

Regular Meeting  
March 18, 2008

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Saas at 7:30 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, Trustee William R. Thar and Trustee Mark Klage.

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

Minutes: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of 2/19/08 were distributed prior to the meeting. There being no corrections, Trustee Muehlfelt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Kallas. All in favor.

Remarks From Floor: Mr. James Clarke, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners, reported to the Board that the Commission was finally able to secure a candidate to fill the vacancy on the full-time roster. This candidate is currently a paid-on-call firefighter with Winfield and was given a post-conditional offer pending his passing of a complete physical. The Board of Trustees expressed their appreciation to the Board of Fire Commissioners for all of their time and dedication to this process.

The swearing in of the new candidate will be during the regular District meeting on April 15, 2008.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Harris reviewed his report for February. The beginning balance in the checking account and general money market account was \$816,121.33. After deposits of \$126,367.25 and disbursements of \$172,958.32, the ending balance for those accounts was \$172,958.32. The balance for the Capital Projects and Equipment Fund CD's as of 2/29/08 was \$1,498,859.64. There being no questions, Trustee Thar a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Trustee Klage. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Chief DiMenza stated that he is working on a FEMA grant right now in order to purchase air packs, as the ones purchased by the Board several years ago are compliant with the 1997 standards. The grant request will be for air packs, face pieces, and tracking devices for a total cost of \$200,000.00. The grant offered is a 90/10 percent grant, so the District would be required to pay approximately \$20,000.00 for this equipment.

During discussion, Chief DiMenza clarified that although the current air packs are not compliant with current standards, there is no deadline for departments to meet compliance. If the grant is unsuccessful, Chief DiMenza will not ask to replace those air packs at this time due to the cost involved.

Chief DiMenza next addressed the need to repair the Station #1 parking lot. There are large holes and crevices in the parking lot that could seriously injure someone if they were to catch

their ankle or fall over one of these holes. The administration is in the process of securing quotes for complete removal of the old lot and installation of a new lot. In addition, the idea of piecing the severely damaged areas together is also being considered, but there are a lot of areas that are in real need of repair. He will provide have quotes for the Board at the April meeting.

Last night, during an automatic aid response to West Chicago, the American LaFrance Engine had yet another failure and was unable to pump water. Chief DiMenza stated that this only further validated the Board's decision to sell this engine.

Deputy Chief's Report: Deputy Chief Lewis stated that he was approached by Village officials and WEMA representatives about using Fire Station #2 to store their new WEMA vehicle in the back bay. In addition, WEMA would like to relocated back to Station #1 in the basement because of the generator. Deputy Chief Lewis gave them temporary usage of that back bay at Station #2 because they are doing some work on the vehicle, but they would like to keep it their permanently and are willing to pay a stipend in order to do so. Deputy Chief Lewis proposed to the Village that since the District pays approximately \$3,000.00 per year in sewer/water fees, the Village could waive those fees, and the District would allow permanent storage in that back bay. Although nothing has been reduced to writing yet, he did receive a verbal commitment from the Village.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Weiler deferred his report to Executive Session.

Old Business: Deputy Chief Lewis provided to the Board a Fire Apparatus Consignment Contract for selling Engine #638. Since American LaFrance has filed bankruptcy, Firetec has reduced their outright purchase amount to \$70,000.00. He felt that, for that low amount, it would be more beneficial for the District to keep the engine if it does not sell on consignment. Consequently, he asked Firetec to remove the guaranteed sale language and provide a new contract, which will make the vehicle available immediately. If the engine were to sell right away, the Department would use the back-up engine until the new one is received. Trustee Kallas was concerned that if Firetec's offer was reduced by half, perhaps the value to the general public would be reduced by half as well. He suggested that Deputy Chief Lewis ask Firetec what they felt the engine would realistically sell for and price it to get rid of it. President Saas made a motion that Chief DiMenza sign the consignment agreement with Firetec and to price the engine at \$225,000.00 for one month and see if it sells. If it does not, the price can then be reduced a month later if necessary. There should also be the understanding with Firetec that there is room for negotiation after a month if it doesn't sell. That motion was seconded by Trustee Klage. All in favor.

