

**LEMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Trustee Linda Bernacchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lemont Fire Protection District to order on September 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM. The meeting was conducted at 15900 New Avenue, Lemont, IL.

Trustee Bernacchi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** On call of roll Trustees Raymond Negrete, Dan Tholotowsky, Linda Bernacchi and Michael Smollen. Trustee Joseph Falese was absent.

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** NONE

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the August 17, 2023, regular meeting minutes, and August 17, 2023, closed session meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Trustee Negrete read the bill list totaling \$914,687.27. Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD:** Trustee Tholotowsky would like to send his condolences to the family of former FF William Musselman. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Tholotowsky would like to invite everyone to attend our Open House on 9/30/23, at station 1.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Gilbert informed the Board that briefs have been filed by the IL State Pension Board, Illinois Municipal League, and the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois for the consolidated pension case before the Supreme Court.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Deputy Chief Truffa informed the Board that the Village of Lemont has proposed an upgrade to the 2021 Building and Fire Codes. Sunnyhill Plaza is a new development on the corner of McCarthy and Bell Rd which will be buildings with store fronts. There is a proposal to build a 4-unit 2 story apartment building at 16172 New Ave. This is in the beginning stages. Sandy is working hard on our Open House that will be held on Sept 30, 2023. Rotary Car Club held a fundraiser at the Lithuanian World Center and donated the proceeds to Project Fire Buddies.

Deputy Chief Peksa updated the Board that our new hire, FF Atwood, started on 9/18/23. The apparatus committee reported that they have been scheduled to begin building our new engine in March 2024. We responded to 374 calls in August. That is an increase of 6.9% over last August.

Fire Chief Tasso would like to recognize FF Sienkiewicz, Lt Puckett, FF Orange, Lt Holtz, and FF Kuzmicki who all had work anniversaries this month. Congratulations and best wishes to FF Jim Orange on his retirement on 9-17-23. Chief Tasso let the Board know that FF's Landgraf, Hanson, and Wingfield received a thank you letter from a resident of Palos Fire Protection District. We were in Palos covering a call for mutual aid. Thank you to Everest Academy and Lemont High School for honoring local First Responders. Chief Tasso sends his condolences to the family of Bill Musselman. Bill served with us from 1994 - 2000 as a firefighter/paramedic. He asked the Board to schedule a special meeting at 5pm, before our regular meeting in November, for the budget workshop.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the contract with Howard Simon for payroll services beginning in 2024 for a cost of \$13,290.00, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

The Board of Trustees acknowledged the Lemont Firefighter's Pension Fund Levy request of \$1,914,857.00 for 2023.

Trustee Smollen made a motion to approve the initial employment agreement with FF Kevin Atwood, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the annual pump & aerial ladder testing with UL Solutions in the amount of \$4,480.00, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the purchase of rear brakes for the ladder truck from Fleet Pride in the amount of \$ 4,675.60, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the amendments to LFPD Policy #327, Traffic/Property Accidents, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the amendments to LFPD Policy #1027, Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the purchase of a HazMat vehicle from Advantage Chevrolet in the amount of \$86,313.26, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Advantage Chevrolet was the only bid we received. This will replace our current vehicle that is 37 years old and is part of the 2023 capital plan. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

Trustee Negrete made a motion to ratify the repair work from Joliet Suspension on 911's suspension and axle in the amount of \$8,266.65, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete,

yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the purchase of hardware and a subscription to upgrade our dashboard system from First Arriving in the amount of \$4,365.00, seconded by Trustee Smollen. This will update our current monitors and dashboards in each station and was include in the 2023 budget. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to approve hiring Steven Bacho as the PT Facilities Manager at an hourly rate of \$28.00, pending background check and physical, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

Trustee Smollen made a motion to approve Resolution 23-04 declaring HazMat Vehicle Ford L8000 as surplus, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

**CLOSED SESSION:** A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to enter closed session at 6:30 PM for discussion of closed session meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

**RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:** The regular meeting reconvened at 6:35 PM on a motion by Trustee Tholotowsky, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

**ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION:** A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to release the following closed session minutes, April 19, 2007, June 21, 2007, July 17, 2008, August 21, 2008, September 18, 2008, July 16, 2009. August 20, 2009, August 26, 2010, July 21, 2011, October 20, 2011, August 20, 2015, November 12, 2015, December 17, 2015, January 21, 2016, February 18, 2016, March 17, 2016, July 21, 2016, July 20, 2017, October 6, 2017, October 19, 2017, March 13, 2018, January 17, 2019, February 20, 2020, August 19, 2021, September 16, 2021, October 21, 2021, April 21, 2022, May 19, 2022, June 16, 2022, July 21, 2022, September 22, 2022, and November 28, 2022, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM on a motion made by Trustee Negrete, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Falese, President

ATTEST:

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Linda Bernacchi, Secretary