

**ROBERTS PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 10, 2024
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 (Vacancy)
Fire Chief Jeff Ketchen
Deputy Chief Chris Spoo
Commissioner Ken Osborne
Commissioner Tim Dooley
Commissioner Ron Weszelits
Administrative Advisor Don Fontana

Absent:

Others Present: On-Duty FF/PMs, Attorney Brian Miller, OM Stacey Collaros

ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement by Chief Ketchen to acknowledge the passing of Past Chief Rasch on December 6, 2024. A moment of silence was observed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS

None.

Members expressed thanks and acknowledged Commissioner Dooley for his efforts with the Fire Fighters Association Santa Run.

OPEN FLOOR

President Bernardoni opened the floor for public comments at 6:03 p.m. With no comments, questions, or concerns, President Bernardoni closed the floor for public comment at 6:04 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-O-02

An Ordinance Authorizing the Levying and Assessing of Taxes for the Roberts Park Fire Protection District for 2024. Motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by President Bernardoni.

Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

BOARD APPROVAL

Minutes

Motion to accept the Open Session Minutes of November 12, 2024, was made by President Bernardoni, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Motion to table the Executive Session Minutes of September 10, 2024, was made by President Bernardoni, seconded by

Secretary Stratakos. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Accounts Payable/Treasurer's Reports

Motion to accept the Accounts Payable and Treasure's report for the month of November 2024 by President Bernardoni, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Accounts Payable November 2024: \$92,619.92. Payroll November 2024: \$304,583.98. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Budget Review

Received as submitted.

REPORTS

Fire Chief Ketchen

2025 Tax Levy – Attorney Joe Miller has prepared our 2025 tax levy. Highlights include an increase of \$100,000 to the pension fund (now totaling \$1,275,000), and an adjustment to correct a surplus in the ambulance fund.

Special Pension Board Meeting – There was a meeting with James Howard to discuss funding options to reduce the pension deficit. It was determined that more time is necessary to chart a course for correction.

Tower 305 Warranty Claim – Tower 305 is expected to be completed and returned within the next few weeks.

Damage Report – Ambulance 307 sustained damage when exiting the bay at Station 2. There was damage to the brick on the building and minor damage to the ambulance.

Training – Lt. Janchenko is preparing our training schedule for 2025. Battalion Chief Sherman is currently attending the Fire Ground Command Officer class at IFSI.

Shift Realignment – Full-time shift changes have been made and will begin the first few weeks of January.

Public Outreach – December has been a busy time for our public engagements. The Santa Run was held, and Family Breakfast will be on the 14th. Brodnicki School has been chosen by the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation as an Operation Santa recipient. They have asked us to participate on December 18th.

Deputy Chief Spoo

Incident Counts for November 2024 – 339 total incidents (73% EMS)

27 Invalid Assists

10 MVAs

Aid Given vs Received – 27/27

Tollway: 9 responses (3 w/in our Fire District)

Lyons Twp: 198 responses with 45 in the Trace, 33 in Sterling Estates, 4 in Ashbury Woods

Palos Twp: 110 responses

Forest Preserve: 8 responses

Grants – AFG – The next AFG grant application is in process. We are asking for 43-44 sets of turnout gear (\$250,000).

Operations – We finally received feedback from ISO. We remain ISO Class 3. Updated Box Cards for 2025. Working with Division 21 to plan RTF training in February. Shift changes for 2025 are published. Members currently on work comp and sick leave should be returning to work in the next few weeks.

Communications/IT – Still working with SWCD to get alerting system optimized.

SWAT – No incidents.

Commissioners: Working on the testing for FF/PM with National Testing Network.

Attorney: No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Pension Funding: Recap of options presented by attorney Joe Miller and discussion with accountant James Howard. Further time and discussion are needed before any action can be taken. Discussion regarding the establishment of a task force to review and meet between meeting dates.

RESOLUTION – 2024-R-01

A Resolution to approve the appointment of Stacey Collaros as Authorized Agent to IMRF.

Motion to accept the appointment was made by President Bernardoni, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, President Bernardoni; Nays: None. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED**BUSINESS**

None.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. was made by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by President Bernardoni. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Open Session Minutes prepared by Stacey Collaros, Office Manager

Approved: January 14, 2025