

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Northwest Homer FPD
January 23, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER – by Trustee Flemming at 8:00a.m.

PLEDGE – lead by Trustee Flemming.

ROLL CALL – In attendance – Chief Vrba, Deputy Chief Fonfara, Attorney Flaherty, Trustee Flemming, Trustee Spontak, Trustee Kuzma, Secretary Olisar, shift crews were also present: a quorum was met.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public present

APPROVAL - MINUTES – December 19, 2022 – Trustee Spontak motioned as presented, Trustee Flemming 2nd, discussions; all in favored – MC.

APPROVAL – DECEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL REPORTS – The board reviewed the October Financials: Q&A followed. Trustee Flemming talked about the current bank % rates. An email will be sent to BMO to acquire better rates on the accounts. The board further discussed revenue & payments for GEMT. Trustee Flemming motioned, Trustee Spontak 2nd, discussions; all in favored; roll call: 3 Ayes – MC.

CHIEFS REPORTS – Chief Vrba briefed the trustees on the following:

Personnel/Other –

- Total calls for 2022 were 2024 – 1411 EMS with 1006 transports to the hospital & 613 Fire.
- Chief Vrba dispersed and discussed his sheets of annual stats: structure losses, apparatus reports, responses to Victorian Inn, I-355 responses, and Trouble & Fire response calls.
- Chief Vrba would like to move forward and send out a letter to the next candidate Andrew Weiss who is currently a part time employee and works the contract. The board had no objections.
- Chief Vrba brought on another part time employee. He started orientation the week of January 16.
- Regarding Andres Medical billing service, they have agreed to reduce their fees to 3%.
- Chief Vrba is still pursuing employing future part time employees.

Equipment/ Buildings –

- The reserve ambulance 1725 is back in service. The engine was mostly rebuilt at a cost of 12K approximate. While on a call, they had issues going to the hospital. D.C. Fonfara will notify Freeway Ford.
- One of the other ambulance was down for a short time with siren repairs.

Community-Other

- The villas of Old Oak are moving forward with 1 foundation poured at this point.
- The chiefs have a meeting with the highway department on February 1 regarding moving forward on widening 135th Street from Smith Road to almost Archer Road-four lanes: Q&A followed. The chiefs will provide future updates to the board as they become available.
- There are no updates to report on the Bell Road and 143rd-Street project.
- No updates to report on the former Purple Onion Restaurant.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT -

- The CPI was just released. Last year was 7%. The current rate is 6.5%. The board will have to decide what to do about the 2023 levy, whether-or-not the board wishes to comply with the truth and taxation.
- Shawn will reach out to Victorian regarding the annual payment to Northwest Homer.
- The department received notice from the county that Northwest Homer is included in a tax objection lawsuit this year. The tax objector states Northwest Homer has an excess accumulation of funds in the ambulance and tort fund. James is working on this matter. Q&A followed. Shawn believes they may have our district confused with Homer District. He will do a further follow up with the tax objections lawyer of the business to get clarifications. More to follow as they become available.

TRUSTEE REPORTS – Trustee Flemming spoke about the % rates on the current accounts. He directed Betty to contact the bank. An email was sent to the bank asking if the department can receive a better rate. BMO returned stating there was nothing they could do, but we could switch to other money markets paying 1.5%. Trustee Flemming is waiting to hear back from the supervisor with BMO about establishing higher rates on the accounts. At that time, he will pass on his findings to Betty who will distribute to the other trustees and chiefs. D.C. Fonfara did go on to state BMO does collateralize all the funds we have with the bank. Everyone present discussed Illinois Funds as well as other institutions that are paying higher rates at this time. The Board may consider doing RFPs. The board will discuss further at the February 28th trustee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS – Union Contract – Chief Vrba will go to closed session later in the meeting to discuss the union contract.

NEW BUSINESS –

Swear in FF/Paramedic D. Broniewicz – Attorney Flaherty swore Mr. Broniewicz in. His family was present for the event.

Adopt Amended Ambulance Ordinance fees - Ordinance 2023-01- Chief Vrba explained the changes. Trustee Kuzma motioned, Trustee Spontak 2nd, discussions continued; all in favored; roll call: 3 ayes – MC.

Approve December 19, 2022, closed session minutes – Trustee Kuzma motioned to approve and keep closed, Trustee Flemming 2nd, discussions; all in favored – MC.

CLOSED SESSION – At 8:50am, Trustee Kuzma motioned to go to closed session to discuss the current Union Contract collective bargaining issues, Trustee Flemming 2nd, all in favored – MC. At 9:50am, Trustee Kuzma motioned to come out of closed session, Trustee Flemming 2nd, all in favored – MC. The regular trustee meeting reconvened.

Next Trustee Meeting – Trustee Flemming motioned to move the February 20, 2023, meeting to February 28, 2023, Trustee Kuzma 2nd, all in favored – MC.

ADJOURNMENT – Trustee Flemming motioned, Trustee Kuzma 2nd – January 23, 2023, regular trustee meeting adjourned at 9:50am – MC.


Respectfully given Trustee Spontak – Trustee/Secretary