

**LEMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2025
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

CALL TO ORDER: Trustee Joseph Falese called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lemont Fire Protection District to order on June 19, 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, Joe Falese, Raymond Negrete, Linda Bernacchi. Trustee Tholotowsky was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Dan Tasso, Deputy Chief Matt Peksa, Deputy Chief John Truffa, Attorney John Motylinski, Recording Secretary Sandy Dominik, Lauterbach & Amen representative Sydnee Martin.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to approve May 15, 2025, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Trustee Negrete read the bill list totaling \$967,118.71. Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD: Trustee Bernacchi would like to invite the community and residents to support the Firefighter Union's "Beat the Heat" Raffle as the proceeds benefit Lemont Food Pantry, Hope & Friendship Ministries and Project Fire Buddies

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Motylinski stated that in addition to the lift assist billing law, the General Assembly passed an 11th hour bill that touches on ambulance billing. Introduced two days before the conclusion of the legislative session, HB 2785 requires that, beginning 1/1/27, health insurers must pay to governmental ambulance a "rate that is equal to the rate established or approved by the governing body of the local government having jurisdiction for that area" minus any co-payments, deductibles and other cost sharing measures. The governmental ambulance providers can then seek the patients share directly from the patients. Attorney Motylinski advised this will have implications for mutual aid calls and urging lobbyists to get involved and will continue to update as things progress.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Deputy Chief Peksa congratulated the three new hires that have completed the five weeks of days and now on shift this week. They are progressing well thanks to everyone that spent time working with them. Deputy Chief Peksa informed the Board that Lemont and neighboring departments are in discussions to possibly develop a "New Hire" training academy to pool a resource of instructors for in-service training of a group of new hires. M.A.B.A.S 19

departments interested include Mokena, Homer, Frankfort, East Joliet, Palos Heights. Deputy Chief Peksa updated the Board the final inspection of the new engine is slated for July 24th and anticipate taking delivery by the end of August. He informed the Board the 2019 Dodge ambulance is having a motor issue that will be a costly repair not covered under warranty. He will present the bill for approval at the next meeting. The District responded to 318 calls in the month of May, a 7 percent decrease from last year, due to the closing of Timberline Knolls facility. Deputy Chief Peksa stated that after some concerns with Orland Central Dispatching, himself, Chief, DC Truffa, and Fernando have been touring other dispatch centers: Southwest Central, Wescom, Lincolnway LCC, doing due diligence and prospecting other possible options for the future.

Deputy Chief Truffa let the Board know, Trustee Tholotowsky, Fire Marshal Murray and himself attended a meeting with the National Fire Sprinkler Association to develop a grant program for the downtown businesses to install fire sprinklers. This program would offer an incentive to businesses to bring their buildings up to code. Working together with the Village to restructure the Downtown Historical District's water mains, there will be more information to come. Deputy Chief Truffa informed the Board that all four stations have now been updated with new phone systems. Deputy Chief Truffa expressed thanks to Red Shift for helping at our 1051 International building. Responding to a fire alarm call at the location, a failure in the sprinkler system was found which led to 2 inches of water in the building. Red shift did a great job taking care of the building. The system is repaired and back in service. Deputy Chief Truffa invited everyone to the July 3rd Celebration at the Park District.

Chief Tasso recognized work anniversaries in June; FF/PM Eric Windmoeller and FF/PM Matt Wingfield, both with 5 years and FF/PM David Gubbins with 16 years with the District. Fire Chief Tasso gave a construction update, of the bi-weekly meetings with FGM and Stenstrom. FGM is finalizing the schematic designs which will be sent to Stenstrom for the Construction review. FGM will begin the engineering and permit review process with the Village. The final design plans are expected to be completed around September. Chief informed the Board the two properties on 127th will be vacated by the end of the month and we can start working on the demo process, possibly using the property for training scenarios.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

AUDIT PRESENTATION: Lauterbach & Amen representative Sydnee Marks presented the FY2024 audit report.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to accept the FY2024 Audit as presented by Sydnee Marks of Lauterbach & Amen, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to adopt Resolution 25-01, the appointment of a member to the pension board, second by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to ratify the purchase of replacement batteries from Stryker in the amount of \$6,767.92, a budgeted item, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to ratify the purchase of summer public education handouts with Promos911 in the amount of \$7,612.84, a budgeted item, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to ratify the purchase of two sets of replacement bunker gear with MES, in the amount of \$9,940.00, a budgeted items, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the purchase of a PPV Fan with MES, in the amount of \$5,721.95, a budgeted item, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to ratify the printing cost of the 2025 spring newsletter with Marquardt Printing Company, in the amount of \$3, 970.00, a budgeted item, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the update to Lexipol Policy 1005-Salary, Wage and Educational Incentive Schedule as presented with new language and includes identifying groups for the new 115A contribution fund, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the annual service agreement for Station Alerting System with US Digital Designs, in the amount of \$24, 202.80, this is for two years as they never invoiced for 2024, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM on a motion made by Trustee Bernacchi, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes.

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

Joseph Falese, President

ATTEST:

Linda Bernacchi, Secretary