

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Northwest Homer FPD
Minutes of December 18, 2023

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

PLEDGE – lead by Trustee Flemming.

ROLL CALL: Chief Vrba, Deputy Chief Fonfara, Attorney Flaherty, Trustee Flemming, Trustee Spontak, Trustee Kuzma, Accountant O’Sullivan, Secretary Olisar. The board established a quorum. Others present, Lts. Windberg, Krupa, retired member Bob Payne.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

ACCEPT/APPROVE MINUTES– of November 14, 2023 – Trustee Spontak motioned as presented, Trustee Flemming 2nd, discussions; all in favored – MC.

ACCEPT/APPROVE - FINANCIAL REPORTS – for November 2023 – Accountant O’Sullivan briefed the board on said financials presented; Q&A session followed. Trustee Flemming motioned, Trustee Spontak 2nd, discussions; all in favored – Roll call - 3 Ayes noted – MC.

CHIEFS REPORTS – Chief Vrba briefed the trustees with his operations for the month.

Personnel/Other –

Total runs for November – 188 (148 EMS / 40 FIRE) - YTD – 1975; 162 over last year: estimated to run over 2100 calls for 2023.

The Silver cross paramedic program is ending this month.

Buildings –

The windows and siding are complete. The coping on the roof will be completed within the next 2 weeks. Lt. Windberg is getting quotes for a Railing around the HVAC unit at station 1 and a ladder to the top of the hose tower.

Various other windows at station 1 may be slated for replacement this spring.

The entry doors at 2 is another item for replacement.

Community/Construction –

Gas N Wash continues to move forward at 143rd and Gougar rd.

The small strip plaza across from Blueberry Hill Pancake on Bell Rd has no movement to date.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT –

Attorney Flaherty will contact Victorian Village regarding the annual voluntary payment to Northwest Homer.

The veto session will meet again on January 16, 2024.

The paid leave act takes effect on January 1, 2024. When law makers session returns January 16, 2024, one of the topics members will discuss is, will the fire districts be a part of the paid leave act requirement?

More information to follow next month.

Ottosen Law will be increasing their hourly rates starting January 1st. The firm will no longer have a retainer fee. If the board chooses to keep the retainer, it will be at a higher rate. Q&A followed. Shawn will bring a retained proposal to the January meeting.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Trustee Kuzma will not be at the trustee meeting in January and February. All three appreciated the turkeys and hams provided.

OLD BUSINESS –

Lieutenants list – Chief Vrba and Deputy Chief Fonfara updated the board on the timeline: Q&A session followed. The written exam is the final process step: Candidates need to score 70% to pass. The Board of Fire Commissioners will accept and approve the final Lieutenant’s list on January 8, 2024.

Full time eligibility list/testing –

Complete and approved with 4 candidates – Three on the list are from within and the other from the outside.

Chiefs Severance Package – The board will discuss further later in closed session.

NEW BUSINESS –

Accept/Approve 2024 Meeting dates and times – Motioned by Trustee Kuzma as amended, Trustee Flemming 2nd, discussions; all in favored – MC.

New Chiefs contract – The board will discuss further later in closed session.

CLOSED SESSION – Trustee Flemming moved to go to close session at 8:50am, Trustee Kuzma 2nd, all in favored – MC. At 9:23am the regular board of trustee meeting for December 18, 2023, reconvened. On behalf of the board, Trustee Kuzma authorized continued health insurance for Chief Vrba’s wife through November 30, 2024, using Chief Vrba’s accrued sick leave, Trustee Flemming 2nd, all in favored – MC. Trustee Kuzma further motioned to create the part time position of bureau chief to Ken Vrba effective February 1, 2024, Trustee Flemming 2nd, all in favored – MC.

Next Trustee Meeting – January 22, 2024, at 8:00a.m.

ADJOURNMENT - Motioned by Trustee Flemming, Trustee Kuzma 2nd, - December 18, 2023, regular trustee meeting adjourned at 9:25a.m. – MC.

Respectfully submitted - Trustee Spontak – Trustee/Secretary