

**LEMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2025
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

CALL TO ORDER: Trustee Joeseph Falese called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lemont Fire Protection District to order on March 20, 2025, 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, Ray Negrete, Linda Bernacchi

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Dan Tasso, Deputy Chief Matt Peksa, Deputy Chief John Truffa, Recording Secretary Sandy Dominik, Attorney John Motylinski, Fire Marshal Jennifer Murray, Resident, Mr. John Goushas.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Goushas wished Trustee Tholotowsky luck in the upcoming election and addressed the Board he was happy to work with Board after the election. Mr. Goushas stated the 3/20/25 agenda was not posted on the website and would like to see it corrected to maintain transparency to the residents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to approve, under consent agenda, February 20, 2025, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Trustee Negrete read the bill listing totaling \$1,006,460.28 and made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried. Trustee Negrete commented

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD: Trustee Negrete commented there was misinformation circulating the current Board was outdated and antiquated, he then stated the current terms of each trustee were each under five years of service. Trustee Negrete then clarified the role as Trustee is to develop and implement policies and procedures for the District, to be financial stewards of the District, leaving the day to day ongoing to the Chief, Deputy Chiefs and hierarchy and no hidden agendas which is for the greater good of the community. Trustee Tholotowsky remarked "March Madness" is upon us and to keep eyes to the skies during tornado season.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Motylinski stated house bill 2336, allowing fire districts and municipalities to direct bill for lift assists, passed the subcommittee of police and fire, 3 to 0. This

bill will proceed to a full house vote and then move onto the senate. Attorney Motylinski will be following up next month with any updates with a full report.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Deputy Chief Peksa provided an update to the new dive squad vehicle delivery which is slated for February 2026. DC Peksa informed the Board that the new engine chassis is completed and hopefully the midpoint inspection will be performed in late spring. There is one member back from injury. Cook County Forest preserve hosted brush fire training which was well received with the members. DC Peksa reported the District responded to 317 this month, a slight decrease from this time last year.

Deputy Chief Truffa updated the Board they have dialed in the Tollway Tower and Station three projects, by replacing all receiver sites and water tower site. The second part of the phase is to secure another site with the village and another near station two, stating Canadian National will possibly allow us to use their site. DC Truffa stated the new ambulance should be ready for delivery in early 2026 and is hopeful to have another update by next Board meeting. Fire Prevention has begun to secure vendors and guests for the October 4th Open House event.

Chief Tasso congratulated FF/PM Trevor McArdle on a successful probation period and stated his swearing in ceremony will be in an upcoming meeting, to be determined. Chief Tasso acknowledged a 14-year anniversary for FF/PM Steven Landgraf and 25-year anniversary for BC Richard Moses. Chief updated the Board on the meetings with FGM architects, which will be every two weeks moving forward. Prep and Site surveys are being performed, and we are working with the village on annexing and rezoning the property on 127th and hopeful to have the final agreement for Board approval at the next meeting. Chief Tasso announced it was discovered the District can tap into the Village of Lemont's municipal water main when station two is updated with fire sprinklers. Chief Tasso stated the second newsletter will be mailed out tomorrow and to look out for the first newsletter in a new format.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the hiring of 3 firefighters, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to adopt Lexipol Fund Balancing Policy 221, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to adopt Lexipol Outstanding Check Policy 223, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to update Lexipol Policy 803, Patient Medical Record Security and Privacy, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to update Lexipol policy 1019, Personnel Records, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the survey proposal with Eriksson Engineering Associates Ltd. In the amount of \$29,370.00, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the cost of installation of emergency lights and radio for Fire Chief vehicle with Camz Communication in the amount of \$6,285.00, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to ratify the cost of the station radio project upgrade for parts and labor for the installation of six base radios with MPSC Inc, in the amount of \$9,171.00, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to ratify the purchase of hydraulic hose crimping machine, hoses and fittings from Tifco, in the amount of \$7,995.00, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to deny a request for a variance of the required code for sprinkler system in unincorporated Cook County, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to instruct Attorney Motylinski to issue a letter on behalf of the District, explaining the reasoning for denying the variance of residential fire sprinklers in unincorporated Cook County, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM on a motion made by Trustee Negrete, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes, Trustee Bernacchi, Motion carried.

Approved as is / amended by the Board of Trustees on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

Linda Bernacchi, Secretary

Joseph Falese, President