

**MINUTES OF THE WAUKEGAN-WARREN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
GURNEE FIRE STATION #2
Wednesday, November 15, 2006**

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, Martin Klauber

Other Officials Present: Linda E. Spring, Attorney

Others Present: Angela Moreno, Recording Secretary
Tom Keefe, Gurnee Fire Marshall
Alain H. Oller, Grandwood Park Park District
Robert Ells, Grandwood Park Park District
Tom Castino, Mill Creek Resident
Penny Kreutziger, Grandwood Park Resident

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

Approval of minutes:

Trustee DeRuntz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2006 regular meeting as submitted. Trustee Klauber seconded the motion.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

REPORTS

President's Report: President Badtke read the following report into the record:

“I would first like to request that the Board put on the agenda for the next meeting under new business the topic of hiring an administrative assistant for review. In summary, why I think that’s advantageous for us, at least for review, we need to get prepared for the negotiations with the Village of Gurnee in the coming year. I know that we have a max escalation of 4% in the contract, but I believe that we may be paying too much and should be considering a reduction in our payments. At this point, we haven’t had a meeting with the Village of Gurnee since our contract negotiations and we proposed that we get together annually, or bi-annually, to share information to make sure we’re staying on track. I think an administrator could be a conduit for that information contact on an ongoing basis, so we would be prepared when we have to be ready for this negotiation. Gurnee has also shown that they charged us early on our quarterly payments, on this last session we discussed, and they did not reflect these early payments in the future billings, that would’ve informed us that we did indeed put a half-million dollars extra into their pot, and did not have control of it ourselves, which is something we could’ve had reviewed and perhaps identified sooner if we had an administrative assistant to review these things. When we did contact the Village of Gurnee initially about this overpayment, they actually denied it in the beginning, and we had to pursue them in order to validate it. Gurnee has also proposed, and has said they have scheduled, implementation of ambulance fees for their residents, which would generate an additional million

dollars a year, off-setting the cost of running the Fire Department, and being something of discussion for us and our payment as a valid part of the cost of running the Fire Department, to support both their residents and ours.

Next, dealing with annexations, we have identified and collected, I believe, over \$20,000 in annexation revenues that would not have been available to us if we had not identified them, and then gone after them, researched them, and billed to get the money back. A lot of the cost though was lost in legal fees from the time spent by our legal staff and possibly could have been dealt with by an administrative assistant at a much lower cost. In dealing with annexations, I still feel that some of our land has been annexed and has caused discontinuous land within our district, which is not supposed to happen, but without somebody judiciously reviewing annexations on an ongoing basis, it caused this to occur, which may cause issues for us and our residents on getting proper service. At some point parts of our Fire District might be best served if we suggest annexations for some of our residents, other Fire Districts if they're too discontinuous with us. Ultimately, as a Fire District, we may even decide if it's best for our residents to create their own fire department or even eventually to dissolve the Fire District to best serve the residents. All of which, I believe, would need a lot of research and time spent to come up with the right information for us to make those kinds of decisions.

Next, the Administrator could work with the Village of Gurnee, keep track of what is going on with the Fire Department, and of course report to our Board. An issue that I believe has come up and is of interest to this Board, and something that I found out in the papers, is that Gurnee has not followed through in hiring the last three full-time firefighters as the Village Board had agreed to during our contract negotiations. Next, Gurnee is claiming to be having financial problems, and yet at the same time they have been raising the salary of their personnel on an average of 7% per year as well as raising the benefit to these employees by another 17% per year. I believe for us to be financially judicious, we need to keep an eye on their spending habits to make sure they're funding the Fire Department that we're using properly, and we'll be able to in the future.

