

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT HELD 28 JANUARY 2025 AT STATION 123

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1800 hours by Trustee Wolski.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. ROLL CALL OF TRUSTEES – Trustee Joseph Wolski, Trustee Danielle Scarpelli, Trustee Michael Mensinger. Also Present: Chief Patrick Brenn, Deputy Chief Craig Jansen, and Attorney Shawn P. Flaherty.

Trustee Wolski made a motion to change the order of business and move the first item under New Business, the appointment and swearing in of Deputy Chief Jeffrey Allenspach, to the top of the agenda, second by Trustee Scarpelli. Jeffrey Allenspach was sworn in as Deputy Chief. Trustee Wolski made a motion to suspend the meeting for photos and refreshments, second by Trustee Scarpelli. The meeting was suspended at 1807 hours.

Trustee Wolski made a motion to resume the open meeting, second by Trustee Mensinger. The meeting resumed at 1817 hours.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of District Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2024

A motion was made by Trustee Wolski to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2024, meeting as presented; second by Trustee Scarpelli. Voice Vote: Aye, 3; No, 0. Motion passed, 3-0.

V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

- Approval of December 2024 Treasurer’s Report including expenses for the District
Trustee Mensinger made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report showing disbursement of funds for the month of December 2024 in the amount of \$1,026,770.63 and showing total deposits in the amount of \$437,538.81 and to pay all invoices, second by Trustee Scarpelli. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, aye; Trustee Wolski, aye. Motion carried, 3-0.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2024 – The audit is not ready yet. Chief Brenn will follow up to get a status.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Appointment and Swearing in of Deputy Chief Jeffrey Allenspach – The swearing in was moved to the top of the agenda.
- IGA with the Village of Clarendon Hills Regarding Emergency Medical Services Billing

Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve the agreement between the Village of Clarendon Hills and Tri-State regarding billing for emergency medical services, second by Trustee Scarpelli. Voice Vote: Aye, 3; No, 0. Motion passed, 3-0. The agreement was signed and dated by Trustee Wolski.

- Renewal of Exhibit G – IGA with the Village of Addison
This agreement is renewed every three years for the price increase for Addison dispatch. It is an attachment to the original IGA. This is the only section that has to be renewed. The next three years are listed. Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve the renewal of Exhibit G, second by Trustee Mensinger. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, aye. Motion passed, 3-0.
- DuPage County Property Tax Distribution Error for the Pension Fund
Lauterbach & Amen sent a memo to the District stating for tax year 2022 and tax year 2023, DuPage County took the non-capped portion of the pension levy and distributed it to the District instead of the Pension Fund. The error was caught. It happened to all the Fire Districts in DuPage County. The District is going to owe the Pension Fund \$461,097.16. Over the next several weeks, a wire transfer will be made to the Schwab account, the holding account for the Pension Fund.
Mr. Flaherty said it was not an error on the part of the District or the accountants. It was a County error. Trustee Wolski made a motion to correct the County's error and make the District whole with the Pension Fund, second by Trustee Mensinger. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, aye. Motion passed, 3-0.
- Discussion and Possible Purchase of a 2017 Pierce Squad truck
Chief Brenn had heard that Clarendon Hills was going to surplus their squad vehicle. Chief Brenn reached out to their Chief shortly after learning about it. Chief Brenn told them Tri-State is interested in it. Clarendon Hills said they already have a buyer. This weekend Chief Brenn saw it on the Redline Fire Apparatus. Chief Brenn texted the guy at Redline. They said they are just the broker for the company that is selling it and would send Chief Brenn their info. It turned out to be Brindley Mountain. Chief Brenn e-mailed them on Sunday. The apparatus is already on its way to Alabama for a Department to look at. If that deal falls through, Brindley Mountain will let the District know. Trustee Wolski made a motion to allow Chief Brenn to pursue it if it becomes available in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 and subject to mechanical review, second by Trustee Mensinger. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – A letter was received from LaGrange Park thanking the District for helping on a structure fire. A letter was received from the Gower Foundation thanking the District for the firehouse tour and fire truck ride donation. A letter was received from Burr Ridge. They are annexing some properties on Normandy Court, which is already in Tri-State's Fire District, going from County to Burr Ridge. It is off of 74th and Madison. It will not change the District's responses.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT – There are 17 firefighter applications. I/O Solutions is vetting those applications. Tomorrow is the deadline for them to vet the applications. Hopefully by the end of this week or next week, the District will know how many are going through the process. Chief Brenn said he does not know how many are EMTs or how many are medics and won't know that until they are all vetted. There are currently seven openings. Lieutenant Parris is

being promoted to Battalion Chief and Engineer Shreve is being promoted to Lieutenant at the upcoming Commissioners meeting on February 11th. The meeting time was moved from 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Lieutenants promotional process has begun. There are seven candidates challenging the exam. The process should be completed sometime in late May. The Battalion Chief promotional process will begin in late February and probably go through June.

