

GODFREY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On January 22, 2018, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Godfrey Fire Protection District was held in the Community Room at Liberty Bank, 3112 Godfrey Road, Godfrey, Illinois at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to the regular meeting schedule of the Board.

In attendance were Trustees Ford, Hand, and Rynders. Members of the Fire Department, members of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Village of Godfrey Trustee Mark Stewart, members of the public, Fire Chief Kambarian, and legal counsel for the District were also present for the meeting.

The Chair first called for presentation of the minutes of the meeting held on December 26, 2017. A motion was made by Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Ford, and unanimously approved, to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Trustees held on January 16, 2018 were also presented and upon motion of Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Hand, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the special meeting were approved as presented.

The meeting next turned to the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Ford presented the financial reports including the Financial Statement for the General-Emergency & Rescue-FICA/Medicare-Audit-Insurance Funds dated December 31, 2017 which reflected cash on hand at December 1, 2017 of \$906,305.45, receipts during the month of \$284,367.53, and disbursements during the month of \$214,630.28 leaving a balance at December 31, 2017 of \$976,042.70. Mr. Ford also presented the Cash on Hand Distribution Report reflecting the deposits of the District's funds and the Fund Designation Report. The Treasurer also noted that the Board packet contained the December 2017 Expenditure Report by budget line item for the month, year to date, and remaining budget balance by line item; the Financial Statement for the Pension Fund dated December 31, 2017; the Tax Receipts Summary and Disbursements Report through December 21, 2017; the Receipts & Disbursements YTD Comparison Report for December 2017; the Detail-Receipts & Disbursements Report for December 2017; the

Reconciliation Summary for the Liberty Bank Checking Account for the period ending December 29, 2017; the Reconciliation Detail Report for the Liberty Bank Checking Account for the period ending December 29, 2017; the Reconciliation Summary for the Carrollton Bank Money Market (BLDG) account for the period ending November 30, 2017; the Reconciliation Detail Report for the Carrollton Bank Money Market (BLDG) account for the period ending November 30, 2017; the Carrollton Bank Statement for the Business Premium Money Market account dated November 30, 2017. Thereafter, upon motion of Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Ford, and unanimously approved, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

The Chair next called for approval of bills. A motion was made by Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Ford, and unanimously approved, to pay the bills of the District as same come due in the normal course of business in accordance with the bill payment procedure of the District. The motion was unanimously approved.

The President next turned to the Board of Fire Commissioners report. Mr. Sherman reported that the Board had met prior to the District Board meeting and that no action had been taken by the Board of Fire Commissioners. He noted that the Board did discuss a possible change in hiring eligibility requirements. The Chair then recognized Chief Kambarian who suggested to the Board that the eligibility requirements of the District be revised to eliminate the requirement of Firefighter II Certification or Basic Firefighter Certification as a prerequisite to eligibility testing for a career position. He noted that due to changes by the Office of the State Fire Marshal with regard to the requirements for these certifications, it takes additional time to obtain the certification and requires multiple courses. He noted that a current POC member of the Department is having problems arranging for those classes, and he indicated that all of the career personnel are sent to the Fire Academy for training upon hire regardless of the certification. He suggested that the requirement be eliminated and that consideration be given to providing for preference points for applicants with the certification. Thereafter, a motion was made by Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Ford, and unanimously approved to approved Chief's recommendation.

The meeting next turned to the President's Report. The President reminded the Board that the Illinois Association of Fire Protection District's Winter Conference and Administration Training Session would be held in Fairview Heights on February 16 and 17.

The meeting next turned to the Fire Chief's Report. The Chief presented his report in written form in the usual manner, and he then reported to the Board regarding various items from his report.

The Chief reviewed his meeting schedule since the last regular meeting and noted that he had held a meeting with OSF personnel following the opening of their new prompt care facility in Godfrey.