Another topic I'd like to review is I'd like to have added to the next meeting, new business, review and consideration of repeal of our yard-waste burning ordinance. I've actually been approached by residents of our District, including farmers, that they've had visits from our Fire Department, stopping them from burning leaves, of which they have no other way of dealing with. They've looked into alternatives available to them in the County. They do not have sufficient alternatives available to deal with the quantity of leaves they have available. They have no leaf curb pick-up like some of the departments do. We do have, and have had before our burning ordinance with the Fire District went into effect, Nuisance Ordinances, or Hazardous Burning Ordinances, where the Fire Department can indeed get involved if indeed someone is burning in a way that is causing a nuisance for neighbors or is indeed causing some sort of potential hazard for the residents. Our law, I believe, comes up to be not only overpowering to County residents, but perhaps redundant and unenforceable. Next, these fire calls to residents that are burning yard waste, even if it's being done in a responsible way, in a non-nuisance, non-hazardous way, are wasting Department resources of a Fire Department truck having to go to any house that is burning any type of yard waste, be it legally or not-legally, to inspect, review, instruct and or take action to put it out. I think this can cause potential problems for real fire situations in our District. Steve Carlson, of the Lake County Board, and others, have suggested that we work with the County Board to come up with a yard burning control that has in place options for disposal of yard waste. I propose that we add to the agenda of

the next meeting, or this meeting if we believe we can review it at this meeting, the repeal of our current burning ordinance of yard waste, and initiate a request to the Lake County Board to pursue a comprehensive burn ordinance that covers all residents of the County and has alternatives available for yard waste disposal. If our ordinance does stay in place and we take no actions to remove, repeal or change it, I believe we have to then somehow pursue some kind of enforcement if we're going to put a law on the books. And lastly, I'm requesting that the Fire Department report to us all yard burning calls so that we can be aware of what impact this has on their resources and on our citizens."

Trustee Klauber stated that he would like to do some research into the issue of the yard waste burning issue before the Board considers any action on repealing the ordinance. The Board agreed further research was appropriate, and agreed that it would be discussed and considered at the January 17, 2007 meeting.

Al Oller, a Grandwood Park resident, addressed the Board and stated that if the Board decides to keep the ordinance in place, it is important that it is thoroughly communicated to the residents. Tom Castino, a Mill Creek resident, and Penny Kruetziger, a Grandwood Park resident, both spoke in support of considering changes to the ordinance.

President Badtke made a motion to send a formal request to the Gurnee Fire Chief requesting a report of calls received by the Fire Department regarding yard waste burning. Trustee Klauber seconded the motion.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer DeRuntz supplied the Board and the public with copies of his reports dated October 2006 and November 15, 2006.

The Treasurer's report of October 2006 reflected the following: the account with Illinois Funds reflected deposits in the amount of \$7,613.09 for interest income; and \$1,044,776.72 from Property Tax Income; \$27,403.21. The account at Northside Community Bank reflected deposits in the amount of \$417.92 in interest income. Total expenditures were \$15,260.85 in approved payments, giving an ending balance of \$2,328,459.71.

Trustee DeRuntz listed proposed expenditures in the amount of \$1,535.70, which included the following: payment to Tim Spyridon in the amount of \$250.00; payment to Angela Moreno in the amount of \$150.00; payment to Northern Illinois Alliance of FPD in the amount of \$460.70; and payment to Illinois Association of FPD in the amount of \$675.00.

The Treasurer's report dated November 15, 2006 reflected the following: the account with Illinois Funds reflected deposits in the amount of \$9,949.20 for interest income; \$109,669.28 from Property Tax Income; \$18,108.48 from Superior Collection and \$5,659.02 from PPRT. The account at Northside Community Bank reflected deposits in the amount of \$417.11 in interest income and \$200.00 in permit fees. The ending balance was \$2,472,462.80.

Trustee DeRuntz listed proposed expenditures in the amount of \$596,508.62, which included the following: payment to Swanson, Martin & Bell in the amount of \$1,618.62; payment to Tim

Spyridon in the amount of \$250.00; payment to Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts in the amount of \$460.70; payment to Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts in the amount of \$675.00; payment to Brandl Communication in the amount of \$960.00; payment to Judy's Letter Service in the amount of \$3,545.33; payment to Phil DeRuntz (administrative expenses) in the amount of \$40.42; and payment to Angela Moreno in the amount of \$150.00.

