

Regular Meeting
February 20, 2007

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Saas at 7:37 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Members Present: President Phillip J. Saas, Secretary George T. Kallas, Trustee Gary L. Muehlfelt and Trustee William R. Thar. Absent: Trustee Roberta J. O'Leary.

Also Present: Chief Phillip A. DiMenza and Attorney Bernie K. Weiler.

Minutes: The minutes of the Regular Meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. There being no corrections, Trustee Kallas made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Muehlfelt. All in favor.

Remarks From Floor: None.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Harris reviewed the Treasurer's Report for January, which reflected a beginning balance of \$1,066,742.65 in the General Money Market, General Checking and Petty Cash. After deposits totaling \$25,544.11 and disbursements of \$166,348.44, the ending balance was \$925,938.32. The Equipment Fund Money Market balance was \$79,290.16, and the ending balance for the certificates of deposit was \$1,174,092.11, leaving a total fund balance of \$2,179,320.59. Trustee Muehlfelt asked if the District ever receives tax objections for having reserve funds, and Attorney Weiler stated that as long as those funds are ear-marked for capital projects and equipment replacement, there would be no problem. There being no further questions, Trustee Kallas made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Trustee Muehlfelt. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Chief DiMenza stated that the Fixed Asset Depreciation Schedule was completed, and the Board was given a copy of that report.

Chief DiMenza provided the Board with a copy of a letter from auditor Dave Bark which specifies that the previous audits of the Winfield Fire Protection District have all been in compliance with the financial reporting requirements of the Comptroller of the State of Illinois. The board agreed to put that letter on the District Website.

Chief DiMenza next addressed his memorandum regarding staffing issues. This memorandum summarized many of the challenges he has faced over the last 7 years while trying to keep the paid-on-call roster full. The Board appreciated the amount of information included in this report, stating that it was an eye-opener. Trustee Muehlfelt stated that is was his opinion that part-time firefighting employees should be subject to the same employment agreement as the full-time firefighting employees, where the employee is responsible for reimbursing the District for any costs incurred with hiring that employee if they leave the employ of the District within the first year. Attorney Weiler will investigate whether or not the District can seek reimbursement for a post-offer physical.

With regard to sponsoring individuals to the Fire Academy, it was the direction of our Worker's Compensation carrier, IRMA, that if the District sponsors a person to the Fire Academy, it is the District's intention that the cadet be considered an employee and should be paid during that time. On a motion by President Saas and second by Trustee Muehlfelt, the Board gave Attorney Weiler authorization to contact the legal counsel for IRMA to obtain clarification.

Deputy Chief's Report: Deputy Chief Lewis stated that he just received notification that Fireman's Fund Insurance Company awarded the Winfield Fire Protection District \$45,000.00 for a new dive/technical rescue vehicle. He wanted to thank Robin Youngberg for all of her work on the grant as well and stated that it was her contact at Fireman's Fund that made this possible. The two of them have been in communication with Fireman's Fund over the last several months, and it finally paid off. Chief DiMenza asked the Board if they would be opposed to contributing a small portion if the cost of the vehicle slightly exceeded the amount of the grant. The Board stated that once the figures are all put together, Chief should come back to the Board with that request and a specific dollar amount.

Attorney's Report: None.

Old Business: Trustee Muehlfelt asked about the referendum progress, and the Board was brought up to speed. Trustee Thar asked Chief DiMenza to contact Mr. Jenkins to set up another committee meeting for the following week.

Trustee Thar felt that the Board needed to address the land acquisition and building issue, because there is still a lot of confusion out there. President Saas stated that Village President Rudy Czech gave his State of the Village address speech, where he discussed having meetings with various smaller groups to discuss issues throughout the District. President Saas felt that perhaps one of the Chiefs could attend these meetings to be available to answer any questions that might come up.

Consent Agenda: The items on the consent agenda was the Monthly Run Report for January 2007, a comment card, a letter from Air Angels and an e-mail from Milton Township. Trustee Kallas made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Trustee Thar. All in favor.

New Business: Chief DiMenza next discussed his memorandum regarding the purchase of new extrication equipment. FF Jim Leuze did research to determine which equipment would be best for the District and the cost of that equipment. After discussion, Trustee Muehlfelt made a motion to authorize the purchase of the extrication equipment listed in the memorandum at a cost of \$17,996.00, seconded by President Saas. All in favor.

Chief DiMenza provided the Board with a memorandum requesting authorization to attend the International Fire Chiefs Association conference in Atlanta, Georgia, scheduled to take place August 23-25, 2007. His request included payment of the conference registration, airfare, hotel accommodations and travel expenses at a total cost not to exceed \$1,500.00. Trustee Thar made a motion, seconded by Kallas to grant authorization as requested. All in favor.

Payment of Bills: The monthly bill list was provided to the Board prior to the meeting indicating a total of \$100,326.15. There being no questions, Trustee Thar made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by President Saas. All in favor.

Other Business: Chief DiMenza contacted several fire departments to obtain false alarm ordinances and requested Board authorization to work with Attorney Weiler to create an ordinance for this District and have something available for the Board at the next meeting. The Board agreed with that request.

President Saas next spoke about how Village President Czech also spoke about the fire department working with the Village on a sprinkler ordinance for new homes. Chief DiMenza stated that he attended one meeting with several members from the Village. He said he listened to what was being said, supported the ordinance personally, but told them that the District has no jurisdiction over single-family homes. After much discussion, the Board instructed Chief DiMenza to make sure that he informs those in attendance at these meetings that this ordinance is not supported by the Fire District because the Board has not even seen a copy of it and that it is strictly a Village ordinance, not a Fire District ordinance. The Board did not have an issue with Chief DiMenza providing input as a professional in the fire service. They just wanted him to clarify that while at those meetings, he is not acting on behalf of the Board of Trustee of the Winfield Fire Protection District and to not take an official position.

There being no further discussion, Trustee Thar made a motion, seconded by President Saas, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss possible land acquisition and pending litigation. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

Phillip J. Saas, President

Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary