

**ROBERTS PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 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 Ken Osborne
Commissioner Ron Weszelits
Advisor Don Fontana

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

Absent:

Commissioner Tim Dooley – proper notice of absence was provided

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS

None.

OPEN FLOOR

President Bernardoni opened the floor for public comments at 6:01 p.m. 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 Secretary Stratakos, seconded by Treasurer Borst. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.

Motion carried.

AUDIT PRESENTATION

The audit presentation from Lauterbach & Amen was given by Monika Adamski by video call. Three documents were covered in the presentation.

Item 1 – SAS 114 which stated there were no disagreements or difficulties working with management.

Item 2 – Audit: Annual Financial Report. The Independent Auditor's Report gave the district an unmodified opinion which is the cleanest form and highest level of assurance that can be issued. Other highlights included an ending Fund Balance of \$2,647,514, statement from the Pension Fund, IMRF and Pension percentages funded.

Item 3 – Management Letter. There were no current year recommendations and several items had recommendations implemented and will not be repeated in the future.

President Bernardoni asked if a note or memo could be issued showing the improvements, the recommendations implemented and the items being removed from the audit management recommendations.

Motion to accept the audit for FY2025 by Lauterbach & Amen 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

None.

BOARD APPROVAL

Minutes

Motion to approve the Open 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.

Motion to table the Executive Session Minutes of September 10, 2024, March 11, 2025, and 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 September 2025 was made by Treasurer Borst, seconded by Secretary Stratakos. (Accounts Payable September 2025: \$168,983.11, Payroll September 2025: \$248,675.53) Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Secretary Stratakos, Treasurer Borst, President Bernardoni; Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Financial Report – September 30, 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. President Bernardoni asked James Howard for his opinion on taking the Tax Anticipation Loans and passing the Ordinances for the Tax Anticipation Warrants on the agenda. James Howard replied that the district should take the loan.

Motion to accept the Financial Report as presented for the month of September 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. Also, he has been advised by our health insurance broker, OneDigital, that renewal rates are about 21.7%, which is above the 10% budgeted increase.

REPORTS

Fire Chief Spoo:

Fire Chief Report was received as submitted. The Chief highlighted the Bridge Loan from Cook County, Levy numbers to be reviewed by James Howard and Open House follow-up. He also discussed a consultation with an IT/cyber security company to review policy and IT security, and would like to include a full IT audit for next year's budget.

Commissioners:

The Commissioners stated that they are having their regular quarterly meeting tonight to review applications for promotions.

Attorney:

None.

Note from Chief Spoo that the following Ordinances were passed on to Del Galdo Law for review prior to being presented here for consideration.

POLICY REVIEW

Executive Advisor Dees said he is working on updating policies with Chief Spoo.

ORDINANCE

An ordinance was read by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the issuance of Taxable Tax Anticipation Warrants in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied for the year 2024 by the Board of Trustees of the Roberts Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, Illinois, for corporate purposes, directing the County Treasurer and ex-officio County Collector of The County of Cook, Illinois, to deposit amounts collected from said taxes directly into a fund held by a tax escrow agent and authorizing the sale of said warrants to The County of Cook, Illinois.

The amount of the warrant is \$539,000.

Motion to approve and adopt the Ordinance was made by Secretary Stratakos and seconded by Treasurer Borst.

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

Motion carried.

An ordinance was read by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the issuance of Taxable Tax Anticipation Warrants in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied for the year 2024 by the Board of Trustees of the Roberts Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, Illinois, for ambulance purposes, directing the County Treasurer and ex-officio County Collector of The County of Cook, Illinois, to deposit amounts collected from said taxes directly into a fund held by a tax escrow agent and authorizing the sale of said warrants to The County of Cook, Illinois.

The amount of the warrant is \$539,000.

Motion to approve and adopt the Ordinance 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. 2025 Tax Levy Determination was discussed by James Howard, Gov Accounting, by video call. The determination is under 5% and means that no hearing or publication is required for Truth in Taxation requirements. The Levy request will be about \$5,300,000, a 5.7% increase from last year.
- B. Reappointment of Board of Fire Commissioner Ronald Weszelits.
A motion to reappoint Fire Commissioner Ronald Weszelits 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 Weszelits by Secretary Stratakos.
- C. Pension Board Presentation was given by Firefighter Rebecca Scanlon. Highlights included the Levy will be for \$2,150,452.00, up 6% from last year. Pension funding is up to 37.47%, up from last year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Bernardoni opened the floor for public comments at 6:39 p.m. With no comments, questions, or concerns, President Bernardoni closed the floor for public comment at 6:39 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

President Bernardoni commented on meetings he attended for the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts. There will be educational programs for both Trustees and Pension Board members coming up. There is also legislation regarding clean up funds and removal of the gasoline tax for Fire Protection Districts. The Southwest Central Dispatch has approved a capital plan budget amendment and purchased land next to North Palos Station #2.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 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 November 12, 2025*