

**ROBERTS PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2026
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
Chief Christopher Spoo
Executive Advisor Jeff Dees
Commissioner Tim Dooley
Commissioner Ken Osborne
Commissioner Ron Weszelits

Others Present: On-Duty and Off-Duty FF/PMs, OM Stacey Collaros

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Bernardoni opened the floor for public comments at 6:01 p.m.

Motion to open the floor was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

With no comments, questions, or concerns, President Bernardoni closed the floor for public comment at 6:01 p.m.

Motion to close the floor was made by Treasurer Borst and seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

President Bernardoni commented on notification received from the Village of Justice regarding concerns about the Chief's Trailer Park and the water pressure of the fire hydrants. The village would like the Chief's Trailer Park to be in compliance. Chief Spoo stated that he received correspondence from the attorney representing Chief's Mobile Home Park wanting to discuss what would be necessary for compliance on hydrants. He stated that the Village is the authority on code related issues. Chief Spoo also stated that the district is available to assist the Village of Justice with expertise and plan review. The district's attorney will respond with that information. President Bernardoni stated that the goal is compliance and as a matter of public record there was notification on record from 2011 to the Chief's Mobile Home Park. Treasurer Borst commented on the water supply coming from Justice-Willow Springs. President Bernardoni stated that it is important that this is on the record, there are limited hydrants that actually work there, and that the ultimate goal is compliance. The Village of Justice and the board are taking the stance which is public safety and public life safety related issues. There will be an administrative hearing on this matter and they asked if we would provide baseline technical information.

BOARD APPROVAL

Minutes

Motion to approve the Open Session Minutes of December 9, 2025, was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Accounts Payable/Treasurer's Reports

Motion to accept the Accounts Payable and Treasurer's Report as presented for the month of December 2025 was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. (Accounts Payable December 2025: \$221,062.16; Payroll December 2025: \$275,894.10) Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Financial Report – December 31, 2025

Review of Financial Report by video call by James Howard, Gov Accounting

An overview of the Financial Report was presented for the 8 months ending December 31st at 67% through the fiscal year. Mr. Howard commented on Cook County tax distribution delays due to software/distribution problems. He is still unsure on how repayment of the Bridge loan is factored into the expected payments.

Ambulance billing is strong at 75% of budgeted. GEMT is now billing quarterly and driving the need to amend the current FY budget. On the operations side, both Dues & Subscriptions and Public Liability Insurance are over budget and due to being paid early in the fiscal year. Mr. Howard stated that we would draw on reserves to start. Chief Spoo asked Mr. Howard to schedule a meeting to help prepare an amended budget and if holding the hearing and passing the amended budget can be scheduled in March to allow for the required public notice.

Motion to approve the Financial Report for the month of December 2025, Budget & Investment reports as presented, was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Roll Call Vote – Ayes:

Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

REPORTS

Fire Chief's Report:

Incidents:

Fire Chief Spoo summarized the incident counts for 2025. Total incidents at 4709 calls. There will be an annual report at the next meeting to go over more statistics. There were 349 total calls for December; 25 invalid assists and 14 MVAs in the district. Aid given/received was 31/26. There were 6 tollway responses. Lyons township had 205 responses; 50 in the Trace, 24 in Sterling Estates and 4 in Ashbury Woods. Palos township had 109 responses and there were 6 responses in the forest preserve.

Personnel:

- Open enrollment has concluded. Thank you to Stacey for all of her hard work on this.
- FF Kahn has resigned, creating a vacancy in the full-time rank.
- With that, we are going to ask the Commissioners to ask the Board to start the processing of the next candidate.
- Promotional testing for the Lieutenants has concluded and the Battalion Chief testing is still postponed.

Finances:

- We did receive a little over \$321,000 from Cook County. There is uncertainty if this is on top of our bridge loan or not.
- We will work with James Howard to amend the budget.

- Operations are significantly over budget due to GEMT payments, part-time expenses are higher than estimated but balanced by overtime being lower, and vehicle maintenance expenses are higher.

Grants:

- Awaiting decision on AFG grant for PPE and OSFM for thermal imagers.

Operations:

- Tower 305 is at Cummins with a blown head gasket.
- Engine 302 is at Legacy Fire with an issue with its turbo.
- Implemented new response cards.

Training:

- There has been 424 hours of training completed.
- Members have been recertified in 96 certifications. This is new and the first recertification done by OSFM. Thank you to Lt. Janchenko.

Public Education/Outreach

- FFIB purchased new beds for the stations. The old beds were donated to Beds Plus, a local charity helping those transitioning out of homelessness.
- Coats collected during the Santa Run were donated to charity.
- Toys collected from the Santa Run were donated to the children's advocacy center.
- Our Project Fire Buddies chapter helped to bring some cheer to our fire buddy.

SWAT:

- No callouts

A motion to accept the Chief's Report was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Dooley presented the final register of eligibility list for promotion to Lieutenant to the Board of Trustees. Due to the vacancy created from the resignation of FF Kahn, the firefighter list will be updated and the next available candidate will be contacted. The Battalion Chief testing is still to be determined. The commissioners have reached out to the B.A. and are awaiting a meeting or discussion with the union stewards.

POLICY REVIEW

Executive Advisor Dees stated that last month 14 different policies were moved out and there was some restructuring in the manual. Additional policies will be going out soon. Discussion regarding the reporting of any deficiencies or code violations by our staff for notifying each municipality. Advisor Dees stated that there is a summary of changes from month to month available in Dropbox.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Processing and Approval of a New Candidate for Full-Time Firefighter Position from Final Eligibility List – May 13, 2025.

A motion to approve the processing of a new candidate for full-time firefighter position from the Final Eligibility List of May 13, 2025 was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

- B. A motion to approve the Final Register of Eligibility for Promotion to Lieutenant was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

President Bernardoni reported on events he attended in Springfield on behalf of the NIAFPD and RPPFD at the Board of Directors meeting of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts. He stated that on the legislative front a priority is on rural health care transformation and on non-emergency call (non-transport) billing. Recommendations to speak with AARP is on the agenda, along with activity to remove fire districts from the Decennial review process, and additional funds going towards MABAS. President Bernardoni also, commented on opportunities for trustees to attend training and continuing education. Chief Spoo commented on lift assist (non-transport) rise in calls, and firefighter injury and pension consequences.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Bernardoni opened the floor for public comments at 6:53 p.m.

Motion to open the floor for public comments was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Comments by Mr. Don Fontana stating that at the conferences there has been discussion regarding non-emergency call injuries and consequences for fire fighters.

President Bernardoni closed the floor for public comment at 6:53 p.m.

Motion to close the floor for public comments was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.
Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

*Open Session Minutes prepared by Stacey Collaros, Office Manager
Approved February 10, 2026*