

**MINUTES OF THE WARREN – WAUKEGAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
GURNEE STATION #2**

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

President Martin Klauber 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
Pearl Dilg, Resident
Allen Dilg, Resident
Joseph Falotico, Resident
Perry Howard, Resident
Russell Buvala, Resident
Jack Flory, Resident
Diane Rudd, Resident
Bob Meyer, Resident
Bill Smith, Resident
Barry Smith, Resident
Jerry Rudd, Highway Commissioner
Tom Seveska, Resident*
Doug Taueirne, Dam, Snell & Taueirne, Ltd.
John Kavanagh, Gurnee Fire Department
Steve Carlson, County Board Member
Fred Friedl, Fire Chief, Gurnee Fire Department
Tom Keefe, Fire Marshal, Gurnee Fire Department

**Indicates difficulty reading the name on the sign in sheet.*

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

Approval of minutes:

Trustee Badtke made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment:

President Klauber stated that due to the very large crowd, and in the interest of allowing the residents to speak and have the option to leave for the rest of the meeting, he moved Public

Comment to the beginning of the agenda. President Klauber opened the floor for public comment.

Robert Meyer: He stated that he owns 9.5 acres and has a very large garden. He said that the yard waste burn ban makes his life very difficult, as it restricts his ability to dispose of yard waste and diseased tree material.

Tom Keefe: Mr. Keefe noted for clarification purposes that in November 2005 the Warren Waukegan Fire Protection District adopted the 2003 International Fire Code, which prohibits burning of landscape waste, trash and construction waste. Recreational fires are permitted within the code's guidelines.

Tom Seveska: Inquired as to how the District recommends residents should dispose of diseased trees.

Tom Keefe: Stated that landscape waste removal companies and tree removal services will take away diseased trees.

Bob Meyer: Stated that tree removal service and waste removal service is very costly, especially taking into consideration that the residents in his area have between 5-20 acres to maintain. He stated that he believes that the current burning ban is silly because it is complaint driven, which he interprets to mean that burning is only illegal if you're caught.

Joe Falotico: Echoed the sentiments of the other residents, asked that the Board repeal/amend the ordinance to allow burning. Stated he's been a resident for 48 years and needs to burn to keep up his property.

President Klauber noted for the record that the ordinance was adopted as part of the 2003 International Fire Code with the intention of reducing pollution and health risks to other residents, as smoke from burning yard waste is a very offensive irritant.

Allen Dilg: Asked what the procedure is to reverse the ordinance.

Pres. Klauber: Explained that a majority vote (2/3) could repeal the ordinance or make amendments to the ordinance.

Pearl Dilg: Echoed the sentiments of the other residents. She stated that she's been a resident for 38 years and has always been permitted to burn waste as long as they notified the Fire Department first.

Jack Flory: Asked why Six Flags Great America is allowed to do fireworks shows, as fireworks are a source of pollution.

Tom Keefe: Stated that firework shows are beyond the local fire department's jurisdiction, Great America gets a permit from the State for that.

- Bill Smith: Stated that the diseased trees are the big issue, because they're difficult to get rid off.
- Tom Keefe: Stated that the District should look into whether the IEPA will give a permit for burning diseased trees (civil cultural permit).
- Russell Buvala: Stated that trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer must be destroyed, they can not be chipped because when they are dumped the Emerald Ash Borer can then affect the materials they are dumped with.
- Jerry Rudd: Stated that trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer can be chipped when using a double grind.
- Steve Carlson: Stated that there is currently no Emerald Ash Borer in Lake County, however when it appears chipping is the recommended method of destroying trees that have been affected, according to the Lake County Forest Preserve. Stated that the Board should take into consideration the size of the lots when considering allowing waste burning. Also stated that as of this point, the County is not considering any action on yard waste burning.
- Jerry Rudd: Stated that while the Township Highway Department can handle light pick up of tree limbs, they can not handle the extent of debris that these properties have because they do not have enough manpower.

