

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 One, 333 West Nebraska Street, Frankfort, Illinois, in said District at 5:00 P.M., on the 21st day of September, 2021.

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:

William H. Hoffmeister, Robert Jacobs, Michael Kavanagh, Larry Nice, Sr. and Donna Vegter.

Chief Sean Fierce, DC Paul Kinsella, LTs Brian Adcock, Jose Arroyo, Michael Kelch, Nick Peters, ENGs Derek Anderson, Phil Scaletta, and FF/EMTs Paul Kelch, Bill Kramer, David Scanlan, Jake Smith, were also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lt. Brian Adcock stated the following:

- Email inviting all members of the Department to apply;
- Received letter from Trustee Jacobs that an interview would be scheduled in two (2) weeks;
- Received email from Trustee Vegter stating my interview would not happen because I and other applicants did not meet the 5-year command experience criteria;
- Two (2) applicants were interviewed, even though they did not have the 5-year command experience; and,
- Disappointed that Chief Fierce was almost guaranteed the job prior to the first (1st) email that was sent out for interview.

Lt. Adcock also stated that he agreed with the Union that the Battalion Chief test was flawed and interpreted the letter, notifying him that he would not be interviewed, to say that the candidates were failures for not passing.

In reference to the Battalion Chief's test, Trustee Vegter stated, "No one called anyone a failure".

Trustee Vegter pointed out that the Personnel Committee agreed to meet on September 15th, with the applicants not getting interviews, to explain the Board's position. All applicants who did not receive an interview, received a letter acknowledging their accomplishments and attributes. E-Board members (Lt. Sunzere and FF/EMT Scanlan), who were not applicants, accepted their invitation. Additionally, one (1) applicant accepted the Committee's offer to meet and did so on September 18th.

In reference to the interview process, Trustee Jacobs stated:

Sent out first (1st) email announcing Fire Chief vacancy and inviting members to apply; As the current FFPD's job description is out of date, and with experience being part of the criteria for interview selection, revisions are required for the job description;

- Trustee Jacobs consulted with Chief Grady (Director of the IFCA) and Trustee Vegter reached out to other departments regarding criteria requirements;
- Command experience of 5-10 years is criteria in job descriptions received; and,

PUBLIC COMMENTS: [Continued]

- Sent out a 2nd email to applicants with some command experience would be granted an interview – mindful, not to waste anyone’s time.

Trustee Jacobs stated that as a result of the resumes, the Board learned just how fortunate this Department is to have such well-educated and experienced personnel for the future.

Lt. Nick Sunzere stated the following:

- The Chief interview process was flawed –
 - First email sent inviting all members to apply;
 - Second email adding command experience criteria – eliminates most applicants from interviewing;
 - Interviewed Asst. Chief Kinsella and BC Stukel even though they did not have the full 5-year command experience; and,
 - Spoke to members of the Board several months ago that Chief Fierce was already getting the job; and,
 - Need a succession plan going forward;
- Poor communication exists between the Union and the District;
- Felt that the Board owes Interim Chief Fierce “an apology for putting him in this position”, although, “there is no contentious relationship between the Union and Sean – working great together, all good now”;
- “Used Battalion Chief test against us - disenamoured half the department – gave us a bad test”;
- Covid 19 – Trustees to be included in weekly testing, if not vaccinated;
- “Members are upset – they don’t support the Board because you don’t support them”. “You think they will support you in the next election?”
- “The Board takes no responsibility for anything”.

Board responded with the following:

- Do not know why Lt. Sunzere is upset now, when they had a very pleasant and congenial meeting on Friday (September 15th);
- The Personnel Committee invited the applicants who did not receive an interview, to come in and talk. The Committee wanted to encourage members to move forward, which Lt. Sunzere supported; and,
- Other departments would not have interviewed applicants either, if they did not meet the criteria.
- It is the Board’s responsibility to appoint Chief Officers.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular BOT Meeting, August 17, 2021

A **Motion** was made by Trustee William F. Hoffmeister, seconded by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 17, 2021, as presented. President Jacobs called for a voice vote. Trustee Vegter abstained, due to her absence from that meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

1. Board/Expenditure Report

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Robert Jacobs, seconded by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr., to authorize payment of the Fire Service and Ambulance Fund bills, totaling \$186,479.60, as presented. President Jacobs called for a roll call vote: upon the roll being called, the following Trustees voted aye: William F. Hoffmeister, Robert Jacobs, Michael Kavanagh, Larry Nice, Sr. and Donna Vegter. All in favor. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL:

1. Discussion/Updates on Miscellaneous Personnel Items

DC Kinsella reported that three (3) members are still off on Workmen’s Comp. and are scheduled to return in a few months. Two (2) additional members are off due to Covid.

Chief Fierce has met with the Union Pres., Nick Sunzere, regarding the retaking of the BC test – working out dates.

SWEAR-IN CHIEF OFFICER(S):

Trustee Jacobs stated the Swearing-In of the Chief Officers will take place at a later date, when the families are available.

FINANCE:

Nothing new to report.

MOBILE EQUIPMENT:

DC Kinsella advised the Board that the vendor is waiting on components for the new ladder truck. Delivery is anticipated close to the original delivery date.

COMMUNICATION:

Chief Fierce provided the following information:

- Still waiting on the Grant for the radios;
- Consulting with a USDD firm regarding the installation of a station alerting system at all five (5) stations. It is quite expensive – a basic system for Station 72, would cost about \$27,000.00;
- My appointment to the ETSB should take place next month;
- In reference to the consolidation efforts –
 - All fire agencies in Will County are more consistent in answering calls;
 - Categorization of calls has improved due to better training; and,
- Squad 71 has ben rebranded to Engine 71 (E71) for vehicle consistency.

REAL ESTATE:

Chief Fierce advised the Board of the following:

- The roof bid packets are available;
- Hosting a roof vendor open house “walk through” on Friday morning; and,
- Awaiting confirmation of delivery for Station 72’s new garage doors.

MUSEUM & FFD HISTORICAL COMMITTEE:

Trustee Nice “thanked” Lt. Brian Adcock for all the work done on the Museum.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS:

1. Chandler Services, \$30,000.00 [Repair Body of Arrow XT PUC (S71)]

DC Kinsella reported that the body mounts for Squad 71 could be fixed at Pierce’s Service Center (Chandler Services, Inc., in Mokena).

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr, seconded by Trustee William F. Hoffmeister, to approve the Chandler Services purchase order, in the amount of \$30,000.00, to repair the body of the Arrow XT PUC vehicle (S71), as presented. President Jacobs called for a roll call vote: upon the roll being called, the following Trustees voted aye: William F. Hoffmeister, Robert Jacobs, Michael Kavanagh, Larry Nice, Sr. and Donna Vegter. All in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None received.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

The following comments were made:

- Trustee Nice – reiterated his “thank you” to Lt. Adcock;
- Trustee Jacobs –
 - “Thanked” the members for attending the meeting;
 - Members always welcome to attend the Board Meetings;
 - Accepts responsibility for the miscommunication; and,
 - Prays for the members well-being.

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

None requested.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:

At 5:42 P.M., a **Motion** was made by Trustee Larry Nice, Sr, seconded by Trustee William F. Hoffmeister, 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