

Regular Meeting
December 17, 2013

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Pro Tem President Saas 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

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

Also Present: Chief Phillip A. DiMenza and Deputy Chief Bryan J. Lewis, and Attorney Bernie Weiler.

Minutes: The minutes of the Public Hearing of 11/19/13 and the Regular Meeting of 11/19/13 were distributed prior to the meeting. Trustee Saas made a motion to accept both sets of minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Mortenson. All in favor.

Remarks From Floor: None.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Keck provided the Treasurer's Report for 11/30/13 in advance of the meeting. As of 11/30/13, the beginning balance in the checking account and general money market account was \$1,381,255.47. After deposits of \$164,291.91 and disbursements of \$167,069.14, the ending balance for those accounts was \$1,378,478.24. The combined balance of the Capital Projects Fund and Equipment Fund, including CD's, was \$1,140,692.03 (\$557,649.57 for Capital Projects and \$583,042.46 for Equipment Fund), giving a total of all funds of \$2,519,170.27. There being no further discussion, Trustee Saas made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Trustee Saylor. All in favor.

Chiefs' Reports: Chief DiMenza thanked all of the firefighters who assisted with extinguishing the structure fire on Thanksgiving night.

Chief DiMenza also expressed his appreciation for all of the cooperative efforts that went into the planning of the memorial service for Vic Youngberg. Those efforts made the process appear seamless and effortless, and those involved are to be commended.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Weiler received a call from Attorney Jim Knippen from the City of Wheaton stating that Winfield was owed a balance from the non-delinquent accounts and that the City of Wheaton would continue to service the businesses that wanted to continue to with that system. Attorney Weiler stated that all parties were heading towards the proposition that businesses would be able to select their vendor and method of distribution as long as they had a direct connect to a central station or to DuComm. He will draft a proposed ordinance repealing the ordinance that originally required the wireless alarm and re-activate the old ordinance. He will also review what happens to the equipment after a business disconnects so that the District does not take ownership of any equipment from those disconnected systems.

Old Business: Trustee Mortenson discussed a seminar he recently attended, where Consolidation was one of the topics of discussion. One of the things he gleaned from the seminar was that it appears that legislation for consolidation would not be a big hindrance if the District decided to pursue it. Attorney Weiler expounded further on the legal aspect, stating that there are problems that keep surfacing with the topic of consolidation and nobody has any answers to the questions that are being raised, many of which are raised by Trustees of this Board and will be discussed under New

Business. Trustee Saas did not feel as if the legislation was geared towards the larger districts, but rather the smaller districts and paper districts. In addition, he had heard that the County Board Chairman is trying to push some of the larger districts to consolidate or the Board Members are threatened with replacement.

Trustee Mortenson stated that he sat with some attorneys from down south who have a model that is beginning to take off, but he is unsure how it would best be implemented. It was suggested to him that the District Board have an informal meeting to see if there any other districts that are willing to merge with Winfield, and he asked the Board if they would be interested in doing that. Trustee Saas wanted to ask first if the Board was even interested in pursuing consolidating with another district. President Klage agreed and wondered if the Board wasn't putting the cart before the horse. Trustee Saas felt that, although he was not against consolidation in theory, the District has no debt, it has the lowest tax rate in DuPage County, it has satisfied personnel, etc., so he does not see the positive for the tax payers or the District and its employees if the District were to consolidate. The Board did not want to leave any other District with the impression that this Board was looking to consolidate, but rather perhaps just doing its due diligence in getting information. After discussion, the Board agreed to have the Chiefs contact the bordering districts to get some basic information, tax rates, pension fund status, payroll figures, etc. Attorney Weiler suggested that it is not enough to just ask the question of whether or not someone wants to consolidate, but also ask the question of, if so, why? Trustee Saas felt that having that basic information would have this Board make an informed decision on whether or not to pursue it right now.

Deputy Chief Lewis suggested running a parallel course of gathering that information as well as preparing for a referendum. Then if the Board decides that a referendum is the way to go and residents begin asking if the Board has looked into consolidation, the Board will have information to back up their decision. President Klage felt that, regardless of whether or not the Board pursues consolidation at some point in the future, the goals of the Strategic Plan need to be the ultimate goals of the District. Attorney Weiler stated that the current merger provisions were put in place prior to the Tax Limitation Act, so the State Legislators would have to allow a one-time relief from the Tax Cap in order to allow for a reasonable tax rate to be established for the merged districts. Trustee Keck invited Trustee Mortenson to attend the next DuPage County Fire Trustee's Association meeting. In the meantime, the Board decided that it did not want to hold any informal meetings with other District Trustees to discuss consolidation at this time.

Trustee Keck then reminded the Board of the three goals of the Strategic Plan, and he felt it was important to determine what would happen to those goals for the residents if a consolidation occurs. In addition, since it has been estimated that a consolidation could take at least 5 years to happen, what are some other things the Board needs to start working on in the meantime. Trustee Keck asked the Board if they still want to meet those Strategic Plan goals, and if so, how do they want to go about accomplishing that? Attorney Weiler did not feel as if the Board should alter any of their goals, because those goals would only be of value to any consolidating district if that is the way things turn out.

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

New Business: Deputy Chief Lewis thanked Lt. Roman for working with him on the Miracle Committee. After discussing this issue with Chief DiMenza, it was agreed that one of the issues being discussed by the Alliance is standardization, the latest of which is ambulance responses and how the dispatch codes will be revised to standardize responses between jurisdictions. After

reviewing how that response changed, the Chiefs noted that there are six firefighting employees on duty, 3 part-time and 3 full-time. The recommendation from the Committee would be to hire three more full-time firefighters from the current eligibility list and eliminate one of the part-time positions, leaving the daily shift to four full-time employees and one part-time employee. That change would save the District \$65,000 per year on average. Deputy Chief Lewis spoke with all of the Lieutenants regarding this proposal, and they all agreed. After discussion, Trustee Mortenson made a motion to create three (3) additional firefighter positions and authorize the Board of Fire Commissioners to begin making conditional offers of employment with an anticipated hire date of May 1, 2014, depending on how the hiring process proceeds. That motion was seconded by Trustee Klage. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Payment of Bills: The Bill List for December was presented reflecting a total of \$35,014.50. Trustee Keck made a motion to pay the bills as listed, seconded by Trustee Mortenson. All in favor.

Other Business: President Klage read a Thank You letter from Robin Youngberg to the Members of both Winfield Fire Protection District and West Chicago Fire Protection District for their combined efforts with her husband's memorial service.

There being no further discussion, Trustee Saas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Mortenson. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Mark Klage, President

Robin K. Youngberg, Recording Secretary