After hearing the resident's concerns, President Klauber recommended considering an amendment to the Ordinance at the next meeting. The residents expressed concern because the next meeting will not be held until November 14th, and many of them have diseased trees they need to burn now. The Board agreed to hold a Special Call meeting on Wednesday, October 3rd at 7:30 p.m. to consider an amendment to the ordinance.

Trustee Badtke stated that he had previously motioned to reconsider the ordinance; however the motion died for lack of a second. He further stated that he voted on the ordinance, adopted as part of the 2003 International Fire Code, without knowing that a waste burning ban was included. He encouraged residents to come to the next meeting where an amendment would be considered. He further stated that he inquired with the Forest Preserve and was informed that an IEPA permit is not needed for a small burn.

Trustee DeRuntz asked what resources Township residents have to dispose of yard waste. Jerry Rudd stated that the township can remove some, but certainly not all, and they can contract with waste management or tree removal services. Tree removal can easily cost in excess of \$1,000 per tree.

This matter will be considered at the Special Call meeting on October 3, 2007.

REPORTS

President's Report: President Klauber thanked all of the residents for coming to the meeting to discuss their concerns. He also thanked County Board Member Steve Carlson and Highway Commissioner Jerry Rudd for attending and offering their insight.

Treasurer's Report: Trustee DeRuntz supplied the Board and the public with copies of his reports dated August 2007 and September 19, 2007.

The Treasurer's Report of August 2007 reflected the following: the account with Illinois Funds reflected deposits in the amount of \$10,491.75 for interest income; \$26,592.43 in Property Tax income; \$15,376.34 from Superior Collection; and \$6,168.84 in Personal Property Tax Replacement. The account at Harris Bank reflected deposits in the amount of \$201.36 in Interest Income; and \$138.64 in Permit Fees. Total expenditures were \$12,978.47 in approved payments, giving an ending balance of \$2,532,867.29.

The Treasurer's Report dated September 19, 2007 reflected the following: the account with Illinois Funds reflected deposits in the amount of \$7,638.90 for interest income; \$60,646.66 from Property Tax income; \$30,808.33 from Superior Collection; and \$2,720.94 from Personal Property Replacement Tax. The account at Harris Bank reflected deposits in the amount of \$161.77 in interest income. Total expenditures were \$5,075.95 in approved payments. There was an ending balance of \$2,055,167.94.

Trustee DeRuntz listed proposed expenditures in the amount of \$11,772.50, which included the following: payment to Swanson, Martin & Bell in the amount of \$9,402.50; payment to Eder, Casella & Co. in the amount of \$20.00; a second payment to Eder, Casella & Co. in the amount of \$2,200.00; and payment to Angela Moreno in the amount of \$150.00.

Trustee Badtke made a motion to pay the proposed expenditures and to approve the Treasurer's Reports for August and September 2007. President Klauber seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber

NAYS: None.

Motion carried.

Trustee DeRuntz stated that he received two bids to provide auditing services to the District, one from the current auditor, Eder, Casella & Co., and the second bid from Dam, Snell & Tauerne, Ltd. Doug Tauerne was in attendance to discuss the auditing services that his firm could provide to the District. He gave the Board a brief overview of their scope of services, and stated that they provide auditing services to many other fire districts. Trustee DeRuntz asked Mr. Tauerne how the cost for services would increase annually as part of a 3 year contract. Mr. Tauerne stated that an annual increase of 5-7% is typical.

Trustee Badtke made a motion to hire Dam, Snell & Tauerne, Ltd., for auditing services for a three year period beginning January 1, 2008. Trustee DeRuntz seconded the motion.

Trustee Badtke asked what the firm charges for other services, and Mr. Tauierne stated that their fee is \$85 per hour for bookkeeping services and \$140 per hour for professional services. Trustee Badtke also asked if Mr. Tauierne's firm handles day-to-day practices, i.e. check writing, bill paying, etc. Mr. Tauierne stated that his firm can manage those duties; however it's not appropriate because the auditing then loses independence. Trustee Badtke stated that he believes that it is a good thing for the District to change auditing firms because it provides a new, fresh look at the District's records and practices.

