

**MINUTES OF THE WAUKEGAN-WARREN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**GURNEE FIRE STATION #2**  
Wednesday, August 17, 2005

President John Badtke called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District to order at 7:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: John Badtke, Phillip DeRuntz, Marty Klauber

Other Officials Present: Linda E. Spring, Attorney

Others Present: Angela Moreno, Recording Secretary  
John Kavanagh, Gurnee Firefighters  
Heath Graham, FPD Resident  
Karen Wasser, Gurnee Trustee  
Tom Chamberlain, Gurnee Trustee  
David Brown, Grandwood Park Resident  
Al Oller, Grandwood Park Resident  
Penny Kreutziger, Grandwood Park Resident  
Steve Carlson, County Board Member

**\*THESE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM ACCOUNT, EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED.**

**Approval of minutes:**

Trustee Klauber made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2005 budget meeting. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber                      NAYS: None                      Motion carried.

Trustee Klauber made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2005 regular meeting. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber                      NAYS: None                      Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**President's Report:** President Badtke read into the record his report, which follows (verbatim):  
"I am announcing that we have successfully negotiated a new contract with the Village of Gurnee to provide Fire and ambulance service to the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District for the next three years. The Gurnee Fire Department is a state of the art Department that has served as a model for other Departments throughout the State.

The new contract will allow us to pay off our debt to the Village of Gurnee within the first year, and should allow us to create a reserve at the end of three years of over \$1 million.

This contract replaces a contract we have had with the Village of Gurnee for the past 70 years. The old contract committed us to pay about 30% of whatever the Gurnee Fire Department budgeted each year, with no limit to increases. For the past 7 years we were charged more than we could afford to pay. The new contract is for a fixed amount. Any increases, above the 4% escalation per year, would have to be agreed upon by the WWFPD.

One result of being in debt to the Village of Gurnee was that the WWFPD decided five years ago to charge our residents about \$1,000 for each ambulance transport. Last year, the new Board of Trustees voted to eliminate the ambulance fees, except for what a resident's insurance would cover. In summary, the WWFPD can now pay our debts, and we expect to be in a solid financial state in the future.

I now want to review how this improved contract was accomplished. When I was appointed to the Board, I raised many questions about why we were in debt and charging our residents for ambulance service that they already paid for with their taxes. I was told that we had to raise taxes again to get out of debt, and that we were billing the residents for ambulance service because they had voted down a large tax increase that we needed. After analyzing the contract and our financial history, I told them we needed a new contract, however, they did not agree.

At that point I studied the financials of other Fire Districts (including Libertyville, in which John Brennan was an extremely important part of), and found we had alternatives. Since the Trustees did not agree, I created a resident advisory group, and each month we would review the Fire Department financials and actions. The citizens then began coming to the WWFPD meetings and asking questions that were not getting good answers. After a while, County Board Members Steve Carlson and Sandy Cole got involved and started asking questions also. At this point, one of the other two Trustees was up for appointment and found he was going to be replaced. After the one Trustee was replaced, the other resigned. We were very lucky to have Phil DeRuntz and Marty Klauber appointed to the Board. They had to work hard over the past year to support the new contract efforts.

Another champion in our arsenal has been our lawyer, Linda Spring. Linda has faced many challenges from us over the last year, and I want to say that she was a real asset when the going got rough.

The new contract is not our only success during the past year. We have also greatly improved our banking position, updated procedures, started a website, and we are close to creating our first newsletter. We have several other projects that we will now be able to focus more time on.

It has been a pleasure working with the residents, the politicians, and the Trustees of the WWFPD to successfully improve the benefits to our residents. Thank you."

Following President Badtke's report, Gurnee Village Trustee Karen Wasser thanked President Badtke for his efforts in coming to a fair contract and complimented him for keeping his focus on the financial viability of the District.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer DeRuntz supplied the Board and the public with copies of his report dated August 17, 2005. The account with Illinois Funds reflected deposits in the amount of \$975.35 for interest income; \$27,418.15 in property tax income; \$12,205.19 from Superior Collection and \$4,512.92 from PPRT. The Illinois Funds summary reflected a transfer of \$500,000 to the Northside Community Bank account. The account at Northside Community Bank reflected deposits in the amount of \$1,172.30 in interest income; a credit of \$136.78 which was a refund for the charge reflected in last month's report, and a transfer of \$500,000 from the Illinois Funds Account. Total expenditures were \$547,416.86 in approved payments, giving an ending balance of \$359,231.88.

Trustee DeRuntz listed proposed expenditures in the amount of \$2,160.00, which included the following: payment to Tim Spyridon, the District's web designer, in the amount of \$2,010.00; and payment to Angela Moreno for the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in the amount of \$150.00.

