

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARY SCHEDULED MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NORWOOD PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
7447 W. LAWRENCE AVE.
HARWOOD HEIGHTS, IL 60706**

The Board of Trustees of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, Illinois convened at the regular meeting place of said Board on the 12th day of January 2026, at 6:30 P.M. at 7447 W. Lawrence Ave., Harwood Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order and upon roll call the following named members answered present:

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; absent, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes, Chief Peistrup; yes.

The pledge was said at the start of the meeting.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE (Public Participation)

A motion was made by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to suspend the rules to permit visitors to be recognized. The Board retains the right to refuse to recognize any individual if they feel their comments are not relevant or to "put them off" if they exceed their time allotment. After all, have had an opportunity to address the Board, the President moves the rules be reinstated, and the Board will proceed with meeting.

AYES: 6 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Massaro arrived at 6:37pm.

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the following minutes:

- Board of Trustee Regular meeting minutes held on December 8, 2025.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Chiefs' Report:

Chief stated he hopes all is well and that all Trustees received a written report.

Finished 2025 with 4,663 calls, which come out to almost 13 runs a day. Third highest total in department history with the first and second being the prior two years.

We have a new software system for inputting Fire and EMS calls. There have been some glitches in their reporting portion of the platform which is why there are not the reports you are used to seeing.

Two new firefighters/paramedics finished their fire academy in December. They are both on shift now and seem to be fitting in nicely. One of the three shifts has eight firefighters and the other two have seven. We will be working on getting those two open positions filled this spring.

There are no major issues with any of our rigs right now. Our maintenance division is doing a great job staying on top of preventive maintenance and fixing minor issues as they arise. We really have a talented group of guys in that area. It is headed by Commander Davila, along with Firefighters Zach Schullo and Frank Stec.

SCBA equipment has all been delivered. We are having training on them this week. The total cost of all this came in at \$227,000, which also includes the new fit test machine. Our SCBAs also came with a 15-year manufacturer warranty, so we'll be good in this area for quite a while.

There is a motion on the agenda to approve the maintenance plan for our station alerting system. This was discussed in last month's Building and Equipment meeting. The annual cost came in at \$7,632.00. I can sign off on the agreement once the motion gets approved.

The bid opening is on January 20th for the station generator project. We hope to have bids this time around.

A large portion of the board packet contained our final audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. There are multiple mandatory disclosures that are required to be part of this 70+ page report, but here are some highlights:

Cash on hand from the beginning of the fiscal year compared to the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2025, had a cash balance of \$9,534,000, this is an increase of \$1,260,000 over the prior year.

Due to high investment returns in our pension portfolio, our overall accrued liability was reduced by over \$3,500,000, which is a nice reduction.

While we have a nice cash reserve now, it does not take into account the close to \$2,000,000 of equipment we have on order.

We have a CD maturing at the end of this week. Chief is shopping rates.

Property tax money is trickling in. We have received about 20% of the money currently owed to the District. This is unrepresented for how long it is taking for money to be distributed. The 2nd installment is usually due in August/September. We are in a good position because we do not solely rely on this money to operate.

Motion by Trustee Kolaski seconded by Trustee Palazzo to approve the Chief's report for December 2025.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

President's Report: Trustee Rybak stated she has nothing to report.

Schedule of Assets
(Arising from Cash Transactions)
December 31, 2025

Assets

Checking and money market accounts:

Byline Bank ambulance billing money market #4304492	\$525,955.84
Wintrust -MM #2776	1,809,461.50
Wintrust- Checking #9771	49,104.98
Wintrust- Ambulance #2671	946,266.83
Wintrust- Medical #0599	709.73
Wintrust- Donation #4129	1,263.71
Wintrust- FSA #0713	6,851.31
Wintrust- Business Account #6537	104,857.78
Total checking and money market accounts	<u>\$3,444,481.68</u>

Certificates of deposit (interest rate and maturity):

Belmont Bank (4.087%, 02/10/26)	1,084,681.96
Belmont Bank (4.25% 06/21/26)	659,471.31
Belmont Bank (4.087% 01/19/26)	1,084,724.62
Belmont Bank (4.25%, 3/29/26)	1,000,000.00
Wintrust Bank (3.9%, 7/21/27)	1,016,166.44
Total certificates of deposit	<u>\$4,845,044.66</u>
Total checking, money market and certificates of deposit	<u>\$8,289,526.34</u>

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Santoro to approve the following:

- December's Account Payable Expenditures- \$547,749.63.
- The Treasurer's report as presented from the Financial Statement for December 2025

Trustee Santoro explained a couple of the larger expenses.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
 Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
 Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
 Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee- Trustee Santoro stated she had nothing to report.

Building and Equipment Committee- Trustee Wegrecki stated he had nothing to report.

Policy Committee- Trustee Kolaski stated he had nothing to report.

Community Relations Committee- Trustee Santoro stated there was nothing to report.

Pension Fund Member- Trustee Massaro stated there was nothing to report.

Old Business:

None

New Business

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Wegrecki to accept the audit for the 2025 fiscal year as presented by Sikich, LLP.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Kolaski to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MABAS Executive Board and Illinois Terrorism Task Force- Illinois Urban Search and Rescue Team (US&R).

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Palazzo to adopt and approve Ordinance #26-1, an Ordinance establishing reasonable fees for excessive lift assists by the Norwood Park Fire Protection District.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Kolaski and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to approve the Digicom maintenance agreement for the Station Alerting System at an annual cost not to exceed \$8,000.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by trustee Rybak and seconded by Trustee Massaro to approve the following in the consent agenda:

- Approve the Building and Equipment Committee meeting minutes from December 8, 2025.
- Approve the Finance Committee meeting minutes from December 8, 2025.
- Ratify the following payments:
 - Chase Card Services in the amount of \$5,551.65 for IT, legal notice, MABAS meeting and license renewal.
 - HFS Bureau of Fiscal Operations- in the amount of \$137,219.51 for GEMT.
 - TCD Concrete Works, Inc. in the amount of \$8,150.00 for concrete work on bay floor.

Roll Call: Trustee Kolaski; yes, Trustee Rybak; yes,
Trustee Santoro; yes, Trustee Mezzano; yes,
Trustee Massaro; yes, Trustee Wegrecki; yes,
Trustee Palazzo; yes.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Santoro and seconded by Trustee Mezzano to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: 7 NAY: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:03PM.

Louis Mezzano
Secretary

Joanne Rybak
President