

LEMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CALL TO ORDER: Trustee Joseph Falese called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lemont Fire Protection District to order on December 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM. The meeting was conducted at 15900 New Avenue, Lemont, IL.

Trustee Falese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: On call of roll Trustees Dan Tholotowsky, Michael Smollen, Joseph Falese, Raymond Negrete, Linda Bernacchi.

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Dan Tasso, Deputy Chief Matt Peksa, Deputy Chief John Truffa, Attorney John Motylinski, and Recording Secretary Sandy Dominik. Resident John Goushas, Lt Palcu, FF Stefanelli.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Resident John Goushas congratulated the Board on being awarded the 46 million dollar Bond Referendum and expressed concerns of hiring experienced local contractors to oversee the construction process. Mr. Goushas questioned attorney Motylinski what would happen if another fire department wanted to annex their coverage, would Lemont Fire District lose a station. Attorney Motylinski stated the facts be reviewed at that time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve November 14, 2024, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve November 14, 2024, special meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Trustee Negrete read the bill list totaling \$1,555,232.25 that included \$41,623.76 of FY25 prepaid bills. Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Chief reported to the Board that as of November 30th, 2024, we are 92 percent through the calendar year in which we have collected over 78 percent of Budget Revenue which included 80 percent from property taxes and 14 percent from ambulance fees. The District has expensed 85 percent of budgeted expenditure: 77 percent going toward personal costs and 8 percent toward liability expenditures, leaving ending fund balance just under 11.3 million dollars. Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the financial report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD: Trustee Falese publicly thanked the Voters for passing the referendum in this historical time for the community and the Village of Lemont, looking ahead to the future changes for Lemont and the Fire District. Trustee Falese thanked the District with appreciation for the Miracle on New Avenue evening and wished all a happy holiday season. Trustee Tholotowsky thanked all who worked selflessly, Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Firefighter's Union, and all who made it possible to pass a successful referendum. Trustee Tholotowsky reminds the public; Keep the wreath Red, Water your live Christmas trees daily and keep away from heat sources, space heaters need space and don't overload outlets during the holiday season and wished all a Merry Christmas.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Motylinski reported the General Assembly met for their veto session with no action to impact operations and will keep the Board informed of any changes in the next regular session. Speaking with Tom Gilbert, he sends his warmest regards for a happy holiday season.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Deputy Chief Peksa informed the Board; a Multi-Agency Drill was conducted at One Oak. We are in the process of rolling out the Fleetio software for the District. The probie firefighter will begin his rotation on Gold Shift. We have 2 Firefighters on Work Comp. DC Peksa reported we have logged 316 calls for November, pacing about the same as last year at this time.

Deputy Chief Truffa greeted the Board with holiday wishes and updated on the radio communication project; the microwave equipment has been installed in the tollway towers and station three. The installation for the highway connection will be completed by January or February. We have begun the Keep the Wreath Red campaign. We are collecting toys for the Toy Express Children's Charity until 1-4-25. We have been very active in the community this holiday season serving lunch at the Senior Luncheon and participating in the Toy drive. After 6 years, Fire Inspector Brian Madden will be leaving next week, as he is switching roles at his full-time job.

Fire Chief Tasso would like to recognize Battalion Chief Bettenhausen, (30), Lt Fischer, Lt Palcu, FF Armor, (24) and FF Kingman, (15) on their work anniversaries this month. Chief Tasso is happy to report, the District has received the annual tax levy request from Lemont Firefighters pension fund for a total just under 1.9 million dollars received 11/22/24 and was included in the 2025 budget. No action taken. Chief stated we are working with James Howard, reviewing the 2023 audit and anticipate finalizing and bringing to the Board for approval at the next Board Meeting. Meetings are scheduled with Spear Financial and James Howard to complete the credit rating, which is required to accept the bonds awarded for the Referendum. The Chief informed the Board, we received seven responses for RFQ for construction manager, after meeting with Jason from FGM - we will be inviting 4 companies back for a 2nd interview in early January and then bringing a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for final approval at the next regular Trustee Meeting.

BUDGET HEARING: A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to open the Budget Hearing, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

Upon no testimony given, a motion was made by Trustee Smollen to close the Budget Hearing, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to Adopt Ordinance 24-06, Budget Fiscal Year 2025, as prepared by Mr. James Howard, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to ratify the cost of the Fall Newsletter with Creative Entourage in the amount of \$7,342.80, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the cost of FPB HVAC Roof Top Unit with Gene May Heating & Cooling in amount of \$3,480.00, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to ratify the purchase of the annual subscription with Intuit for QuickBooks in the amount of \$3,292.00, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the cost of 4 snowblowers from Shorewood Home & Auto in the amount of \$6,396.00, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Chief Tasso stated \$6,123.50 will be covered by IPRF Grant with the remaining \$272.50 covered by Risk Management Fund. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to ratify the cost of upgraded ball valves with Air One in the amount of \$3,592.00, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to ratify the cost of an emergency repair to the ladder truck with JX Truck Center in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the purchase of a set of Turnout Gear for FF Atwood, with MES in the amount of \$4,955.00, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to adopt Ordinance 24-03, BOT schedule of regular meeting dates FY 2025, as presented, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to adopt Ordinance 24-04, Levy Ordinance, as presented, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to adopt Ordinance 24-05, Salary Appendix A, as presented, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.