

FRANKFORT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Fire Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes

Fire Station One

333 West Nebraska Street – Frankfort, IL 60423

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The President called the meeting to order at 9:58 A.M.

II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Raymond Garritano
Heather Dauber
Michael Minogue

Chief Sean Fierce, DC Paul Kinsella and Attorney Lisa Calloway were also in attendance.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

President Minogue invited Attorney Lisa Calloway from Engler, Calloway, Baasten & Sraga LLC, to review the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Open Meetings Act and/or any other information pertinent of the Commissioners. Since public officials are under more scrutiny these days, it behooves Boards to be more transparent, thus create “Sunshine Laws”. These laws are an effort to prevent corruption of government actions and with officials – provide open government/transparency.

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) –
 - This Act allows the public access to public documents; and,
 - FOIA does allow personal information to be redacted from the requested document.
- Open Meetings Act –
 - A “meeting” is defined as “the gathering of the majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussion of public business”;
 - Must have one (1) Annual Meeting per year and be published 48 hours prior to the meeting;
 - “Special” meetings also require 48 hours notification prior to the meeting, unless it is an emergency;
 - To change regular meeting dates, a 10-day notice is needed;
 - A public notification must be posted prior to a meeting; and,
 - A formal action (motion/vote) can only be taken in “open session” of the meeting.
- Closed Session (Executive Session) –
 - A formal action (motion/vote) cannot be taken while in the “closed session” portion of the meeting, only a general consensus can be taken;
 - Closed Session Minutes must be reviewed every six (6) months and a determination made to “release to the public” or “not to release to the public”;
 - Closed Session Minutes can be released when the issue/problem has been resolved – often, litigation of some sort is involved;
 - FOIA can not demand “not released Closed Session Minutes” be released;
 - Redacted “Closed Session” Minutes can be released.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. March 8, 2022 -- Regular Meeting

- A **Motion** was made by Commissioner Raymond Garritano and seconded by Commissioner Michael Minogue to:
“Approve the Regular March 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes, as presented.”

President Minogue requested the Secretary to call for a roll call vote. Upon the roll being called, the following Commissioners voted:

AYE: Raymond Garritano, Heather Dauber and Michael Minogue
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

The President declared the Motion carried.

V. CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fierce advised the Commissioners of the following;

- On June 6, 2022, only two (2) Firefighters were hired from the current Eligibility List to fill the two (2) vacancies on the roster, due to budget restraints;
- The “trained” labor pool has dried up due to no classes for Firefighters and EMTs during Covid 19 and numerous retirements;
- At the June 22, 2022 regular BOT Meeting, Derek Anderson will be promoted to LT. and Josh Seroka to ENG. Company and Individual Commendations will be awarded;
- LT. Brian Adcock organized and the FFPD hosted a large conference on behalf of the ATF and the Chicago Division of Fire Investigations;
- In reference to hiring personnel –
 - Currently, a Firefighter Certificate and an Illinois Paramedic License is required;
 - Some departments' alternative hiring programs –
 - Complete firefighter application and the department will send you to the Fire Academy and Paramedic school;
 - If a Paramedic already, the department will send you to the Fire Academy; or,
 - If you are a Firefighter, a “basic” EMT, and already enrolled in Paramedic school, you will be allowed to finish Paramedic school, as a condition of employment.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Dates

- September 13, 2022
- December 13, 2022
- March 14, 2023
- June 14, 2023

The Commissioners discussed the 2022-2023 meeting dates and found that the June 14 date is incorrect, it should be June 13.

- A **Motion** was made by Commissioner Raymond Garritano and seconded by Commissioner Heather Dauber to:
“Approve the 2022-2023 meeting dates with the noted date correction.”

VI. NEW BUSINESS: [Continued]

President Minogue requested the Secretary to call for a roll call vote. Upon the roll being called, the following Commissioners voted:

AYE: Raymond Garritano, Heather Dauber and Michael Minogue
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

The President declared the Motion carried.

2. Updates on Current Hiring List

Currently, hiring two (2) experienced firefighters from other departments (Joseph Baron, a resident of Frankfort and Hayden Peters, son of Lt. Nick Peters). Both have taken a pay-cut to come to the FFPD.

3. Discussion on Apprenticeship

Chief Fierce provided the following information --

- Very interested in starting an Apprenticeship Program for our Cadets;
- Explained the possible program and qualifications;
- Preliminary discussions with the Union are very favorable;
- It would be a way of having a "pipeline" of firefighters available when vacancies/retirements occur;
- The Cadets range in age from 15-21;
- Fall Fest Carnival money goes to support the current Cadet Program and its expenses;
- Lt. Brian Adcock is in charge of the Cadet Program; and,
- Possibly have "Cadet Preference Points" be added to their final score when tested.

Chief Fierce requested the Commissioners to read/review the "Promotion Act" and to consider re-instituting the awarding of "Preference Points" for the Cadets.

VII. CLOSED SESSION – If needed, Exemption under employment matters.

None requested.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

- A **Motion** was made at 11:20 A.M., by Commissioner Heather Dauber and seconded by Commissioner Raymond Garritano to:
"Adjourn the meeting."

President Minogue called for a voice vote. All in favor.

The President declared the Motion carried.

Chief Sean Fierce, Recording Secretary



Secretary, Board of Fire Commissioners

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