

**LEMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2022  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Trustee Victoria Cobbett called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lemont Fire Protection District to order on December 8, 2022, at 6:02 PM. The meeting was conducted at 15900 New Avenue, Lemont, IL.

Trustee Cobbett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** On call of roll Trustees Victoria Cobbett, Ray Negrete, Linda Bernacchi and Dan Tholotowsky. Trustee Joe Falese was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Fire Chief Dan Tasso, Deputy Chief John Truffa, Deputy Chief Matt Peksa Recording Secretary Carla Clark and Attorney Tom Gilbert.

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

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY:** Trustee Cobbett administered the oath of office of Trustee to Linda Bernacchi and Dan Tholotowsky. Congratulations were given by all.

**NATIONAL VFW AWARDS:** Trustee Cobbett presented, on behalf of the Commander of VFW Post 5819, the National VFW annual public servant of the year award for Firefighter and EMT. Lt. Rami Elsharief accepted the EMT award and FF Dave Gubbins, absent, was given the Firefighter award. Congratulations were given by all.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve, under consent agenda, the November 17, 2022, special meeting minutes, November 17, 2022, regular meeting minutes, November 17, 2022, closed session minutes, November 28, 2022, special meeting minutes and November 28, 2022, closed session minutes seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Trustee Negrete read the bill listing totaling \$1,317,636.49. Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Cobbett. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD:** Trustee Cobbett appointed Trustee Linda Bernacchi as pro-tem Secretary of the Board for tonight's meeting.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Gilbert stated the pension case that lost in the lower courts is now in the appellate courts, briefs have been filed, but nothing has changed. He will keep us updated on the case.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Deputy Chief Truffa stated the Fire Prevention Bureau had a meeting with the sprinkler contractor at Lithuanian World Center and they are looking to have the entire complex fully installed with sprinklers in 2023. He also stated that the strip mall located at 1114 State Street has been fully installed with sprinklers. We have partnered with the Tractor Club for our annual toy drive this year. Shift personnel, day staff and off duty personnel participated in the Lemont Park District senior holiday lunch this year.

Deputy Chief Peksa updated the Board on apparatus, training, and the various meetings he attended since last meeting. He stated we responded to 395 calls in November which is an increase of 18% over November 2021. He stated our 4 new probationary Firefighters have completed their training on days and will be placed on shift this coming Monday. He stated we should have our Strategic plan by January 2023.

Chief Tasso stated he has been scheduling and meeting with all the Administration staff one on one to get to know them. He will be eventually meeting with all the operations personnel as well. He congratulated Deputy Chief Truffa who was elected Treasurer for MABAS 19, beginning in January 2023.

**LEVY HEARING:** A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to open the meeting to the public at 6:15 PM for comments with regards to Ordinance 22-07, Tax Levy Tax Year 2022, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese. Chief Tasso stated we are requesting the sum of \$12,660,218.00 to be levied for the tax year 2022. No member of the public addressed the Trustees on the proposed Ordinance 22-07 Tax Levy; therefore a motion was made by Trustee Cobbett to close the hearing at 6:16 PM, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to adopt Ordinance 22-07, Levying and Assessing taxes for tax year 2022, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** With the current Treasurer and Secretary of the Board resigning, Trustee Cobbett appointed Trustee Negrete as Treasurer and Trustee Falese as Secretary of the Board going forward.

A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the engagement letter with Karrison LLC to perform fiscal year 2022 audit for a cost of \$12,975.00, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the purchase of SCBA pack for confined space rescue, using IPRF grant monies, from MES at a cost of \$5,300.00, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Cobbett to approve the initial employment agreements for Probationary Firefighters, Joseph Gordon, Gregory Ingram, Maxwell Furiasse and Sabdiel Romo-Martinez, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Cobbett to adopt Ordinance 22-08, Abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2022 to pay debt service on \$3,550,000 General Obligation Bonds Series 2020, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

Chief Tasso stated we have met with our insurance broker's, Vista National, and the Health Insurance Committee to discuss this year's renewal. It is the Health Insurance Committee's recommendation to approve the following coverage: remain with Blue Cross Blue Shield at a 12.53 % increase; change dental carrier to Ameritas at a 2.95% increase; remain with vision carrier, Eyemed, with no increase for (1) years; remain with life insurance carrier, Standard, at a 0% increase; increase the District funding of the H.S.A. to \$2200/\$4400; and continue the health insurance opt-out program. A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the health insurance renewal options, as recommended by the Insurance Committee, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

Deputy Chief Peksa presented a power point on the purchase of a new Engine. The build time could be up to two years. A discussion followed. A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the purchase of a new Engine from Rosenbauer at a cost not to exceed \$950,000.00, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. The payment will be a pre-pay of 100% on the Engine to secure the discount. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

**CLOSED SESSION:** A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to enter closed session at 6:42 PM for discussion on probable or pending litigation, acquisition of real property, collective bargaining, and appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of an employee, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion Carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

**RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:** The regular meeting reconvened at 6:57 PM on a motion by Trustee Tholotowsky, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese

**ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION:** A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement 2023-2027, as presented, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM on a motion made by Trustee Cobbett, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Cobbett, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote, Trustee Falese.

Approved as is / amended by the Board of Trustees on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victoria Cobbett, President

**ATTEST:**

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Joseph Falese, Secretary