The Chief reviewed the calls for the month of December which totaled 181 of which 132 were comprised of rescue/EMS calls. There were no major fires.

The Chief extended condolences to Firefighter Jacob Elder, Lieutenant Benjamin Hamburg, and Fire Commissioner Delbert Clemons on the recent passing of family members.

The Chief advised that the District would be obtaining an upgrade to the lighting at both stations under an Ameren program which will replace fluorescent lights with LED lights at no cost to the District.

The Chief advised that Unit 1412 had left the District for repairs at Spartan Motors. He indicated that a video of the truck had been taken before it left the District and that Spartan has indicated that the truck was received and that it is in the process of doing checks on the truck and disassembling the body.

Under grants, the Chief advised that the AFG 2017 Grant application period had opened and that he is planning to make an application for extrication gear or firefighter turnout gear. He requested the Board's direction in this regard.

The Chief advised that the Office of the State Fire Marshal Small Equipment Grant Program is also open and that the same equipment requests would be considered as for the AFG grant with the approval of the Board.

The Chief advised that the District had received a grant in the amount of

\$2,250.00 from the Wal-Mart Foundation to be utilized for EMS equipment. The Chief intends to order a supply of RESQPODs for the RESQCPR System. The balance of the grant would be allocated to the EMS Committee for the purchase of equipment and supplies.

The Chief advised that business inspections within the Village of Godfrey have been completed and that fewer than ten were referred to the Village of Godfrey for further action.

The Chief advised that an order which he had placed for structural fire helmets has been rescinded by the District based on the vendor's refusal to honor a free shield offer with each helmet. The order is currently on hold.

The Chief reported that the District has begun the use of iGel which is a new airway system that is superior to the previous system used and less expensive.

The Chief requested approval for travel expenses for POC Berg in order to allow him to take a class in Marion, Illinois over a two-weekend period. A motion was made by Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Hand, and unanimously approved to approve the request.

A motion was made by Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Ford, and unanimously approved to authorize the Chief to proceed with grant applications as recommended by the Chief for both extrication equipment and personal protective gear.

The President noted that he had encountered an Alton firefighter who extended to the Godfrey Fire Protection District Fire Department thanks for helping the Alton Department recently with two fires in the City.

The Chair next called for the Attorney's Report. The attorney gave a brief summary of legislative proposals which are being pursued by the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts for the current legislative session. The attorney also reported regarding a change which had been made with regard to Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA) due to a legislative change which eliminated the responsibility of the Office of the State Fire Marshal to perform inspections on these facilities. OSFM has referred licensees of CILA facilities to local fire agencies such as the District. It was noted that this will likely result in an additional burden on local fire agencies such as the

District since the inspections are required for license renewal by the facilities.

The meeting next turned to public comments.

The Board first heard from Captain Jake Ringering who commented regarding the recently adopted special order regarding the use of fire apparatus. Mr. Ringering suggested that as a result of the special order these engines have been unmanned on five occasions. He indicated that an issue also arose with regard to use of the pumper apparatus with regard to ice training. He advised that the union understands the special order to prevent the use of the fire pumpers unless there is a threat to life or property. Mr. Ford responded by indicating that it was the Board's intention that the use of the pumpers be limited with regard to extracurricular activities to reduce the possibility of breakdowns. There was discussion between Mr. Ringering and Mr. Ford regarding training without the use of a pumper. Mr. Ringering commented that he felt the union did a good job of policing the use of the pumpers and limiting their use. A question arose from the audience regarding rescinding the recently adopted special order as a result of arrangements having now been made to borrow a pumper from the Village of East Alton. There was further discussion regarding the ice training program and participation by new POC candidates in that training. Mr. Hand commented that a call should have been made to the Board regarding the ice training. It was also noted that this training was scheduled at the time of the Board's meeting to adopt the special order, but the planned training was not raised to the Board during the meeting. The Chief suggested that the special order leaves little discretion for the use of the pumpers in non-emergency situations. There was discussion regarding the decision not to engage in the ice training and Mr. Ford suggested that the special order would allow the use of the pumpers for such training as a business use of the pumpers. Mr. Ringering indicated his belief that the pumpers could only be used for a bonafide threat to life or property. Mr. Ford indicated that had the Board been contacted the ice training it would have approved the usage and that the point of the special order is to preserve the trucks. Chief Kambarian indicated that the decision of the Assistant Chief who canceled the ice training was supported by him. There was a comment from the