- X. CHIEF'S REPORT – The 2013 Wheeled Coach ambulance was sold to West End Fire Department in Paul, Idaho, for \$28,000. Brindley Mountain gets 10 percent of the price for using their Website. A check was sent to them for \$2800. The ambulance has already been picked up and gone. The bids are due for the 2012 Ford Expedition on February 3rd. One bid has been received and there have been several people come to look at it so hopefully more bids will come in for that vehicle. Ladder 122 is currently at Chandler in Mokena having the corrosion warranty work done. There is a three-year corrosion warranty on it. It has been there two weeks and will probably be there for another three weeks. Pierce notified the District that the new ladder truck will begin build January of 2026, so it will probably be late spring or summer when the District gets it. Verizon reached out to the District and are interested in putting some equipment on Tri-State's communications tower at Station 122. Verizon presented the District with a lease agreement. Chief Brenn sent it to the District's tower consultant, MidAmerica Towers. They install the communication towers. The consultant made some corrections to the lease agreement. Chief Brenn sent it to Attorney Flaherty for his review and hopefully it can be approved at the next meeting. Verizon wanted to pay \$2,000 a month with a 1.5 percent increase every year. The tower consultant said that's not the going rate. He suggested \$2,650 a month with a 3 percent escalator every year. That is what is in the contract sent to Mr. Flaherty to review. Verizon will have to get a co-location permit from Darien. Trustee Wolski asked if there is any update on the ISO rating. Chief Brenn said they probably won't hear until summer or fall.
- XI. DIRECTOR OF EMS REPORT – Director Gutierrez was not present.
- XII. DIRECTOR OF FIRE PREVENTION REPORT – Kevin Flannigan said fees for permit application are a little lower due to the holidays. He anticipates a few big projects. It will pick up again. They are working hard on fines. Due to issues with fines in the past, they are very cautious. All warnings are documented. The dates are documented and they visit the locations in person to urge compliance. It starts out usually with a \$100 fine. They are not going to have fees get as high as they have in the past. Payments are being collected on some of the fines issued and they are gaining compliance. At the end of 2024, they ended with 77 percent compliance rate. Some reports will be closing out and will be credited back to '24 because that is when they originated. For 2025, it should be a higher number. People understand that enforcement is going to take place. They are working to increase exposure to the public. The web page has been enhanced to cover all different age groups; Safety in your home, links to car recalls or car seat recalls, burn safety, poison control, Fire Prevention Codes and amendments, process to apply for permits because of fire issues, like fire alarms or fire sprinklers. They are trying to make it so people can find information as easily as possible. Mr. Flannigan encouraged everyone to take a look at it and provide any constructive criticism.

Trustee Scarpelli said the District's website still shows the meetings being on Wednesdays and not Tuesdays.

XIII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There are all new legislation numbers to memorize. The session started on January 6th and as of today there are already 2000 bills. Mr. Flaherty went through them quickly but said there are about 50 bills that will impact fire protection districts. The big bill that passed recently was a federal bill, which was the Social Security Fairness Act. It is a big deal for folks receiving a public pension and are vested with Social Security. They repealed a setoff that individuals on Social Security were having reduced Social Security benefits. That is retroactive to January 2024. Mr. Flaherty is in the process of reviewing the Verizon contract and will have a few things to add. Some members from the Department were at DuPage County on a zoning issue regarding the Hindu church that is expanding and putting residential on there. Mr. Flaherty was able to confirm that they are not trying to get tax exemption on the residential pieces, just on the part that is already exempt. Mr. Flaherty is sure Kevin Flaherty and Fire Prevention are working on the code issues that the additional structures might create. The IAFFPD Conference is this weekend.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

Trustee Mensinger received a note from Cyber Security. He asked if there is supposed to be a test or some training. Deputy Chief Jansen said it is just an online training course that takes about five minutes. Chief Brenn asked if it was from Rake and Trustee Mensinger confirmed that it was. Deputy Chief Jansen said it can also be from Phin. Deputy Chief Jansen said you just click the link within the e-mail and it will take you directly to the course. Deputy Chief Jansen said he can check to make sure it is not a phishing e-mail.

XV. CLOSED SESSION – There was no Closed Session.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT - With no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Wolski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Trustee Scarpelli. Voice Vote: Aye, 3; No, 0. Motion passed, 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 1848 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Scarpelli, Secretary

