

**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-Three, 24420 S. LaGrange Road, Frankfort, Illinois, in said District at 5:00 P.M., on the 14th day of November, 2023.

**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, Justin Lohrens, James McGeever, Jr., Michael Minogue and Larry Nice, Sr.

Chief Sean Fierce and DC Paul Kinsella were also in attendance.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

1. Regular BOT Meeting, October 17, 2023

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Michael Minogue, seconded by Trustee James McGeever, Jr., to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 17, 2023, 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 Justin Lohrens, to authorize payment of the Fire Service and Ambulance Fund bills, totaling \$582,765.23, as presented. President Jacobs called for a roll call vote: upon the roll being called, the following Trustees voted aye: Robert Jacobs, Justin Lohrens, James McGeever, Jr., Michael Minogue and Larry Nice, Sr. All in favor. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Ordinance #258:** Discussion/Approval on an Ordinance for Levying and Assessing of Taxes for the Frankfort Fire Protection District, Will County, Illinois for the year 2023.
2. **Health Benefit Plan Renewals:** Discussion/Approval on Renewal of Medical, Dental and Ancillary Health Plans.

**NEW BUSINESS:** [Continued]**Ordinance #258 –**

Trustee Jacobs presented and read Ordinance #258.

Chief Fierce explained the Levy Ordinance and the “Black Box” requirements.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., seconded by Trustee Justin Lohrens, to adopt Ordinance #258, as presented. President Jacobs called for a roll call vote: upon the roll being called, the following Trustees voted aye: Robert Jacobs, Justin Lohrens, James McGeever, Jr., Michael Minogue and Larry Nice, Sr. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Health Benefit Plan Renewals –**

Chief Fierce explained the following regarding the Health Benefit Plan renewals:

- Have had BlueCross/BlueShield coverage for a number of years –
  - There would be a 1.23% increase, about \$33,000.00 (\$20,000.00 health coverage and \$11,000.00 for dental) - vision was not included,
  - Final cost about \$1,868,000.00;
- United Health Care also submitted a quote that would result in substantial savings;
- Insurance Committee met and discussed the renewals –
  - United Health Care –
    - Although substantial savings (about \$500,000.00), quote received too close to the current December insurance renewal date,
    - Unknown concerns regarding medications, networks, providers, etc.,
    - More research needs to be done,
    - Possibly revisit in the spring; and,
  - The Committee and Chief Fierce recommended to renew with BlueCross/BlueShield\Insurance.

Trustee Lohrens mentioned that UHC operates much differently in the approval process than BC/BS.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Justin Lohrens, seconded by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., to approve the BlueCross/BlueShield Health Benefit Plan renewals, as presented. President Jacobs called for a roll call vote: upon the roll being called, the following Trustees voted aye: Robert Jacobs, Justin Lohrens, James McGeever, Jr., Michael Minogue and Larry Nice, Sr. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Chief Fierce advised the Board of the following:

- Promotions to take place tonight;
- Regarding injuries, three (3) members will be returning within the next six (6) weeks;
- Lt. Hansen’s pension Hearing has been scheduled; and,
- The three (3) new hires have started and are doing well.

**2. Finance – [Jacobs & Minogue]**

Chief Fierce provided the following information:

- The Pension levy request from the Union was a little lower than anticipated;
- Will levy for 100% of what was requested;
- The Pension Fund is 92-94% funded, which is better than most departments;

**2. Finance** [Continued]

- Have received all revenue from property taxes;
- EMS revenue is down slightly; and,
- GEMT is down substantially – retrieval of information is delayed.

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

DC Kinsella reported the following:

- ??; and,
- Working on listing the old engine.

**4. Communications** – [Lohrens]

DC Kinsella stated that he is waiting on the \$15,000.00 Grant from the County that is “earmarked” to purchase new portable radios.

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

Chief Fierce advised that he is working on the contract for the roof – defining the scope of work to be done and reported that 97% of the remodeling work is done at Station 73.

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

Chief Fierce reported that a small ceremony was conducted by Don Lorenz’s daughter and family as they placed some of his ashes under his memorial brick. The Foundation also donated a bench, honoring his 52 years of service to the District, in the memorial garden.

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS:**

1. Gear Wash, \$15,750.00 [Managed Plan – Cleaning, Inspection & Repairs]

Chief Fierce addressed the following:

- Explained the gear wash procedures and the NFPA requirements;
- Board discussed the following –
  - The gear wash purchase, cleaning, NFPA and annual inspections.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., seconded by Trustee James McGeever, Jr., to approve the Gear Wash purchase order, in the amount of \$15,750.00, for a Managed Plan that includes cleaning, inspection and repairs of equipment, as presented. President Jacobs called for a roll call vote: upon the roll being called, the following Trustees voted aye: Robert Jacobs, Justin Lohrens, James McGeever, Jr., Michael Minogue and Larry Nice, Sr. All in favor. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chief Fierce advised the Board that a “thank you” letter was received from Coal City FPD/Wilmington FPD for the two (2) days of station coverage we provided, due to the off-duty death of a young firefighter.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No members of the public present.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

None voiced.

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

None requested.

**POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION:**

N/A

At 5:25 P.M., a **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., seconded by Trustee Michael Minogue, to take a brief recess. President Jacobs called for a voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

At 6:00 P.M., a **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., seconded by Trustee Justin Lohrens, to reconvene the meeting. President Jacobs called for a voice. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY** – (to begin at 18:00)

1. Kevin Linhart – Promotion to Battalion Chief
2. John Gritsuk – Promotion to Lieutenant
3. Robert Price – Promotion to Engineer

Chief Fierce welcomed everyone to the promotion ceremony and asked for a moment of silence to honor Chicago Firefighter David Price, who lost his life yesterday, while on a fire call.

Chief Fierce introduced himself, Commissioner Dirk Van Beek, DC Paul Kinsella and the Trustees. He also noted that other members from various fire service organizations were also present to lend their support.

Prior to the Oaths of Office, Chief Fierce spoke about the accomplishments of each promotion honoree.

Trustee Dirk Van Beek administered the Oaths of Office.

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:**

At 6:19 P.M., a **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., seconded by Trustee James McGeever, Jr., 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