

LEMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2025
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CALL TO ORDER: Trustee Joe Falese called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lemont Fire Protection District to order on May 15, 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 Michael Smollen, Dan Tholotowsky, Joe Falese, Raymond Negrete and Linda Bernacchi.

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Dan Tasso, Deputy Chief Matt Peksa, Attorney John Motylinski, Recording Secretary Sandy Dominik, and The Honorable Patrick Rogers.

ELECTION RESULTS: The Trustees acknowledged the April 1, 2025, Consolidated election official certificate of results from Cook, DuPage, and Will Counties. Mr. Dan Tholotowsky won the election for the six-year open Trustee spot.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY: The Honorable Patrick Rogers gave the oath of office of Trustee to Daniel Tholotowsky. Congratulations were given by all.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Trustee Tholotowsky nominated the following slate of officers: Trustee Falese, President; Trustee Bernacchi, Secretary; Trustee Negrete; Treasurer, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, no. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to approve April 17, 2025, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Trustee Negrete read the bill list totaling \$905,391.82. Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD: Trustee Tholotowsky wished the three new probationary firefighters the best of luck and welcomed them to the District. Trustee Tholotowsky commended the Lithuanian World Center on their initiative to put fire sprinklers in their gallery and museum of art. DC Peksa acknowledged that would bring down our batch report for ISO. Trustee Tholotowsky has been attending Village of Lemont Board Meetings and will continue to work with the Fire Marshal on an IGA program to retrofit the downtown area with fire sprinklers. Trustee Bernacchi stated she met a fire cadet, and she remarked that one of her favorite instructors was Dan Tasso.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Motylinski remarked Deputy Chief Peksa and Battalion Chief Bettenhausen represented the District in a positive and professional manner in their recent depositions. The ongoing general assembly is concluding their session at the end of the month with House Bill 2336 looking like it will pass. After the 6th Lift Assist call from Assisted Living facilities, fire districts will be able to bill the facility directly. Discussion, Confirmation and clarification was given on guidelines for when billing would begin. If this bill passes our Ordinance will be updated.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Deputy Chief Peksa reported he was in the command post at the Quarryman Race went off without incident, and remarked one runner was 84 years old. Members were traveling to Minnesota for the mid-point inspection of the engine which is still on track for a mid-summer delivery. Deputy Chief Peksa stated we responded to 337 calls in April which is a 6 percent decrease from last year, attributed to the closing of Timberline Knolls. Deputy Chief Peksa remarked how well the three new hires are doing thanking Homer, Romeoville and Orland departments for the use of their training facilities. The new hires have started their 5 weeks of orientation on days to hone skills. Deputy Chief Peksa mentioned as the cost of fire apparatus has been increasing, the talks of an Anti-Trust from IAFF is developing. Attorney Motylinski stated that a senate investigation has begun and more to come as it develops.

Deputy Chief Truffa thanked the firefighter paramedics for everything they do and highlighted EMS week is May 18-24th. The adopt a firefighter season has concluded for the school year. The 1st grade program has been well received and looking forward to continuing it in the future and thanked everyone for participating. Safe Sitter and Matter of Balance classes have been in the works with more to report soon.

Chief Tasso recognized Sal Cirrincione for his 9th year anniversary and EMS Director Tyler Yost for his 4th year anniversary with the district. He informed the Board that the three new hires have begun this week and if all goes well, they will be sworn-in in June of 2026. Chief Tasso gave a construction update. The team is planning to go out for bids for stations 1,3,4 in January 2026 with a potential to start construction in spring of 2026. If Construction begins in the spring of 2026, the three projects will be completed in 15 months. Both properties on both 127th will be vacated at the end of June 2025.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to ratify the cost of the annual hose testing with Fire Catt in the amount of \$5,176.50, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to ratify the cost of the annual licensing with PSTrax in the amount of \$9,092.82, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the purchase of helmets and boots for three new hires, and one additional helmet for anticipated promotion with Air One, in the amount of \$3,403.00, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to direct the Board of Fire Commissioners to proceed with Lieutenant and Battalion Chief promotional testing with Resource Management, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the 2025-2026 renewal of worker compensation insurance through Illinois Public Risk Fund in the amount of \$437,960.00, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Falese to direct Chief Tasso to work with Attorney Motylinski to draft a letter to Mr. Mike Kasperski, President of the Lemont Firemen's Association, indicating the Board of Trustees are denying his request to relinquish the title of the antique engine to the LFA. The letter will also indicate the Lemont Fire Protection District will continue 50 percent ownership of the antique with LFA to ensure the preservation and history of the engine and that it be showcased at the new station one location, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, no. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM on a motion made by Trustee Negrete, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

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

Joseph Falese, President

ATTEST:

Linda Bernacchi, Secretary