A revised Vehicle Replacement Schedule was distributed to the Board. Deputy Chief Lewis summarized the changes that were made, stating that the annual contribution to this fund would be reduced to \$66,000.00, and increased by three percent each year. Treasurer Harris recommended that this schedule be reviewed each year and updated as necessary. President Saas made a motion to adopt the Vehicle Replacement Schedule as presented, seconded by Trustee Muehlfelt. All in favor.

Consent Agenda: The consent agenda consisted of the Monthly Run Report for February. Trustee Kallas made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Trustee Muehlfelt. All in favor.

New Business: The election canvass from the last referendum was received by the Board.

A memorandum regarding the Annual Audit was reviewed by the Board. Trustee Muehlfelt asked Attorney Weiler about GASB 34 and our requirements with respect to that. Attorney Weiler stated that GASB 34 is really not relevant because the District does not borrow money against its asset value. If the District borrows money, it is done on the basis of Tax Anticipation Warrants. Despite its irrelevance, however, the District is required to comply and did so within the legal timeframe. Attorney Weiler was adamant in his statement that, despite inaccurate press to the contrary, the Winfield Fire Protection District never, ever failed an audit. After discussion, Trustee Thar made a motion to contract with Miriani & Associates to complete the Annual Audit for fiscal year end April 1, 2008. That motion was seconded by Trustee Klage. All in favor.

Ordinance No. 269 for continued participation in the Illinois Fire District Employee Benefit Cooperative for full-time employee health insurance coverage was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. After discussion, Trustee Thar made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 269, seconded by Trustee Klage. All in favor by roll call vote.

Deputy Chief Lewis next reviewed his memorandum regarding the District's Equipment Replacement Schedule and asked that the Board adopt Exhibit B as the new Equipment Replacement Schedule, repealing Exhibit A currently in place. In addition, Deputy Chief Lewis requested that the Board authorize he and Chief DiMenza to seek proposals for a new fire engine, which would include the trade-in on Engine 611 and the sale of Engine 622. He has been working with a used fire equipment company that will either purchase Engine 611 outright for approximately \$150,000.00 or sell it on consignment, asking for \$240,000.00, of which the company receives 10%, netting the Fire District approximately \$200,000.00 for that vehicle.

Chief DiMenza and Deputy Chief Lewis discussed the multitude of problems encountered with the American LaFrance Engine 611 since taking delivery of it, much of which has been after the expiration of the warranty. In addition, American LaFrance has gone bankrupt, so it is unclear as to how any further warranty issues will be handled with that vehicle.

After discussion, President Saas made a motion to authorize Chief DiMenza and Deputy Chief Lewis to seek proposals for new engine, and investigate the terms of a consignment sale prior to making a commitment to offer Engine 611 up for sale by consignment. The proposals and a consignment agreement will be brought to the next meeting. That motion was seconded by Trustee Klage. All in favor.

Payment of Bills: The monthly bill list for February was provided to the Board prior to the meeting indicating a total of \$82,470.89. There being no questions, Trustee Kallas made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Klage. All in favor.

Other Business: President Saas read the comment cards and thank you notes into the record.

Chief DiMenza informed the Board about the Winfield Volunteer Fire Company golf outing on May 29, 2008 at Klein Creek Golf Club. Proceeds for this golf outing are to benefit the Winfield Volunteer Fire Company and Burn Camp. If any of the Board members would like information on this outing, please let Chief DiMenza know.

There being no further business for regular session, President Saas made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of discussing land acquisition, possible litigation and personnel, seconded by Trustee Kallas. All in favor. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

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Phillip J. Saas, President

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Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary