

**ROBERTS PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2025  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Roberts Park Fire Protection District Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Bernardoni at Station #1, 8611 S. Roberts Road, Justice, Illinois, for the purpose of conducting all regular business of the District, proper notice having been given and posted accordingly.

Secretary Stratakos led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

President Brian A. Bernardoni  
Secretary Steve Stratakos  
Treasurer Dan Borst  
Fire Chief Chris Spoo  
Commissioner Tim Dooley  
Commissioner Ken Osborne  
Commissioner Ron Weszelits  
Advisor Don Fontana

**Others Present:** On-Duty and Off-Duty FF/PMs, OM Stacey Collaros, Attorney Vlado Vranjes

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS**

Fire Chief Christopher Spoo acknowledged various members present to receive commendations.

**COMMENDATIONS**

Chief Spoo asked if the commendations could be moved to the beginning of the meeting. President Bernardoni asked if the other Board of Trustee members if they were in agreement to proceed with commendations. Chief Spoo acknowledged the following members: Battalion Chief Sherman, Lieutenant Murphy, Firefighter Herrera, Firefighter Lapczynski, Firefighter LaRocco, Firefighter Rodriguez, Firefighter Tsoukalas, Paramedic Fuller, and Firefighter Dvorak. The commendations were for those that responded to the car accident of March 19, 2025, that included two critically injured children. Both children have now been released from the hospital.

Chief Spoo also presented a unit citation.

Additionally, Chief Spoo recognized Don Fontana for the award he received at the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts for 52 years of service to the Roberts Park Fire Protection District.

**OPEN FLOOR**

President Bernardoni opened the floor for public comments at 6:05 p.m. A member of the public, Michael Leach, spoke and thanked the Roberts Park Fire Protection District for saving his life on two separate occasions. He then said he would direct his comments to President Bernardoni. He asked why President Bernardoni wears a badge. Attorney Vranjes addressed the public and said that the Board of Trustees did not need to respond. Mr. Leach asked why a Deputy Chief had not been appointed, then asked for financial transparency regarding money to the Justice Park District and/or the Hickory Hills Park District. He then asked why a vacancy in the Board had not been filled for many years.

President Bernardoni closed the floor for public comment at 6:11 p.m. Motion to close the floor was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Voice Vote – Ayes: Treasurer Borst, Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The correspondence items were each outlined by Chief Spoo with no questions by the Board.

- A. FY2023 TIF Report by the City of Hickory Hills.
- B. Notice of Commercial Appeal
- C. Sabre Woods TIF District #2 Redevelopment Project

### **ORDINANCE 2025-O-02**

An Ordinance Amending and Restating the Emergency Medical Services Charges for the Roberts Park Fire Protection District. Chief Spoo outlined the changes in the fees, highlights from a Naperville study that the accountant provided along with information from our EMS billing provider. The new fee structure would also include an annual increase and lift assist billing for facilities.

Motion to accept Ordinance 2025-O-02 - Amending and Restating the Emergency Medical Services Charges for the Roberts Park Fire Protection District, Cook County IL, was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Treasurer Borst, Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

### **BOARD APPROVAL**

#### ***Minutes***

Motion to accept the Open Session Minutes of June 10, 2025, was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Voice Vote - Ayes: Treasurer Borst, Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Motion to accept the Open Session Minutes of June 13, 2025, was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Voice Vote - Ayes: Treasurer Borst, Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.  
Motion carried

Motion to table the Executive Session Minutes of September 10, 2024 and March 11, 2025, was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Voice Vote - Ayes: Treasurer Borst, Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Scrivener's error was noted on the agenda – June 13, 2025 – Open Session was listed as Tuesday and should have been Friday.

#### ***Accounts Payable/Treasurer's Reports***

Motion to accept the Accounts Payable and Treasurer's report as presented for the months of June & July 2025 was made by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by Treasurer Borst. (Accounts Payable June & July 2025: \$259,519.49 Payroll June & July 2025: \$494,422.80) Voice Vote – Ayes: Treasurer Borst, Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

#### ***Financial Report – July 31, 2025***

Review of Financial Report by video call by James Howard, Gov Accounting  
Motion to accept the Financial Report as presented for the month of July 2025, was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Voice Vote – Ayes: Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

#### ***Budget Review***

Chief Spoo recapped the Budget Report. The Budget Report was received as submitted.