audience by a former Alton firefighter regarding the experience of the City of Alton when training had to be curtailed due to truck conditions. A question was raised as to whether there could be training with the City of Alton as an alternative. Mr. Ringering suggested that it could be considered if the Chiefs involved agreed on such arrangements.

The Chair next recognized Bonnie Hartman, a member of the public, who commented regarding recent news articles concerning the District and the Fire Department which she indicated raised the awareness of the public. She commented regarding the trust which the public places in the first responders and in the elected leaders. She commented regarding the tax referendum which approved the increase in the rate limit for the rescue fund and the use of those funds for full time staffing. She criticized the Board for not filling the vacancy. She suggested that the maintenance budget of the District is excessive due to the age of equipment and that alternative maintenance and equipment programs should be reviewed. She advised that she had reviewed the Board minutes for prior months and she suggested that there was a problem with the special order that had been adopted by Board and that the concern over warranty issues with Unit 1412 was a distraction to the Board which should have been seeking an alternative. She suggested that there are short term ways to obtain a replacement vehicle other than looking to area fire departments. Mr. Rynders responded to Ms. Hartman's comments by noting that the Board had considered alternatives and that overtures had been made to the Village of Godfrey Mayor regarding support from the Village. He noted that Mr. Hand had also spoken with the Mayor as well. There then followed a discussion regarding the use of designated funds in order to pay operating expenses and the use of designated funds when the District purchased its last pumper. Mr. Ford explained the use of such funds and he noted that the District continues to seek grants and that it will be making an application for a low interest revolving loan through the Office of the State Fire Marshal of up to \$350,000.00. A comment was made from the audience that the maintenance budget is excessive and that the District should find a used truck. In response to a question the

Chief indicated that the Department had looked at used apparatus with an age range of 2001 to 2007. Mr. Ford noted that the Board is appreciative of the work performed by the members of the Fire Department in maintaining the District's apparatus. Ms. Hartman again commented again regarding the 2016 referendum and the nonuse of reserve fund tax revenues to fund additional personnel and equipment. She questioned whether the District had a capital fund budget. Mr. Ford, in response, noted that the District could segregate the designated funds, but this would cause the District to run out of operating monies resulting in a layoff of firefighters as the only other option to the Board. In response to a question, Mr. Ford suggested that a payment for a new truck would be in the range of \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year. Mr. Ford and Mr. Hand commented that there are insufficient funds for an eighteenth member for the Fire Department and that the effect of the increase in the rescue tax rate limit was to place the District back in a balanced position with current personnel. Mr. Ford referred to a newspaper account which he suggested indicated that at the time of the referendum, the union membership understood the financial situation and that there would not be enough funding to fill the eighteenth vacancy. Hope was expressed that assistance could be obtained from the Village of Godfrey.

The meeting next heard from Village Trustee Mark Stewart who commented regarding the District's situation. He noted that the Village does have a TIF and that there was an intention for some money from the TIF to be available to the Fire Department. He noted his efforts regarding the establishment of sufficient water service in the north side of the Village for fire protection working with Jersey County Rural Water. He suggested that the Village has a limitation of funds just as the District does. He indicated an interest in seeking legislative approval from the General Assembly for a higher tax rate limit for a district such as Godfrey which is nearly coterminous with the Village. He suggested that he has some ideas for sources of funding including the possibility of additional tax being levied by the Village with a pass through to the District. He noted this would be a difficult step to take. He also suggested that the Village might look at using gambling machine revenues as a funding

source for the Fire Department, but that this would require a diversion from the park system. He also noted that the Village faces a serious EPA challenge with regard to sewer upgrades. He closed his remarks by thanking the Fire Department for its service to the community. Mr. Ford in turn thanked Mr. Stewart for his comments.

