commissioner Camden said the Commissioners have been asked by the Trustees to encourage all the Battalion Chiefs to test for the Deputy Chief position. If you are eligible, please test for it. If you are not, please test for the lower rank.

VIII. OPEN FORUM - AUDIENCE: No audience questions.

IX. BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – No questions or comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Commissioner McMahon, second by Commissioner Camden to adjourn. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Camden, yes; Commissioner Camden, yes; Commissioner McMahon, yes. The meeting adjourned at 1957 hours.

Respectfully Submitted.

*William Anderson*

William Anderson, Secretary  
Board of Fire Commissioners