## REPORTS

### *Fire Chief Spoo:*

*Incident Counts for June 2025* – 398 total incidents

65% EMS

34 Invalid Assists

5 MVA's in District

Aid Given vs Received – 32/22

Tollway: 10 responses (5 within our Fire District)

Lyons Twp: 225 responses with 52 in the Trace, 37 in Sterling Estates, 2 in Ashbury Woods

Palos Twp: 134 responses

Forest Preserve: 4 responses

*Incident Counts for July 2025* – 423 total incidents

64% EMS

39 Invalid Assists

10 MVA's in District

Aid Given vs Received – 15/43

Tollway: 16 responses (12 within our Fire District)

Lyons Twp: 273 responses with 67 in the Trace, 46 in Sterling Estates, 4 in Ashbury Woods

Palos Twp: 111 responses

Forest Preserve: 3 responses

### *Personnel*

- Our new probationary firefighter, Caitlin Flood, has started with the district.
- Jeff Dees has rejoined the district in a civilian role.
- Working with the Commissioners to set up probationary testing.
- Very little/no scheduled overtime for August. Thanks to Lt. Grazier.
- One member spent the night in the hospital due to heat exhaustion at a fire. He has returned to duty. All OSHA reports were filed appropriately and an investigation was conducted.
- Organized personnel files for all employees.

### *Payroll*

- We have transitioned to Strongpay and the process has gone smoothly.

### *Income*

- We have sent out Congressional appeal letters to Senator Durbin, Senator Duckworth, and Representative Casten for the anticipated \$100,000 loss from the Medicare appeal with EMS|MC.
- EMS|MC anticipates a decrease to Medicare payments due to the "Big Beautiful Bill". The exact impact is unknown.
- Received a significant increase in workers compensation insurance due to salary increases.
- Anticipating significant health insurance increases.
- Hickory Hills implemented a TIF on the old Sabre Room property was already discussed.

### *Building and Grounds*

- Thanks to Chief Sherman for finding a solution for window replacement.
- Thanks again to Chief Sherman for painting the overhead doors.

### *Labor*

- Working on updating some labor related policies with the union.

### *Grants*

- Awaiting on a decision for the AFG grant for PPE.
- Closed out grant from several years ago.
- Denied by OSFM for station rehabilitation grant. Recipients were in small and rural counties.

### *Operations*

- There was one structure fire on July 24<sup>th</sup> due to the storms. Thanks to those on duty.
- Engine 303 is back from repair.
- Engine 302 is in for repair. Maintenance is prioritizing what we will do.
- TL 305 is still waiting on a radiator.
- Thanks to Lt. Baron for finding a way to fix Amb 307 and saving the district \$15,000.

### *Training*

- 370 hours completed in June and 624 hours completed in July.
- Multiple members completed classes and certifications.
- Congratulations to Lt. Janchenko on completing his master's degree from Anna Maria College.
- Started final semester at SIU and should graduate in December.

### *Public Outreach*

- Great attendance at the Hickory Hills Street Fair and crews attended National Night Out.

### *SWAT*

- Attended multiple stand-by callouts for area festivals including Lallapalooza. There were no significant incidents.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *Investment review by Ed Lavin, Sawyer Falduto*

Ed Lavin outlined the Investment Report and apprised the Board with the details of the investment portfolio and performance.

### ***Commissioners:***

The Commissioners will be having a meeting tonight and are now preparing for promotional testing.

Commissioner Dooley along with the Chief have looked into various testing agencies. They have narrowed down the selection. The Commissioners asked the Board to approve a budget not to exceed \$18,000 for the promotional testing process using Resource Management.

Motion to approve a budget not to exceed \$18,000 for promotional testing using Resource Management was made by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

### ***Attorney:***

None.

### *Investment Policy Update by Ed Lavin, Sawyer Falduto*

Ed Lavin reviewed the current Investment Policy that governs the investment activities of the district and outlined several changes to language, inclusion of the Illinois Sustainable Investing Act, and aligning with best practices. He said that the changes were fairly minor and provided a hard copy for adoption by the Board of Trustees.

Motion to adopt the Investment Policy for the Roberts Park Fire Protection District was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Cook County Tax Bill – Property Tax Notice

Chief Spoo provided an update on the Cook County Tax Bill related to the Cell Tower Sale. Stacey Collaros was able to contact the Cell Tower owner (SBA Communications). We are now in contact with their tax department and they have made payment on the tax bill. President Bernardoni asked the Attorney, Vlado Vranjes of Del Galdo Law to comment. He stated that taxes are being paid by the leasehold interest on the property.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

None.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. was made by Treasurer Borst seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

*Open Session Minutes prepared by Stacey Collaros, Office Manager*

*Approved: September 9, 2025*