

GODFREY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On March 25, 2019, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Godfrey Protection District was held in the Community Room of Liberty Bank, at 3112 Godfrey Road, Godfrey, Illinois at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to the regular meeting schedule of the Board.

Attending the meeting were Trustees Rynders, Hand, and Ford. Fire Chief Kambarian; Fire Commissioners Cox, Clemons, and Sherman; members of the Fire Department; members of the public; and legal counsel for the District were also present.

The Chair first called for a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of Captain Jacob L. Ringering, a member of the Fire Department who was killed in the line of duty on March 5, 2019 while responding to a structure fire on Culp Lane in Bethalto, Illinois.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Chair first called for announcements and presentations. The Chief advised that members of Shift 3 were presented with the "Valentine Award" by a Godfrey resident who was assisted on Valentine's Day by members of Shift 3 who provided care to him when he sustained a cardiac arrest. Shift 3 members Dankenbring, Wilson, Belitto, and Dennison, along with the Fire Chief and Lifestar Ambulance personnel rendered aid to the individual who survived the arrest as a result of their efforts. The Board recognized the members of Shift 3 for their efforts and the quality of the service provided which undoubtedly saved the victim's life.

The Chair next called for presentation of the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on February 25, 2019 and upon motion of Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Ford, and unanimously approved, the minutes were approved as presented.

The Chair next recognized the Treasurer who presented his report in the usual manner. The Treasurer presented the Financial Statement for the District which included the funds held in the General-Emergency & Rescue-FICA/Medicare Fund-Audit Fund-Insurance Fund as of February 28, 2019. The report reflected cash on hand in the General Fund at February 1, 2019 of \$498,261.89, receipts during the month of \$36,306.46, and disbursements of \$148,621.33 leaving a balance at February 28, 2019 in the General Fund of \$385,947.02. The Treasurer reported similarly for the Audit Fund and the Insurance Fund. The Treasurer presented the Cash on Hand Distribution Report and the General Fund, Audit Fund, and Insurance Fund designations. Funds held by the District at February 28, 2019 totaled \$944,963.64. Of that amount in addition to the General Fund balance of \$385,947.02, \$88,597.29 is held in the Audit

Fund and \$470,419.33 is held in the Insurance Fund. The Treasurer's Report also included in the Board packet the February 2019 Expenditure Report by budget line item, the General Fund Report of Receipts for the month of February and year to date; the Audit Fund Financial Statement; the Insurance Fund Financial Statement; the Pension Fund Financial Statement; the Tax Receipts Summary and Disbursements Report through February 11, 2019; the Receipts & Disbursements YTD Comparison Report for February 2019; the Detail-Receipts & Disbursements Report for February 2019; the Reconciliation Summary Report for the Carrollton Bank Rescue Fund Account for the period ending February 28, 2019; the Reconciliation Detail Report for the Carrollton Bank Rescue Fund Account for the period ending February 28, 2019; the Carrollton Bank Statement Dated February 28, 2019; the Reconciliation Summary for the CNB Bank Rescue Fund Account for the period ending February 28, 2019; the Reconciliation Detail Report for the CNB Bank Rescue Fund Account for the period ending February 28, 2019; the Statement for the CNB Bank Rescue Fund Account dated February 28, 2019; the Bank Reconciliation Report for the month ending February 28, 2019 for the Illinois Funds Account; the Statement for the Illinois Funds Account for the period February 1, 2019 through February 28, 2019; the Reconciliation Summary for the Liberty Bank Checking Account for the period ending February 28, 2019; the Reconciliation Detail Report for the Liberty Bank Checking Account for the period ending February 28, 2019; and the Liberty Bank Statement dated February 28, 2019. A motion was made by Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Ford, and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

The meeting next turned to payment of bills and a motion was made by Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Ford, and unanimously approved to approve the payment of bills as same come due in the normal course of business in accordance with the bill payment procedure of the District.

