

**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 4:30 P.M., on the 11th day of September, 2023.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M., and a roll call was taken.

Upon the roll being called, the following Trustees answered present:  
Robert Jacobs, Justin Lohrens, Michael Minogue and Larry Nice, Sr.

Chief Fierce, DC Kinsella, LTs. Brian Adcock, Kevin Linhart, Phil Scaletta, Jeff Wander, ENGs. John Gritsuk, William Kramer, Jacob Smith, FFs Kyle Boll, Anthony DiVito, James Finnegan, James Jensen, Andrew Schofield, Jason Vaccaro, Union President Nick Sunzere and George Faris were also in attendance.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Minogue requested a “moment of silence” to honor the firemen/policemen and all who died in the 911 tragedy.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None voiced.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion/Appointment of a Trustee to Fill Vacant Seat

Trustee Jacobs read State Statute 5 ILCS 120/2 [c] (3).

Trustee Jacobs presented the following information:

- The vacant Trustee position was advertised on the website;
- Eleven (11) applications were received and reviewed by the Trustees – all were very qualified;
- Board selected Trustees Jacobs and Minogue to determine the five (5) best qualified to interview – some had backgrounds in fire service, insurance and other various professions;
- Interviews were conducted on September 9, 2023; and,
- The individual recommended to fill the vacant Trustee position will be presented in the Closed Session portion of the meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None received.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

George Faris, an applicant, presented the following information:

- Unhappy he was not granted an interview, even though he had over 2000 votes in the last consolidated election, and had the endorsements of Mayor Ogle and Village Trustees;
- Has an MBA and Bachelor of Science degrees;
- Is an Adjunct Professor at Governors State University;
- Delayed submitting his application due to the fact he was not sure the process would be “legitimate” and transparent; and,
- Would be happy to help in the future, in any way he can.

Union President Nick Sunzere expressed the following concerns:

- Questioned why all eleven (11) applicants were not interviewed;
- What criteria was used to “narrow down” the applicants to five (5);
- Stated that fire experience is not necessary to qualify for a Trustee position;
- Feels the District does not what to progress – manning the same since 1975;
- George Faris had over 2000 votes in the last consolidated election and yet no interview because George was backed by the Union – going to back George in the next election;
- Accused District of only granting interviews to people they know;
- Disappointed and embarrassed to work for the Frankfort Fire Protection District;
- Trustees should appoint better people or resign; and,
- Will continue to attend the meetings.

In rebuttal, Trustee Jacobs stated the following:

- Trustees spent a lot time on reviewing the eleven (11) applications in order to determine the best candidate;
- Five (5) candidates were then selected for in-depth interviews; and,
- The recommendation will be deliberated in Closed Session – not a forgone conclusion.

Lt. Brian Adcock addressed the following concerns:

- Reiterated that eleven (11) people applied for the Fire Chief position and the Board refused to interview all applicants;
- Now the Board is passing up highly educated candidates, i.e., one person with an MBA and another a doctor; and
- Feels that Mike Kavanagh, a former Trustee, will be back on the Board.

**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)

At 4:50 P.M., a **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., seconded by Trustee Michael Minogue, that the Board meet in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Litigation, Real Estate, Personnel and any other Frankfort Fire Protection District business that is allowed to be discussed in Closed Session under the Open Meetings Act. President Jacobs called for a roll call vote: upon the roll being called, the

following Trustees voted aye: Robert Jacobs, Justin Lohrens, Michael Minogue and Larry Nice, Sr. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

At 5:36 P.M., a **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., seconded by Trustee Michael Minogue, to reconvene the Special Board Meeting. President Jacobs called for a voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Trustee Jacobs stated that candidate proposed to fill the vacant Trustee position has an extensive background in firefighting – has been a Chief in-training on the Oak Lawn Department and Asst. Chief in Hometown.

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

Prior to adjourning, Trustee Jacobs asked if there were any other comments.

Trustee Nice commented that people should show up to vote when there is an election and in response, Lt. Brian Adcock stated that “voting” is not the problem. A disagreement ensued between Union President Sunzere and Trustee Nice regarding the Consolidated Election process, where upon Union President Sunzere spoke in a disrespectful tone and profane manner.

Trustee Jacobs called for adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:**

At 4:50 P.M., a **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., seconded by Trustee Justin Lohrens, 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, Administrative Receptionist