Trustee Klauber made a motion to pay the proposed expenditures and approve the Treasurer's Reports for October and November 2006. President Badtke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Secretary's Report: None.

Fire Chief's Report: None.

Attorney's Report: None.

Old Business

Review October Newsletter: The newsletter was mailed out on September 29th in order to coincide with Fire Prevention Month which is October. The map was updated, and the newsletter is receiving great feedback.

Superior Ambulance Billing Collections/Write-offs: There are none at this time.

Mapping Issues: There are none at this time.

Audit: Trustee DeRuntz reported that the audit was very clean, and that the Board should be very proud of the job they are doing in improving the District's financial situation.

Trustee Klauber made a motion to approve the audit. President Badtke seconded the motion.

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

2006 Draft Levy: The draft levy was reviewed by the Board prior to this meeting.

Trustee Klauber made a motion to approve the draft levy resolution as presented. President Badtke seconded the motion.

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

New Business

Ambulance Billing Complaints: There are none at this time.

Annexations: Trustee DeRuntz reported that he received an annexation notice on September 29, 2006 regarding property located at 36185 Fuller Road. The annexation hearing was held on October 16, 2006. Ms. Spring will contact the Village to find out if the annexation was approved. She will then review whether it will form a noncontiguous piece of land, and if so, she will file an objection.

Permit fees/penalties for non-payment: Tom Keefe, Gurnee Fire Marshall, explained the process in which permits are issued through the County. He stated that after the Fire Department signs off on the permit, the County issues the permit, and then the applicant is billed for the permit fee. Trustee DeRuntz reported that there is currently \$6,652.80 in accrued permit fees, of which \$4,552.60 is outstanding. The Board discussed this issue previously, and directed Ms. Spring to draft an ordinance imposing a collection fee on fees not paid within 60 days. Ms. Spring provided the Trustees with a copy of the ordinance for review.

Trustee Klauber made a motion to use Superior Collection Agency to collect outstanding permit fees for the Fire District. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Klauber made a motion to approve the “Ordinance Establishing Charges For Late Payment of Permit Fees”. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

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

Hunt Club Farms Developments: Tom Castino, a Mill Creek resident, addressed the Board regarding a proposed development near Hunt Club Farms. Mr. Castino stated that the development would be over 85 homes on 100 acres (1/2-3/4 acres lots), directly in line with Mill Creek Rd., between Hutchins and Hunt Club Road. He explained his numerous concerns with this development, including traffic flow, water availability, the impact on schools, and most important to this Board, fire protection. He stated that the current plan for the development includes up to 5 cul-de-sacs, and only one way into the subdivision, which makes it very difficult for the Fire Department to access the homes on the cul-de-sacs. Tom Keefe, Gurnee Fire Marshall, stated that he has expressed the Fire Department’s concerns, however, the development is within the County’s jurisdiction, so while they listened to his concerns, they do not necessarily have to do anything in response to them. Ms. Spring advised the Board that as long as the developers are meeting all of the requirements of the District’s ordinance, the only thing the Board can do is express the same concerns to the County Board. Trustees Klauber requested more information on this development before the Board addresses this issue formally to the County. The Board agreed that it was appropriate to seek more information from the County Board.

Public Comment: Penny Kreutziger addressed the Board and expressed concern about the manner in which the Fire District is making payments to the Village of Gurnee. She is concerned that the current practice of making payments to the Village prior to their due date is losing the Fire District money in interest. She encouraged the District to be more conscientious of the potential loss of money.

Closed Session: None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District will be January 17, 2007 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 Klauber made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber

NAYS: None.

Motion carried.

Secretary of WWFPD

Date Minutes approved

