

**ROBERTS PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 30, 2026
MINUTES**

**CALL TO
ORDER**

The special meeting of the Roberts Park Fire Protection District Board of Trustees was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by President Bernardoni at Station #1, 8611 S. Roberts Road, Justice, Illinois, for the purpose of conducting special meeting business of the District, proper notice having been given and posted accordingly.

Treasurer Borst led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present:

President Brian A. Bernardoni
Treasurer Dan Borst
Fire Chief Chris Spoo

Absent:

Secretary Steve Stratakos (arrived at 11:26 a.m.)
All Fire Commissioners are absent, prior notice was given.

Others Present: OM Stacey Collaros, Attorney Joseph Miller

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS

President Bernardoni acknowledged the guests who would be presenting referendum support proposals.

OPEN FLOOR

President Bernardoni opened the floor for public comments at 11:06 a.m.

Motion to open the floor for public comments was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by President Bernardoni.

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

With no comments, questions, or concerns, President Bernardoni closed the floor for public comment at 11:06 a.m. Motion to close the floor was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by President Bernardoni. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

President Bernardoni stated that the District is a non-home rule municipality and we must compete against home rule municipalities for hiring firefighters and pension balances. He stated this is why we are considering going to the public to augment the district's budget and consider a referendum. President Bernardoni continued and provided general demographic and economic descriptions of the district population and background on the Board of Trustees members.

A live presentation was given by referendum consultant, Paul Hanley, Beyond Your Base.
(Secretary Stratakos arrived at the meeting at 11:26 a.m.)

Party affiliation, age, and gender of the district population were discussed in depth. Mr. Hanley highlighted the need for detailed timelines, budget costs, district needs, and tax implications.

The board expressed concern that typical polling would be inaccurate or ineffective, and not include any significant community response or involvement.

A live presentation was given by referendum consultant, Jenifer Volk, Discovery Works Collaborative. The importance of community engagement, public involvement, and communication strategies were discussed. Also, DWC focuses on the branding process being developed by the facilitating team, and having the team and community continue to have ownership of branding for the referendum communications.

The board continued their discussion after the presentations. This included compliance of materials with attorney approval. They also discussed union support and financial and volunteer contributions. The board proposed having a meeting or discussion with James Howard regarding financial impact and different tax increases. The board also expressed that the timing for the referendum is recommended for April.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:16 p.m. was made by Secretary Steve Stratakos 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 August 11, 2026*