Trustee Badtke expressed concern that the Treasurer has the authority to electronically transfer money to any location in any amount, and asked Mr. Tauierne his opinion on a way to control that. Mr. Tauierne stated that those practices are limited to the restrictions of the financial institution, and that he would suggest having bank activity reviewed by somebody other than the Treasurer.

Voice vote on the motion to hire the auditing firm of Dam, Snell & Tauierne, Ltd.:
AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Because this item was not on the agenda, it will be ratified at the next meeting.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Fire Chief's Report: No report.

Attorney's Report: Ms. Spring reported that she received an outstanding permit payment in the amount of \$2,039.30, which represented approximately ½ of the District's outstanding permit payments.

OLD BUSINESS

Superior Ambulance billing: There were no issues to discuss at this time, therefore this issue was tabled.

Village Contract:

President Klauber reported that he and Ms. Spring met with the Village and that they have requested a 4% increase plus an additional \$110,000 increase for the 2008-2009 contract, and then a 5% increase for the two years after that. He stated that if the District does not renew the contract that the Village will cancel, which would then leave one more year of service before the contract would be over and the District would have to renegotiate a new contract or look for service elsewhere.

Ms. Spring provided the Board with supporting documentation to examine while considering this issue, including Fire District Summary Information, a summary of the contract proposal, a table of potential comparison figures and a letter that Ms. Spring drafted following the meeting with the Village.

President Klauber stated that the Village indicated that they agreed to the current contract because the District was in a difficult financial position, and since the District is no longer financially challenged, the Village believes that the District should pay a more appropriate amount. President Klauber suggested offering the Village a 4% increase with an additional \$55,000 increase and then an annual increase of 4.5% over the next two years, and asked the other Trustees to provide guidance for him to negotiate with the Village.

Trustee DeRuntz stated that the District was once \$800,000 in debt, and that the Village was not concerned, so he is less than enthusiastic to give them what they want. He noted that the money that the District has worked hard to save in the reserve fund is not a surplus, but a much needed reserve, as the District continues to lose EAV due to annexed property.

President Klauber stated that if the District does nothing, the Village will cancel and then the negotiations start all over again, which may cause the Village to be less willing to work with the District.

Trustee Badtke stated that the average tax paid by residents has doubled, and that he doesn't believe the contract was agreed upon by the Village to help the District, but rather he believes it was agreed that it was a fair amount for the service provided (it included a 7-8% increase). Trustee Badtke requested more detailed information pertaining to the Fire Department/Village's actual costs over the last several years. He recommended that President Klauber and/or Ms. Spring further examine the Village's cost vs. spending. He would like them to verify costs today and over the past five years, verify income (i.e. ambulance service), and look at service calls in the District vs. the Village. If all of that information is reviewed and President Klauber is comfortable with the increase, then he supports President Klauber's recommendation.

This will be further considered at the Special Call meeting so that the Trustees can further review the Village's financial information.

NEW BUSINESS

Ambulance Billing Complaints: There are none at this time.

Annexations: Ms. Spring stated that she received a call from the City of Waukegan's attorney, who stated that the County made an error calculating tax income on a parcel that was annexed. Ms. Spring and the attorney are waiting for correct information from the County.

Fall Newsletter: Trustee Badtke reported that he is currently working on the fall newsletter.

Impact Fee Ordinance:

Ms. Spring explained that the Impact Fee Ordinance would impose a fee on developers to compensate for the increased cost of providing service. The fee will be \$150.00 per residential unit.

This issue will be considered at the Special Call meeting on October 3, 2007.

Public Comment: None.

Closed Session: None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District will be October 3, 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 DeRuntz made a motion to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. Trustee Badtke seconded the motion.

AYES: Badtke, DeRuntz, Klauber

NAYS: None.

Motion carried.

Secretary of WWFPD

Date minutes approved