The meeting next turned to a discussion of the 2019-2020 Budget. Mr. Ford indicated that a Tentative Budget had been prepared which reflects a deficit of \$101,661.00 in the general fund. He noted that this will have to be eliminated in the final budget of the District for the fiscal year. After further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Hand, and unanimously approved, the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the fiscal year 2019-2020 was approved as presented. It was noted that a copy of the Tentative Budget would be posted at the Fire Station for public inspection for at least 30 days and that a hearing would be scheduled on the budget in the coming months.

The Chair next called upon the Board of Fire Commissioners for its report. Mr. Sherman reported that the Board had met prior to the District Board meeting and that promotions were being recommended by the Commission to promote Lieutenant Estes to rank of Captain and Firefighter Wilson to the rank of Lieutenant. A motion was then made by Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Hand, and unanimously approved to accept the recommendations of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the foregoing promotions as indicated. Mr. Sherman also reported that by agreement of the firefighter's local union, the for promotional eligibility list for the rank of lieutenant and the rank of captain had been extended and that testing for the rank of lieutenant has been deferred indefinitely pending the recovery of two members of the Department who will be potentially eligible to participate in promotional testing for that rank.

The meeting next turned to the President's Report. Mr. Rynders expressed the sorrow of the District, the Board of Trustees, the Fire Department, and members of the public as a result of the tragic death of Captain Jacob Ringering on March 5, 2019. The President noted the efforts of the Fire Department and the Fire Service community in recognizing and extending its support to the family of Captain Ringering. The President extended thanks to all of the fire departments and individuals who assisted the District and he recognized in particular Assistant Chief Ed McBride, Former Chief John Sowders, Assistant Chief Shawn Bloemker, and Alton Fire Chief Bernie Sebold for their efforts on the night of the incident and the following day. Chief Kambarian in response commented that 250 thank you notes had been ordered and that he would be delivering as many of these personally as possible to the individuals, fire departments, and organizations which had rendered assistance and support to the Fire Department and the District at the time of and following Captain Ringering's death.

The meeting next turned to the Chief's report. The Chief presented his report in written fashion in the usual manner.

The Chief reported that the Department had responded to 179 calls in the month of February 150 of which constituted rescue or EMS calls.

Turning to personnel matters, the Chief reiterated that the Department continues to mourn the loss of Captain Ringering and that assistance to his family will continue so long as desired by the family. The Chief advised that Firefighter Warner continues to make progress in his recovery and that assistance is also being rendered to Firefighter Warner and his family. The Chief advised that Firefighter Stratton is currently off duty and that assistance is, likewise, being provided to him and his family. Assistant Chiefs McBride and Cranmer remain off duty.

The Chief reported briefly on their medical status. The Chief advised that Captain Wills was off duty for approximately one month but has been released to full duty status as of March 7, 2019. The Chief advised the POC Firefighter Halliday left the Department service on March 21, 2019 to accept a position with the Alton Fire Department as a career firefighter.

Congratulations were extended to Firefighter Halliday. The Chief advised that currently there are 15 career firefighters rostered on a 24/48 hour shift basis, however, only 11 of those members are currently on full duty status. The Chief reported that the command staff had developed an operational plan for the period March 13, 2019 through April 4, 2019 which involves various shift transfers of personnel to staff the Department during that time period. He reported regarding overtime costs which are likely to be incurred pending the return of members who are now off-duty. The Chief recommended to the Board that it consider a promotion in the rank assistant chief in order to restore the chief level command staff as the result of off-duty vacancies in that rank. The Chief requested that the Board consider hiring additional personnel pending the resolution of Assistant Chief McBride's pending disability application. He requested that any firefighter hired be required to hold paramedic licensure or be required to obtain that licensure as a condition for employment.

Turning to Station/Apparatus/Equipment, the Chief reported that Lieutenant Hamburg and Firefighter Wilson are working on various apparatus repairs as needed. He advised that during an alarm on March 13, 2019 Engine 1412 struck Engine 1422 at a low speed in a parking lot. The insurance carrier has been notified and repairs are pending.

Turning to Grants/Revenues/Donations, the Chief reported on pending grant applications and he advised that in connection with the 2017 FEMA AFG grant funds have been requested for the federal share and that the order for the portable generator which is part of that grant is on hold due to a recall regarding the unit.

