

**ROBERTS PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
NOVEMBER 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
Executive Advisor Jeff Dees
Commissioner Tim Dooley
Commissioner Ron Weszelits
Advisor Don Fontana

Others Present: On-Duty and Off-Duty FF/PMs, OM Stacey Collaros, Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski

Absent:

Commissioner Ken Osborne - excused

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, 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 6:02 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.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None.

BOARD APPROVAL

Minutes

Motion to approve the Open Session Minutes of October 21, 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.

Motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 10, 2024, was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 11, 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.

Motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 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 October 2025 was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. (Accounts Payable October 2025: \$218,081.27; Payroll October 2025: \$385,124.92) Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Financial Report – October 31, 2025

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

An overview of the Financial Report was presented and discussion of the late Cook County tax bills and tax distributions expected in November and December respectively. The District received the Tax Anticipation Loan at over \$1,000,000.00. The District is operation from reserve funds.

Motion to accept the Financial Report as presented for the month of October 2025, was made by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried

Budget Review

Chief Spoo commented on the outstanding GEMT payment that is going to be significant and over budget.

ORDINANCE 2025-O-03 An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Roberts Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, Illinois for 2025. President Bernardoni recited the Ordinance with the sum of \$5,310,500.00 and the amounts to be levied by fund.

Motion to open discussion on ORD 2025-O-03 was made by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried

Motion to accept ORD 2025-O-03 was made by Secretary Stratakos, seconded by Treasurer Borst.

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

Motion carried

REPORTS

Fire Chief Spoo:

Fire Chief Spoo went over highlights of his report.

- Incident Counts for October
- Personnel:
 1. Lt. Grazier is bringing on new part-time personnel.
 2. Firefighter Kahn has returned to full duty

- Finances: Confirmed that the Village of Justice is not seeking to extend the TIF on the Ashbury Woods property
- Grants: Preparing an OSFM small equipment grant

Chief Spoo let the Board Of Trustees know he will be out of town at the next regular meeting. He will submit his report ahead of time or can be available remotely.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Dooley stated that they have received all the applications for the promotional process and have received a filed grievance through the union and have responded. Commissioner Dooley commented that in the CBA mutual agreed upon items can be changed, and suggested that the language in the promotional timing be clarified.

Attorney:

None.

INVESTMENT REPORT – October 31, 2025

Review of Investment report in-person by Ed Lavin, Sawyer Falduto Asset Management

Valuation as of October 31, 2025: \$568,004.00

POLICY REVIEW

President Bernardoni commented on policy and the District’s insurance renewal. He stated that our current roster sits above 50 members and the possibility of moving into the under 50 market has the potential for significant savings. President Bernardoni discussed the possibility of the Board members and Commissioners receiving 1099s and not being on the District’s official payroll roster. This would not include Advisor Fontana, and he would remain on the district roster. This would be for the 2027 budget year.

Executive Advisor Dees said he is working on updating policies. Between October and November, 18 policies have been updated. The updates include: billing policy, some training policies, updates to job descriptions, and Leave time policies. The Board asked about keeping up with changes in policy and always having recent updates available. Executive Advisor Dees stated that the Board’s policy manual will need updating and fall to the attorney. Executive Advisor Dees stated that he is working on the District’s operations policies. Once completed, Attorney Jaworski suggested a resolution to pass the adoption of the new policy manual.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Health Insurance Renewal 2026 – Chief Spoo presented the renewal options from OneDigital to the Board of Trustees. He stated that various other departments were looking at over 40% increases. The initial renewal came in at over 27% and was negotiated down to a 22.5% increase, which is below the industry average. Chief Spoo discussed the Options Plan that would raise the deductibles, which are covered by the district, but lower the fixed premium amounts. There would be potential savings dependent upon usage. This would have a 9.34% increase to premiums. Moving to BCBS for dental and vision could also save 1½ %. President Bernardoni asked if the members are informed about the options and Chief Spoo acknowledged that they are.

A motion to authorize Chief Spoo to proceed on the Health Insurance Renewals for 2026 was made by by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Chief Spoo added that the options with other carriers are very limited and that many will not offer a quote. The possibility of a reduction in our final roster could open the district to the under 50 market that could present savings. There is a year look back period, so action would need to be taken now to allow for this on the 2027 renewal.

B. Reappointment of Board of Fire Commissioner Tim Dooley.

A motion to reappoint Fire Commissioner Tim Dooley was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The Oath of Office was administered to Commissioner Dooley by Secretary Stratakos.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Bernardoni asked that Chief Spoo send a district patch and challenge coin to the new Illinois State Fire Marshal and to the NYC Fire Department Foundation.

President Bernardoni mentioned the passing of Michael Dillon, having served on the Board and as the President of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts. A moment of silence was observed.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Bernardoni opened the floor for public comments at 7:01 p.m. With no comments, questions, or concerns, President Bernardoni closed the floor for public comment at 7:01p.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 7:02 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: December 9, 2025