

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT HELD 22 APRIL 2025 AT STATION 123

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1803 hours by Trustee Wolski.

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

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

Trustee Wolski made a motion to appoint Trustee Mensinger Secretary Pro Tem, second by Trustee Mensinger. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0; Absent 1. Motion passed, 2-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of District Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2025
A motion was made by Trustee Mensinger to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2025, meeting as amended; second by Trustee Wolski. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0; Absent, 1. Motion passed, 2-0.

V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

- Approval of March 2025 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 March 2025 in the amount of \$1,038,902.48 and showing total deposits in the amount of \$2,242,828.77 and to pay all invoices, second by Trustee Wolski. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Wolski, aye; Absent, 1. Motion carried, 2-0.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Appointment to the Board of Fire Commissioners
Commissioner Denis O’Halloran’s term expires at the end of May. He wishes to remain a Commissioner and Chief Brenn asked that he be reappointed for a three-year term. Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve the reappointment of Commissioner Denis O’Halloran for another term, second by Trustee Mensinger. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0; Absent , 1. Motion passed, 2-0.
- Facilities & Equipment Manager

Trustee Wolski has some questions, so it was postponed to the end of the agenda so a Closed Session can be held.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

- IX. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT – The one candidate on the existing Firefighter Eligibility List was interviewed last week and was given a conditional offer of employment pending his physical, which is this week, with part two of the physical on April 29th. If he passes the physical, his tentative start date will be May 19th. Trustee Wolski asked if he needs to go to the Academy or if he is coming from somewhere else. Chief Brenn stated he is coming from somewhere else. Chief Brenn said he will do three weeks of days and then go to shift. That will leave six openings. Chief Brenn said the job posting is live on National Testing Network now. That will close on May 12th. As of April 21st, there were six applicants.
- X. CHIEF'S REPORT – Last month Chief Brenn brought to the Trustees a proposal to the Union for some CBA salary increases. The Union membership approved them, and that will go into effect June 1st. Chief Brenn sent the Trustees a copy of the letter from Westmont regarding the ten properties they are annexing. Chief Brenn is waiting for them to post the minutes from their April 3rd meeting just to confirm that they approved that. Once Chief Brenn confirms that, Attorney Flaherty will write a letter to them asking for the money for the ten properties. Attorney Flaherty said it will be a five-year phase out, which is equivalent to three years at whatever their current tax rate is. The District is currently working on an IGA with the Village of Willowbrook to use their adjudication system for any code violations on the District's end. Chief Brenn said their Village manager and their attorney reached out to him. Chief Brenn forwarded them to Attorney Flaherty so they can start working on the IGA. If it works out with Willowbrook, Burr Ridge also has an adjudication system, Chief Brenn will approach them and see if the District can work with them as well. Right now the District has to go to the DuPage County Courthouse or Cook County, depending on where the property is. Having local adjudication is easier. The Public Safety Task Force has its first meeting at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow for the possible referendum next year. Trustee Wolski asked if the properties in Westmont are concurrent. Attorney Flaherty said they all touch. It is forced annex by Westmont and it has to be under 60 acres as a whole.
- XI. DIRECTOR OF EMS REPORT – Director Gutierrez had nothing to report. The new ambulance is not up yet.
- XII. DIRECTOR OF FIRE PREVENTION REPORT – Director Kevin Mulligan said the Fire Prevention monthly report for March was sent to everyone. The plan review fees were \$3,874.85. Fines were billed out that were ticketed earlier in the year. In 2025, \$3,277 in fines were billed and \$3,002 was collected. They don't expect to collect the other \$300. One is an eviction at the Red Roof Inn and another one is an ongoing battle with a business that has three locations within the District. They were billed \$150 and it was going to go to the adjudication process, but he has come through with some information that he is working towards compliance. For the year, between the IROL recovery, Plan Review fees, up through the end of March, they are up to \$9,283.95 in revenue. They are still working on the inspections and it is working out for those who don't want to comply, having them pay.

XIII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Mr. Flaherty is working closely with Deputy Chief Jansen on a lengthy FOIA request with regard to some records. There has been some back and forth with the counsel for the individual seeking the records. Some records have been tendered. Mr. Flaherty will speak with Deputy Chief Jansen after the meeting and get that squared away. There is lots of legislation. The deadline was two Fridays ago for the bills to clear the first House. HB2336 is a lift assist bill. The bill states if you are a nursing home, a care facility or other senior housing entity, under this plan, they will get six calls per facility for lift assist for free. Calls beyond that, they can be billed for them. It is paid by the facility, not the patient. Some facilities do not staff their facilities and are having the public fire departments take on the risk management of falls. The statute doesn't set an hourly rate, but it says it cannot exceed the cost of the call. Luckily they have a GMT, so they can calculate that. These are not transports, so if this passes into law, they will be able to calculate that and that will be the fee the District will charge. There is another House bill to exempt fire districts from further participation in the Decennial Committees. It passed unanimously through the House. If it becomes law, the District will not have to participate. There is a Senate bill that Labor is passing that would create a paid leave of six weeks above and beyond benefits in the District's contract for paid family leave. It is an unfunded mandate. There is a bill to require County clerks to accept the budgets electronically. This would save a trip to Cook and DuPage Counties to file the budget every year. There is nothing on pension reform. They are all still concepts. Pension kicked the can on funding. It didn't pass. The age drop from 21 to 18 for firefighters didn't pass. There were reasons pro and against. The Union's point was if they start at age 18 and they can't retire until they are 55 on a Tier 2, they would have to work 37 years before collecting their pension. Other bills didn't pass. They want to ban a fix to the pension code that says it will be 30 years instead of 37 years. It will probably come back next year. There were probably 15 shell bills that passed that have to do with municipal stuff, fire departments, police, and the language says nothing. It passed anyways. It puts the language and they can take it back and vote on the amendment in the house of origin. They can still get pension reform done if they want. The other two things that do not have to do with legislation, MABAS has let everyone know they are out of money, so there will not be any more reimbursements for the time being. They laid off seven people and they have other cuts because there is no money coming from the Feds and they relied on the federal funds. ESAR, search and rescue, is basically going to be on hold. There is a concern with all these cuts in the federal government, that GMT, ground emergency medical transport fee, might be at risk. Chief Brenn said they get over a million in funds. Mr. Flaherty said it is the program that the District had to pay the State 50 percent. The GMT funds are not guaranteed. Mr. Flaherty introduced Tom Schwartzers. He has been with Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo a couple months. He has been a lawyer for about a year or two. He is also a fireman with the City. He wants to learn how to do these meetings. He is here to observe.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – Christopher Chasten asked if there are any talks about Article 6 pension to move to Article 4. Mr. Flaherty said he hasn't seen that or it is certainly nothing that is likely to pass.

XV. CLOSED SESSION – Trustee Wolski made a motion to move to Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the

District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the District or against the legal counsel for the District to determine its validity, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1), second by Trustee Mensinger. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0; Absent, 1. Motion passed, 2-0. The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 1826 hours.

XVI. RE-CONVENE TO OPEN MEETING - POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION.

- Possible action on Facilities & Equipment Manager
The meeting resumed in Open Meeting at 1836 hours.
Trustee Wolski made a motion for the District to hire a part-time facilities and equipment manager, second by Trustee Mensinger.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT - With no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Mensinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Trustee Wolski. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0; Absent 1. Motion passed, 2-0. The meeting adjourned at 1837 hours.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael Mensinger, Secretary Pro Tem