The Chief reported that business inspections will begin in May.

Under special notes, the Chief first reported on the status of 4604 Culp Lane structure fire on March 5, 2019 which resulted in injury to Firefighter Warner and the death of Captain Ringering. He reported regarding the status of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's investigation, the investigation of the Madison County Sheriff's Office, the investigation of Illinois OSHA, and an investigation by NIOSH at a later date. The Chief advised that all gear and equipment with the exception of 2 SCBA units which will be evaluated by NOISH have been released back to the District. He advised that Captain Ringering's equipment will be released to

his spouse and that other equipment will be evaluated for transfer, disposal, or return to service.

The Chief reiterated that the Department and the District had received incredible support from the community and from the fire service following the March 5, 2019 tragedy and he again indicated that specialized thank you cards have been ordered with his goal being to personally visit each fire department that provided assistance to the Department to thank them.

Finally, the Chief advised that he requests that red truck maintenance items be addressed.

Following the Chief's report, Trustee Ford suggested that it would be appropriate for all members of the District and Fire Department to sign the thank you cards which the Chief is obtaining. Cards should be directed to the mayors and the district board presidents of the fire departments that rendered aid to the Godfrey Department as well as the fire department directly.

Thereafter, the meeting turned to the Attorney's Report. The attorney reported briefly regarding the status of a Freedom of Information Act request which is being prepared by his office with the assistance of the Fire Chief.

The meeting next turned to public comments. The President recognized Fire Department member John Farmer who is the presiding officer of Local 1692 at this time. Mr. Farmer inquired regarding the status of procurement of a new fire apparatus following the receipt of bids the prior month and the status of hiring additional personnel.

The meeting next turned to old business.

The Chair recognized Mr. Ford regarding the procurement of a new fire apparatus. Mr. Ford indicated that he and the Chief had been unable to review the bids which were received at the prior month's meeting due to the March 5, 2019 Culp Lane incident. He advised that he intends to work with the Chief in the following week with a special meeting to be scheduled thereafter with regard to bids. The Chair recognized Lieutenant Hamburg on behalf of the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board. Mr. Hamburg indicated that the Board is anticipating making a potential contribution to the purchase of the apparatus in the range of \$14,000.00. He advised that this would be submitted to the District in writing at a later time.

The meeting next turned to new business. There was no new business to come before the meeting.

The meeting next turned to the good of the order. It was noted that following the March 5, 2019 incident members of the Department have been involved in incident debriefing and that counseling would be provided to members of the Department needing that assistance.

The Chair again recognized Mr. Farmer regarding the question of hiring additional personnel. Mr. Rynders indicated that permanent personnel would not be hired at this time pending the development of the 2019-2020 budget. Mr. Ford commented that the Board would be looking at current staffing and making a decision at a later time. The Chair recognized Lieutenant Belitto and he noted that additional stress has been placed on the Fire Department as a result of the loss of the POC members as well as career members and he requested that the Board hire additional permanent personnel at this time. Captain Wills was recognized and suggested that the hiring of additional personnel would save overtime expense and that the pending retirements and pending disability applications of members of the Department would reduce the number of full-time personnel further. Mr. Belitto commented that he considered the matter to be a safety issue. Mr. Clemons of the Board of Fire Commissioners was recognized and suggested that overtime costs would be extensive without additional hiring.

The meeting next turned to personnel matters and a motion was made by Mr. Ford, seconded Mr. Hand, and unanimously approved to enter closed session pursuant to Section 2 (c) (1) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss personnel matters.

Following the conclusion of the closed session, the meeting returned to open session. It was reported by the President that personnel matters had been discussed and no action had been taken in the closed session. The Chair recognized Mr. Hand who moved to direct the Chief to proceed with hiring temporary personnel in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Fire Protection District Act to address the personnel shortages which have occurred in the Department. Mr. Ford seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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.

Terry L. Ford, Secretary of the
Board of Trustees

APPROVED:

Being all of the Trustees of the
Godfrey Fire Protection District