Ms. Hartman again commented and suggested that the matter be taken to the Village Board. She noted that the Village has other contracted services such as police protection.

There was a comment from the audience that at a cost of \$400,000 to \$500,000 the designation of funds by the District should provide one-half of the funding for the truck. Mr. Ford again noted that the fund designation did mean that there were funds on deposit segregated for this purpose. There was again a question regarding whether the special order could be rescinded and it was suggested that it should be rescinded. It was also suggested that it is not beneficial to not to allow equipment to be used. A member of the Fire Department suggested that the special order should be modified to allow the Chief greater discretion in the use of the pumper apparatus. A member of the public suggested that the Board should allow the use of the pumper equipment. There was a dialog between Mr. Ringering and Mr. Ford regarding the requirement of permission from the Board for training to occur. Mr. Ford indicated that the situation presented at this time with the loss of Unit 1412 mandated urgent measures to be taken. He also indicated he did not see a problem in giving the Chief discretion with regard to the use of the apparatus. In response to a question the Chief indicated that the value of the two KME trucks currently owned by the District are in the range of \$35,000 to \$60,000. It was suggested by a member of the audience that an alternative plan should be developed by the District. A question was raised as to what alternatives are available. Legal counsel for the District suggested that an alternative is a bond issue to support capital expenditures approved by the District's voters with a separate tax levy to service the bond debt.

There was further discussion regarding the designation of funds for equipment and building and how that designation compares to actual expenditures. The attorney

noted that the cash picture of the District has deteriorated over the last three years and figures from the District's annual financial statements were related to the meeting.

In concluding the public comment portion of the meeting, Mr. Rynders thanked the members of the public and the Department for their comments.

The meeting next turned to old business. Under old business, Mr. Hand suggested the tabling of the health and wellness program and without objection the matter was tabled.

The meeting next turned to new business.

The Chair called upon Mr. Ringering to present to the Board the proposed presentation which had been developed by Local 1692 for intended presentation to the Village of Godfrey. The PowerPoint focused on manpower, apparatus, and stations, and it contained a proposed request to the Village of Godfrey for three alternative levels of support for fire personnel and equipment. Mr. Ringering asked for guidance from the Board regarding the amount to be requested. Mr. Stewart suggested that two issues are presented to the District: expenses in excess of revenues and the need for a capital plan. Thereafter, the Board approved taking the presentation prepared by union to the Village Board using the financial proposals contained in the PowerPoint. Mr. Ford commented that the priority of the District Board is to replace an engine rather than to add a 18th person to the roster. Mr. Stewart suggested that the presentation should come first to the Village Finance Committee which would next meet on the first Monday of February at 6:00 p.m. It was suggested that the Board of Trustees post this as a special meeting also.

The meeting next turned to a review of closed session minutes and it was suggested by the attorney that there were no additional closed session minutes since the last review and there was no basis for a change with regard to the closed session minutes.

The meeting next turned to good and welfare.

Mr. Hand suggested that an Intergovernmental Agreement be entered into with the Village of East Alton based on the offer of the Fire Chief and the Village government

to allow the District to use an older pumper of the Village in the event of a breakdown of one of the two KME pumpers.

Congratulations were extended to Firefighter Farmer on the birth of a new child.

The meeting next turned to personnel matters. There were no personnel matters to be considered in closed or open session.

Thereafter, there being no further, or other, business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Terry L. Ford, Secretary of the
Board of Trustees

APPROVED:

Being all of the Trustees of the
Godfrey Fire Protection District