

Regular Meeting  
August 16, 2011

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Klage at 7:40 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Members Present: President Mark Klage, Secretary Phillip Saas, Treasurer Dan Keck, and Trustee Jenny Saylor, and Trustee Jeffrey Lockard.

Also Present: Chief Phillip A. DiMenza and Deputy Chief Bryan J. Lewis, Attorney Bernie Weiler, and Village of Winfield Trustees Allen and Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of 7/19/11 were distributed prior to the meeting. Trustee Saas made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Keck. All in favor

Remarks From Floor: Trustee Allen from the Village of Winfield asked to address the Board. He discussed the Village of Winfield's need to increase their sustainable revenue, so he is approaching each board of elected officials to consider taking a position via resolution to commercialize Roosevelt Road. He stated that commercializing those properties will only have a positive impact on all taxing bodies within the Village. The request of the Fire District to change the zoning of Station #2 from resident/special use to commercial, while it will increase the selling price of that property value, it is only one piece of a forward-moving plan.

Trustee Hughes then asked to speak, and he was looking for clarification on the purpose of the re-zoning request, wondering if the Fire District was serious about selling the property. President Klage stated that, while there are no immediate plans to sell the property at this time, it will give the Fire District a financial advantage if they decide to sell it at a later date. Trustee Hughes attempted to bring on a committee of the whole to re-zone that station, but that has since been stalled. Some of the Village Board members feel that it is not a valid or serious thought, because there was never anything specifically stated in the minutes or anything else that indicated the entire Fire District Board was in favor of the change. Trustee Saas stated that if the Fire District were ever able to move forward with relocating the headquarters station near the County Farm underpass, both current stations would need to be sold. So having Station #2 re-zoned would be a critical component of that scenario.

Sue Hughes, representing the Winfield Riverwalk, asked if the Fire District had any problem with their organization hosting a fundraiser on the same weekend as the Fire District Open House. After discussion, it was agreed that does not have an issue with that request as long as there are no plans for the Winfield Riverwalk to combine their event with the Fire District.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Keck reviewed the Treasurer's Report for July. As of 7/31/11, the beginning balance in the checking account and general money market account was \$895,561.69. After deposits of \$114,206.85 and disbursements of \$189,868.92, the ending balance for those accounts was \$819,899.62. The combined balance of the Capital Projects Fund and Equipment Fund, including CD's, was \$1,393,798.93 (\$973,658.15 for Capital Projects and \$420,140.78 for Equipment Fund), giving a total of all funds of \$2,213,698.55.

There being no questions, Trustee Saylor made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Trustee Saas. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Chief DiMenza reminded the Board of the pancake breakfast on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The mailers will be sent out within the next couple of weeks. Also coming up is the Winfield Volunteer Fire Company picnic on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Teri Atkinson will be sending out invitations very soon.

Chief DiMenza stated that the Fire District responded to another apartment fire in West Chicago, where people were rescued from the third floor balcony. He also informed the Board about an event that occurred involving a suspicious bottle of liquid containing what looked like electrical charges that was left near the railroad underpass. Responding agencies all worked very well together to mitigate the situation, and they agreed that the best solution was to have the DuPage County Bomb Squad take it down.

Deputy Chief's Report: Deputy Chief Lewis asked to defer his proposed salary schedule to Executive Session.

And as information only, Deputy Chief Lewis noted that according to the Emergency Response Summary, ambulance calls have increased by 32% since this time last year. And in case any Board member is approached about it, both ambulances are now dispatched to all automobile accidents, acting on the assumption that there are typically at least two patients involved in most vehicle collisions. That allows the District to transport both patients, rather than relying on mutual aid.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Weiler stated that he has a report on potential litigation for Executive Session.

Old Business: Chief George "Buzz" Beverly from the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association gave a presentation on the response time survey recently conducted by the IFCA. Among their findings from the survey, he stated that the dispatch times can be improved to reduce the overall response times for each emergency. In addition, while the IFCA agreed that the headquarters station would better serve the District somewhere on County Farm Road near the underpass, it was their opinion that Station #2 should be manned as well. After discussion, the Board thanked Chief Beverly and the IFCA for their time and recommendations. Deputy Chief Lewis added that the maps attached as Exhibits to the survey clearly indicated that the District cannot rely on mutual aid with the Wheaton Fire Department and their Station #1 location to service the south side of the District.

Trustee Saylor gave a presentation on social media, which included a sample Facebook page for the District. The sample Facebook page gave a glimpse of what type of information could be displayed, which would give the District more public exposure and give residents the opportunity to interact more with the District. After discussion, the Board agreed to go live with the Facebook page and see how it works out. The Chiefs would then decide who would be authorized to manage that account.

With regard to the Strategic Plan, Trustee Saylor stated that she would like the Chiefs to investigate what it would cost to man Station #2. After much discussion, Attorney Weiler stated that while the investigation may prove that it is not fiscally possible to man that station at this time, Trustee Saylor has the right idea with respect to a strategic plan, to look at the recommendations made in that plan and see what, if anything, can be done to accomplish those things. Having the information available makes decision making in the future that much easier. Trustee Saylor also wanted to see the District take advantage of applying for as many grants as

possible, even if that means someone takes one day a week to research what grants, if any, are available. The Chiefs and Board agreed with that suggestion. In addition, the Board would like to start taking a few of those recommendations at a time and begin implementing them.

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda consisted of the Monthly Run Report for July and a Thank You letter. Trustee Saas made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Trustee Keck. All in favor.

New Business: Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance No. 288 was presented to the Board. After discussion, Trustee Keck made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 288, seconded by Trustee Saylor. Motion carried by roll call vote.

The Board next discussed the Village of Winfield's Economic Plan with regard to the Fire District. After discussion, the Board revised the wording of the paragraph in the Village's Economic Plan that pertains to the Fire District's plans with both fire stations. The revised paragraph will be forwarded to the Village.

Trustee Saylor expressed surprise at Village Trustee Hughes' comment that the Village Board was unaware of the intentions of the Fire District Board, when there is a Village Trustee at almost every Fire District meeting, and the Fire District Board has been nothing but open and honest about its intentions over and over again. Trustee Hughes stated that the Village Board was just looking for a written consensus of the Fire District Board with respect to the re-zoning of Station #2, even if that consensus was only documented in the form of meeting minutes. After discussion, Trustee Saas made a motion to officially request the Village of Winfield to re-zone Fire Station #2 from residential/special use to Commercial. That motion was seconded by Trustee Lockard. All in favor.

Chief DiMenza and Trustee Keck met with Paramedic Billing Service regarding ambulance billing, and he distributed a rate sheet analysis regarding ambulance billing fees and options that are available to the District. Since taxes and ambulance service fees are the only real sources of revenue for the District and previous tax referenda have been unsuccessful, Chief DiMenza recommended increasing ambulance billing fees from \$1,000.00 to \$1,250.00 in an effort to generate more revenue. The Board agreed to have the Ordinance prepared and on the Agenda for the September meeting.

Payment of Bills: The Bill List for August was presented reflecting a total of \$34,558.90. Trustee Saas made a motion to pay the bills as listed, seconded by Trustee Keck. All in favor.

Other Business: Trustee Keck informed the Board about the 9/11 remembrance services that will be held during Good Old Days

There being no further discussion for open session, Trustee Saas made a motion to move into Executive Session for purposes of discussion potential pending litigation and personnel, salaries and/or discipline, seconded by Trustee Keck. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:58 p.m.

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Mark Klage, President

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Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary