

**ROBERTS PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MARCH 10, 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, Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

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

**PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2025-2026 Amended Budget and Appropriations Ordinance**

President Bernardoni read the notice of Public Hearing for the Amended Budget and Appropriations of the Roberts Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, IL, for Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025 and Ending April 30, 2026.

Motion to open the floor for the public hearing 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 the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

**ORDINANCE 26-O-01 for the Amended Budget and Appropriations of the Roberts Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, IL for Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025 and Ending April 30, 2026**

Motion to approve ORD 26-O-01 for the Amended Budget and Appropriations of the Roberts Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, IL, for Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025 and Ending April 30, 2026 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**

The notice confirming payment from Cook County regarding the past due property taxes on the leasehold cell tower property was confirmed by office manager, Stacey Collaros

## **BOARD APPROVAL**

### ***Minutes***

Motion to approve the Open Session Minutes of February 10, 2026, 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 February 2026 was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. (Accounts Payable February 2026: \$190,141.14; Payroll February 2026: \$259,653.33) Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

### ***Financial Report – February 28, 2026***

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

An overview of the Financial Report was presented for the 10 months ending February 28<sup>th</sup> at 83% through the fiscal year. Mr. Howard commented that the amended budget numbers that were approved tonight are not folded into the reports and will be included in next month's summaries. Ambulance billing is strong at 91% of budgeted, but tax distributions are behind at 54%. We are awaiting distributions later this month and next for the first installment of the 2025 payments. GEMT cost is the significant reason for the budget amendment that just passed. Mr. Howard stated that we are using reserves.

Chief Spoo commented of the budget review and noted Mr. Howard's comments on GEMT and the amended budget. He also stated that vehicle maintenance was another area that was adjusted in the amended budget.

### ***Investment Report – February 28, 2026***

Review of the Investment Report was presented by Ed Lavin of Sawyer Falduto in person.

An overview of the district's investments for the month ending February 28, 2026 showed that the investments are well insulated from global events. The district reinvested some securities that came due for a 3-month period. For the first 2 months of 2026, there has been approximately a \$4000 investment gain. The portfolio is insulated from risk and liquidity is available for the district's needs.

Motion to approve the Financial Report for the month of February 2026, 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:***

The Fire Chief's Report was accepted as presented. Chief Spoo commented on an OSHA follow up visit earlier this month that went well with no findings. He also spoke about the vacancy that he is working toward filling for a full-time firefighter with the Commissioners. He mentioned that the Battalion Chief's test has begun.

Chief Spoo said that he did meet with Chief Norvilas regarding fire inspection and that they are in agreement.

***Commissioners:***

Commissioner Osborne stated that the Battalion Chief testing has begun. Testing and interviews are scheduled.

***Attorney:***

No Report. Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski stated that she will be asking for a closed session to discuss possible employee discipline and possible litigation.

**POLICY REVIEW**

Executive Advisor Dees stated that changes are always updated in Dropbox. Additionally, everything has been moved to the new platform and he is waiting for all the users to log in. He included the directions in Dropbox. The policy manual is over 500 pages, is available online, is searchable, and will continue to be updated. The Board of Trustee's policies are also available for the board to review.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chief Spoo commented on the bringing back of the Annual Report, making it available on our website and letting people see what the district is doing to increase public engagement.

A motion to approve the District's Annual Report – 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. A cybersecurity presentation was made by Keith Powell, of KAVP, in person. Mr. Powell provided an overview of services through a phased approach including an IT security audit, staff training, and policy updates. He discussed upgrades for our email and other reporting systems.
- B. Ready Rebound Contract Renewal – Chief Spoo commented on the benefits of the Ready Rebound program and the services provided including quick appointments and tracking.  
A motion to approved the Ready Rebound contract renewal was made by Treasurer Borst and seconded by Secretary Stratakos. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.  
Motion carried.
- C. The resolution for associate membership for the West Central Municipal Conference was discussed. The board discussed the membership and would like to approve a resolution at the May 2026 meeting to account for the membership in our next budget year.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A 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.

President Bernardoni opened the floor for public comments at 6:43 p.m.

With no comments, questions, or concerns, President Bernardoni closed the floor for public comment at 6:44 p.m. Motion to close the floor was made by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by Treasurer Borst . Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Secretary Stratakos congratulated Treasurer Borst for his first year of service on the Board of Trustees.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

A motion to begin a closed session at :645 p.m. for the purposes of discussing employee discipline and possible litigation was made by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by Treasurer Borst . Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The open session reconvened with all Trustees present.

Motion to reopen the meeting and return to open session was made at 7:04 p.m. by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by Treasurer Borst . Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays:

None.

Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 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 April 14, 2026*