

**FRANKFORT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
FRANKFORT FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Special Public Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Frankfort Fire Protection District, Will County, Illinois, was held at Fire Station Number Seventy-One, 333 West Nebraska Street, Frankfort, Illinois, in said District at 3:00 P.M., on the 3rd day of January, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M., and a roll call was taken.

Upon the roll being called, the following Trustees answered present:
Robert Jacobs, Justin Lohrens, James McGeever, Jr. and Michael Minogue.

Chief Sean Fierce, LT. Brian Adcock, Union President Nick Sunzere and Attorney Shawn Flaherty were also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS:

None voiced.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion on the Appointment of a Trustee to Fill Vacant Seat
2. Discussion/Possible Approval of PSEBA Application
3. Discussion of Lift Assist Ordinance

Discussion on the Appointment of a Trustee to Fill Vacant Seat –

Trustee Jacobs introduced Attorney Shawn Flaherty and stated that due to Trustee Nice's recent death, a replacement needs to be appointed within sixty (60) days.

Trustee Jacobs polled the Board as to how to proceed:

- Trustee Minogue – suggested contacting previous applicants that had submitted resumes for the Vegter vacancy;
- Trustee Lohrens – choose from resumes; and,
- Trustee McGeever, Jr. – due to the timeline, asked if it is possible to go out to the public?

Attorney Flaherty explained the Statute guidelines.

Board held an open discussion and decided to choose from the current resumes on file from the Vegter vacancy.

Discussion/Possible Approval of PSEBA Application –

Trustee Jacobs stated that a PSEBA application has been received from Lt. Hansen.

Attorney Flaherty explained the PSEBA Statute, the benefits, and the process used to award these benefits. Some requirements include the following:

- Awarded a “line of duty” disability pension; and,
- Reason to believe the injury occurred in response to an emergency.

In reference to the benefits, the employee, spouse and children are covered until --

- Employee/spouse becomes Medicare eligible
- When children reach the age of twenty-six (26).

A suggestion was made to invite the PSEBA applicant to the next Board of Trustees meeting and the Board concurred. The Recording Secretary was directed to send a letter to Lt. Hansen inviting him to the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Discussion of Lift Assist Ordinance –

Chief Fierce explained that due to the significant “uptick” of calls from the assistant living facilities (in comparison to private residents), a Lift Assist Ordinance is in order. He stated that currently there are two (2) facilities within the District, a third one has been approved by the Village, and a fourth is pending approval from the Village.

Attorney Flaherty stated that this is a problem at many Districts/Departments and mentioned how some are handling it:

- Adopt an ordinance with “structured” fees; or,
- Restructure ambulance fees, whereby the insurance would pay this fee.

The Board held an open discussion on the concern of firefighters getting hurt on non-emergency lift assist calls.

Chief Fierce noted the following call stats:

- Of 700 falls – half are lift assists, non-medical; and,
- Of 900 calls – 580 are lift assists, pick up and place in chair/bed.

The Board discussed the billing of such calls. Chief Fierce stated that Andres Medical Billing would handle the billing for the District.

Attorney Flaherty stated that “direct authority” is preferred to “indirect authority”, and that there are differences in billing between Home Rule, non-Home Rule and fire districts.

Trustee Lohrens mentioned that education of the public could be huge and Trustee McGeever, Jr., added that it involves behavior modification.

Attorney Flaherty outlined the following options for the District:

- Do nothing and continue as is;
- Adopt a Lift Assist Ordinance with a fee schedule; or,
- Adopt an Insurance Billing Ordinance.

Discussion of Lift Assist Ordinance – [Continued]

The following suggestions were made:

- Attorney Flaherty – meet with the facilities to discuss the possible fees; and,
- Trustee Minogue – disseminate a document explaining the lift assist guidelines with consistent/repeat callers.

The Board held an open discussion and decided to adopt a Lift Assist Ordinance.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Union President Nick Sunzere made the following comments:

- The Trustee vacancy should be filled with the best candidate for the District; and,
- As we want to help the people of the Village, a Lift Assist Ordinance is needed and appreciate the responsible approach to this matter.

Lt. Brian Adcock also made the following comments:

- Lift Assist Ordinance definitely needed and that multiple responses are from Clarendale of Mokena Senior Living Facility; and,
- On behalf of the Union Local 4338, appreciated Trustee Nice and what he did for the District.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

None voiced.

POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION PER STATUTE 5ILCS120/2C FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LITIGATION, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL:

1. Discussion on Candidates to Fill Trustee Vacancy - 5ILCS 120/2 [c](3)

None requested.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:

At 4:00 P.M., a **Motion** was made by Trustee Justin Lohrens, seconded by Trustee Michael Minogue, that this meeting be adjourned. President Jacobs called for a voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Michelle Selvaggio, Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Transcription by: Carolyn J. Williams, Administrative Receptionist