

FRANKFORT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
FRANKFORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Regular 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 W. Nebraska Street, Frankfort, Illinois, in said District at 5:00 P.M., on the 12th day of March, 2024.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order and a roll call was taken.

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

Chief Sean Fierce, DC Paul Kinsella, Union Shop Stewart, LT. Jeff Wander; LT Brian Adcock; FFs Jim Finnegan, Jim Jensen, Jason Roney and Jason Vaccaro were also in attendance.

Trustee Justin Lohrens was absent from said meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

1. Regular BOT Meeting Minutes, February 20, 2024

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Michael Minogue, seconded by Trustee James McGeever, Jr., to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated February 20, 2024, as presented. President Jacobs called for a voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:**

1. Board/Expenditure Report

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Michael Minogue, seconded by Trustee James McGeever, Jr., to authorize payment of the Fire Service and Ambulance Fund bills, totaling \$149,338.98, as presented. President Jacobs called for a roll call vote: upon the roll being called, the following Trustees voted aye: Robert Jacobs, James McGeever, Jr., Michael Minogue and Nicholas Spano. All in favor. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Re-alignment of Board Committees**

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Robert Jacobs, seconded by Trustee Nicholas Spano, to “table” the re-alignment of Board Committees for the next meeting. President Jacobs called for a voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Fierce made a suggestion to remove the Museum & FPD Historical Committee due to lack of activity.

Trustee Jacobs addressed the Board and the members concurred.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Resolution No. 24-01:** Discussion/Approval on a Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of Personal Property No Longer Needed for Fire Protection Purposes (2010 Ford Escape XLT 4X4).

DC Kinsella explained the reasons for the Resolution and that the vehicle would be disposed of via an auction.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Nicholas Spano, seconded by Trustee James McGeever, Jr., to adopt Resolution No. 24-01, as presented. President Jacobs called for a roll call vote: upon the roll being called, the following Trustees voted aye: Robert Jacobs, James McGeever, Jr., Michael Minogue and Nicholas Spano. All in favor. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****1. Personnel** – [Jacobs & McGeever]

Chief Fierce advised the Board of the following:

- Injuries continue to impact the budget --
  - So far this year, WC (Workmen’s Comp.) OT (over-time) “man-hours” has cost \$464,399.00
    - Reimbursed over \$275,000.00
    - Leaving an out-of-pocket cost to the District of about \$190,000.00
    - \$40,000.00 over the OT budget for the year – this does not include the last two (2) payrolls; and,
- In 2023, there was a total of 9,755 “man-hours” lost, due to injuries, and so far in 2024, there are 3,370, and this is only the first quarter of the year.

**2. Finance** – [Jacobs & Minogue]

Chief Fierce reported the following:

- Working with GEMT (a State of Illinois Medicaid program) regarding billing and the Finance Department -
  - The projected revenue forecast is \$900,000.00
  - Received around \$348,000.00
  - Leaving a revenue shortage of about \$400,000.00
    - That “shortfall” drastically limits the Operations budget; and,
    - Reimbursement payments from the State are not always consistent;
- A Grant has been submitted to AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) for sixty-six (66) sets of turn-out gear (\$219,000.00);
- Currently, assembling the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget; and,
- The Finance Committee is meeting in April to discuss with the Board, then will follow up with the Union’s Executive Board, and finally with the “shifts”, as I have done in the past.

**3. Mobile Equipment** – [Lohrens & Vacant]

DC Kinsella reported the following:

- The ambulance re-chassis is scheduled for mid-April – completion by Fall Fest;
- A second ambulance will go in for a re-chassis following Fall Fest;
- General information – delivery of a new truck is estimated to be thirty (30) months out;
- The Rosenbauer ladder truck is back in service, but has a small issue with the exhaust brake; and,
- Still investigating the trans control module issue.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** [Continued]**4. Communications – [Lohrens]**

DC Kinsella informed the Board of the following :

- Problems still exist with the Will County 911 System – working with the LCC; and,
- The radios are on order and waiting for delivery.

Chief Fierce added the following information:

- The Will County ETSB is taking a “hands on” approach with the staff and Motorola;
- The hardware (servers) cannot handle the day-to-day operations and maintenance of updates; and,
- Motorola will install two (2) additional servers in for free.

**5. Real Estate – [Jacobs & Minogue]**

Chief Fierce reported the following:

- Station 73 – regarding the roof damage from the storm, the equipment and supplies are scheduled to be delivered next week.

**6. Museum & FPD Historical Committee – [Vacant]**

No report.

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS:**

None presented.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Trustee Minogue acknowledged receipt of an email from Lt. Anderson regarding response on a medical call and would like to suggest the entire email be included in the Minutes. Trustee Minogue continued on with the following comments:

- Staffing seems to be part of the concern --
  - The Board takes that very seriously
  - Will look into this particular issue, as well as possible operational issues;
- The Board takes their responsibility to the District seriously regarding fire and EMS services, as well as their fiduciary responsibility to the tax payer –
  - Includes working within the fiscal budget (financial constraints);
- At the end of the email, Lt. Anderson wrote “It would be a dagger publicly, and the outcry if these facts found their way into the minds and mouths of the citizens of this Fire District would be monumental, should they learn how ill protected they in fact are.”; and,
- If that occurred, would certainly encourage the public to participate in a meeting to hear both sides.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Lt. Jeff Wander expressed the following concerns/questions regarding turn-out gear:

- Membership is concerned with the type of gear –
  - Brand
  - Is each set from “head to toe”, helmets, gloves, etc.
  - Suggested forming a committee to determine what the members would like to wear, and;
  - Thanked Chief Fierce for submitting a Grant application for new turn-out gear.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** [Continued]

Lt. Brian Adcock added that the members prefer the “Morning Pride” brand.

Chief Sean Fierce stated the following:

- Turn-out gear is subject to group purchase or bid --
  - Cannot specify brand – brand neutral
  - Explained the process –
    - Must follow the laws subject to Fire Districts
    - Will go with the lowest responsible bid; and,
  - Flexibility to choose different boot brands;
- Grant request is for \$219,000.00 –
  - 90% of total cost
  - Sixty-six (66) sets to be ordered; and,
  - If Grant is denied, only twelve (12) sets would be ordered.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

Trustee Spano “thanked” the membership for transparency regarding the call time (Anderson email). Also stated that public safety is the Board’s number one (1) concern, along with support for public transparency and that participation is encouraged.

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

Trustee Jacobs asked if the Union’s request for a Closed Session was still desired.

On behalf of the Union, a member said no, due to the fact the President and Vice-President were unable to be at this meeting because of illness.

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:**

At 5:29 P.M., a **Motion** was made by Trustee James McGeever, Jr., 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

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Secretary, Board of Trustees

Transcription by: Carolyn J. Williams, Admin. Support/Receptionist