Trustee Klauber made a motion to pay the proposed expenditures. Trustee Badtke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber                      NAYS: None.                      Motion carried.

Trustee Klauber made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber                      NAYS: None.                      Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** None.

**Fire Chief's Report:** None.

**Attorney's Report:** None.

### **Old Business**

**Village contract:** President Badtke stated that all of the Trustees reviewed the proposed contract prior to this evening's meeting.

Trustee Klauber made a motion to approve the proposed contract with the Village of Gurnee for fire and ambulance service. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

Trustee DeRuntz commented on what a wonderful occasion this was to be approving this contract, and that it is a time to celebrate the success of intergovernmental cooperation. Additionally, he thanked President Badtke for his fight and courage to finalize the contract.

Trustee Klauber commented that he was previously upset because he believed that the negotiations between the Village and the District were not going to be successful and the District would have to seek out service elsewhere, which would not be a good solution for anybody

involved, especially the residents. He was very pleased that it did work out, and stated that he was amazed by President Badtke's efforts.

President Badtke thanked Al Oller and Bob Ells for their help during this process, stating that they helped immensely by assisting him in the process of reviewing financial data.

Ms. Spring commented that the three Trustees have done an excellent job, and that this contract is an excellent achievement, and she congratulated them.

Steve Carlson commented that he never doubted the dedication of both the Village and the District to represent their constituencies, and he complimented everybody that was involved in finalizing the contract.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber                      NAYS: None.                      Motion carried.

**Long range financial planning:** Tabled.

**Review list of meta words for the website:** Trustee Klauber explained that meta words are words that would bring up the District's website in a search. He stated that Mr. Spyridon suggests using the Deerfield/Bannockburn Fire District's meta words, and simply replacing "Deerfield/Bannockburn" with "Warren-Waukegan", which is what Trustee Klauber is recommending. President Badtke requested that the word "ambulance" be added to the list, and the Trustees agree. Trustee Klauber will forward this list to Mr. Spyridon.

**Updated 911 procedures/article for newsletter:** Tabled.

**Status of newsletter to residents including production and content:** Tabled.

**Superior Ambulance's billing, current collections, and write-offs:** President Badtke stated that he received the collection reports from Superior Ambulance Billing, and reviewed them with Trustee DeRuntz. He will continue to review these reports monthly.

**Revised billing complaint policy:** Tabled.

**Building code sprinkler ordinance:** Ms. Spring is currently working on this ordinance, and has been discussing the Village's code with the Fire Department. This item will be on next month's agenda for approval.

**Fire Protection District Property being taxed to Grayslake:** Ms. Spring reported that she has spoken to the County Clerk as well as the Fire Department, and has contacted an attorney in a firm that has worked on some of these annexations. It is possible that the District's boundaries were always in Grayslake. Ms. Spring is continuing to work on this issue.

**District's contractual powers:** No discussion.

**Prevailing Wage Ordinance:** Ms. Spring explained that this ordinance needs to be adopted annually and provides that if the District contracts for construction, the contractors will be paid the prevailing wage.

Trustee DeRuntz made a motion to adopt the Prevailing Wage Ordinance. Trustee Klauber seconded the motion.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber                      NAYS: None.                      Motion carried.

**Statutory annexation reimbursements:** Ms. Spring reported that she has sent letters to the Village of Gurnee as well as the City of Waukegan regarding annexation reimbursements, and is awaiting their response. She pointed out that the annexation notices are sent to the District's secretary, not the attorney, so the notices from the last five years should be in the District's files. She stated that she needs these notices in order to further pursue this issue. One of the Trustees will search for these files and provide them to Ms. Spring.

### **New Business**

**Ambulance Billing Complaints:** None.

**Annexations:** President Badtke stated that the truck stop on Route 41 was recently annexed to the Village of Gurnee; Ms. Spring will follow up on this.

**Insurance renewal:** Ms. Spring stated that the insurance policy was previously provided to the Trustees for review. She stated that their renewal and premium is due on September 4<sup>th</sup>, in the amount of \$4,737.00.

Trustee Klauber made a motion to renew the insurance policy. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

President Badtke stated that the District's insurance agent made a presentation to the District last year, but since then no comparisons have been done. He requested that Ms. Spring add to next month's agenda the appointment of one of the Trustees to review the policy and compare other insurance companies over the next year.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber                      NAYS: None.                      Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Penny Kreutziger congratulated the Trustees on the new contract with the Village of Gurnee.

**Closed Session:** None.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District will be September 21, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Spring reviewed the agenda items with the Trustees.

**Adjournment:**

Having no further business to come before the Board, Trustee DeRuntz made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Trustee Klauber seconded the motion.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber

NAYS: None.

Motion carried.

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Secretary of WWFPD

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Date Minutes approved.

