

MINUTES OF THE WARREN-WAUKEGAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
GURNEE STATION #2
6581 Dada Drive Gurnee, IL 60031

Wednesday January 20, 2016

Call to Order: President DeRuntz called the meeting to the Board of Trustees of the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Attendance as noted.

Trustees Present: Phil DeRuntz, Martin Klauber and Brian Wattleworth

Other Officials: Brian J. O'Connor of Ottosen, Britz, Kelly Cooper, Gilbert & DiNolfo

Others Present: Fred Friedl, Chief, Gurnee Fire Department, John Kavanagh, Deputy Chief, Gurnee Fire Department, Beverly S. Shannon, Recording Secretary

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Martin Klauber made a motion to approve the November 18, 2015, meeting minutes as submitted. Trustee Wattleworth seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All in favor, motion carried 3/0.

REPORTS

President's Report:

President DeRuntz stated that the 2015 information for Lake County had been submitted as requested. Shortly after submission another request was made for 2014 information. President DeRuntz contacted Mr. Steve Carlson at the county office and made the point that the compilation of information required time and money to produce and as the WWFPD had always shown fiscal responsibility the second request was surprising. Trustee Wattleworth will submit the 2014 records as requested.

The deadline for the mandatory transfer of funds out of the Illinois Fund is 2/16/16. The default bank to receive the funds is US Bank. President DeRuntz is unhappy with the repeated mistakes that US Bank has made in mailing past statements and presented information from the local BMO bank and recommended the Illinois funds be deposited there. President made the point that BMO bank is the bank currently used by the Libertyville Fire Department and therefore familiar with our needs. The account would be a checking account used only to clear funds that are received electronically.

President has made two appearances in court to argue a tax objection on behalf of the WWFPD. The judge had agreed to a compromise, but now another tax objection has been submitted. President DeRuntz recommends that we do not capitulate to a stream of

Secretary's Report:

Trustee Wattleworth had nothing to report at this time.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Friedl handed out copies of the 2015 Mavis Division annual report to the trustees. This is a report that shows when various fire departments have requested help from each other. Chief Friedl also distributed the call list for Lake County Services for 2105. It is expanded to include more than 2015 and includes the statistics for Gurnee/Waukegan and the other Lake County fire departments. It documents how calls have increased and decreased over the years.

Chief Friedl announced the Blood Drive at Station #2 on Dada Dr. on 2/6/16 and the Fire Expo which is scheduled for 5/14/16 at Gurnee Mills.

At this time President DeRuntz brought up the importance of deploying WWFPD finances strategically. This is particularly important in light of current tax objections on file. It is important to be able to stand before Judge Winters, who is hearing the tax objections, and outline the plans for any extra funds. WWFPD needs to show that it is fiscally responsible and committed to investing in the WWFPD and by extension the community. President DeRuntz had a brief conversation with the Mayor of Gurnee. The Mayor was pleased to hear that the idea of modernization of WWFPD facilities is being considered.

President DeRuntz stated that a benefit of belonging to NIAFPD was the opportunity to see other fire department facilities. He stated that Gurnee deserves to have comparable facilities and that the reasonable reserves that are being sought after through tax objections would be much better spent on improvement to the WWFPD. Now that the ladder truck is set to arrive in May he would like to suggest preliminary discussions and information gathering regarding modernization of facilities begin in preparation for meetings with the concerned parties including the Mayor and the Village of Gurnee board members, WWFPD board members and Chief Friedl.

President DeRuntz asked Chief Friedl why Station #2 would be a better place to begin the project; Chief Friedl stated that Station #1 was built on a flood plain which limits the changes that can occur. Chief Friedl explained that the communication infrastructure was sound but that having the administrative personnel consolidated would be more efficient and moving the administrative staff to Station #2 had been discussed previously. Also discussed previously were possible expansions to the training area and lavatories at Station #2 making it the central command less dispatch which is located at the police station. President stressed that this is a long term goal, but that the work must begin now.

Trustees Klauber asked if more information could be gathered without spending any money at this time. It was agreed that FGM Architects will be contacted to find out the fee for a consultation and possible blueprints/estimates for remodeling WWFPD structures.

Attorney's Report:

Mr. O'Connor distributed annexation documents from the Village of Gurnee and Wadsworth for signatures by Trustee Wattleworth. The document will be mailed by Friday next.

Regarding the tax objections Mr. O'Connor noted that the opposing attorney is known for bring suit against many different community entities and departments trying to receive a settlement for their client of which they then receive a percentage. He also stated that it is noteworthy that the tax objection only refers to the Corporate Funds account with exposure of \$60,000. This is not an excessive amount. Mr. O'Connor expects attorney Joe Miller, his co-worker, to ask for the case to be dismissed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

District Banking Services:

President DeRuntz made a motion to discuss the move of Illinois Funds to BMO Bank instead of US Bank prior to the 2/16/16 deadline. Trustee Wattleworth seconded the motion: Motion passed 3/0

Discussion:

Trustee Klauber is concerned that the money will not be insured over the 250,000 threshold, the fees will be high and the government agencies that send electronic transfers will have to be notified.

President DeRuntz stated he will get the clarification of fees and discuss the possibility of setting a cap on the amount the account holds before funds are transfer out, keeping exposure to a minimum. He also noted that the number of government agencies that will have to be notified is nominal.

President DeRuntz will set up the US Bank account where the Illinois Funds will automatically be deposited then arrange for the transfer of the US Bank checking account to BMO Bank.

There was a motion to authorize President DeRuntz to open the new account(s). Trustee Klauber seconded the motion:

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Motion passed: 3/0

