

SOUTH ELGIN AND COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICIAL RECORD

DATE: May 13, 2025

The regular monthly meeting for the South Elgin and Countryside Fire Protection District was called to order on May 13, 2025 at 19:00. The meeting was conducted at Station 22, 2055 McDonald Road, South Elgin, IL, 60177.

PRESENT: President Diana Cornelissen, Secretary Rick Bohlman, Treasurer Jeffrey Speyers, Trustee Jeff Theriault, and Trustee Kathy Hazelwood

ABSENT: None.

Treasurer's Report –James Howard was present via ZOOM to review the District's financial report as provided for April 2025 with the Board. James discussed the District's financial position through the end of April, 2025. Ambulance income is still down due to waiting on GEMT rates. The Board discussed how impending tariffs could affect the District.

Acceptance and Approval of Consent Agenda-

- a. Approval of Battalion Chief Matthew Starr Employment Contract 6-1-25 through 5-31-26
- b. Approval of Battalion Chief William Eckles Employment Contract 6-1-25 through 5-31-26
- c. Approval of Battalion Chief Justin Cox Employment Contract 6-1-25 through 5-31-26
- d. Approval of Civilian Support Staff and Part-Time Firefighter wages as presented 4-8-25
- e. Approval of April 8, 2025 meeting minutes
- f. Approval of Treasurer's Report for April 2025
- g. Approval May 13, 2025 bills in the amount of \$ 88,972.37
Ratify April 9-May 12, 2025 bills in the amount of \$ 160,385.00

Trustee Hazelwood made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Secretary Bohlman seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT- Attorney Flaherty updated the Board on the bills in legislation that impact fire districts that are most likely to pass. These bills include House Bill 2409, a push for fire gear that has not been treated with poisonous chemicals but can also pass NFPA Standards, House Bill 3388 would add to the definition of a fire house vehicle, i.e. ATV, off-road highway vehicles, watercraft or aircraft. This bill would give these vehicles the same protection as the more common fire house vehicles. Also, House Bill 2336 that would allow Fire Districts to charge a fee for lift assists after 6 lifts (per facility) in a year.

CHIEF'S REPORT –

- Fire Prevention Fee Structure Ordinance - This project is still in the works and scheduled to be completed later this year.
- Chief Luchsinger informed the Board of a business in our District that is assembling live musical entertainment on Randall Road. This is creating an issue with our fire codes and the surrounding businesses. The District's Fire Prevention Bureau is teaming up with the Village of South Elgin to address this matter.

- New Battalion Car – We are waiting on all of the parts and the console to be delivered. Once all of the parts for the vehicle are in our hands, it will go to the Huntley Fire Protection District's Fleet Department for the installation of the emergency lighting, radio equipment, and the command console. The car is expected to be in service later this summer.
- Station 22 HVAC-Locker Room –The women's locker room at Station 22 is not heating properly. The District purchased an auxiliary heater that has an independent thermostat to ensure it will not run nonstop, only when needed.
- Chief Luchsinger reported that Ambulance 23 was involved in a small vehicle accident. Repairs to the cap on the affected wheel will be repaired. There were no other issues to the ambulance.
- On May 13th, 2025 the District received a surprise inspection from the IL Secretary of State, auditing our Third-Party Certifications and records for our drivers' program. BC Eckles and Lt. Freiberg have done a great job keeping our records up to date. We passed the audit without any issues and received two suggestions for the future.
- The 2024 Annual Report has been completed and is available at any of the three fire stations and on the District's website.
- The District is installing a surge protection system at Station 22. There have been many issues in the past that this system will provide protection from.
- Fire District Annex-Drafting Pit -The District has contacted and hired Fowler Services to resolve the issues with the Drafting Pit at the Annex. Fowlers presented the best plan to get this project completed in a safe, timely, and cost-effective manner.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-

President Cornelissen thanked Battalion Chief Starr for his work to rectify the issues at the Annex and at Station 22. She also thanked Dave Shmidt for his service to our District and wished him the best in his new position as Fire Chief of Hampshire FPD. President Cornelissen noted that today was the Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. President Cornelissen added a thanks to Trustee Theriault for his service as a police officer; the week of May 15th is National Law Enforcement Week.

OLD BUSINESS-

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS-

Discussion and possible approval to renew the Illinois Public Risk Fund Workers Compensation Policy in the amount of \$325,233. The District received a 3% increase for our 25/26 Workers Compensation Insurance renewal. Treasurer Speyers made a motion to approve the renewal of the District's Illinois Public Risk Fund Workers Compensation Policy in the amount of \$325,233. Secretary Bohlman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote of 5-0.

The Board made the decision to move to Closed Session to discuss the possible appointments of Assistant Fire Chief and Battalion Chief.

Any other New Business- No other new business.

Secretary Bohlman made a motion to move to Closed Session for items B and C on the agenda @ 19:19 for the purpose of 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body to determine its validity, and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) Litigant, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed session, and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. Trustee Hazelwood seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

Trustee Theriault made a motion that was seconded by Secretary Bohlman to return to the regular meeting at 20:39.

The Board of Trustees made the decision to offer Battalion Chief Justin Cox the position of Assistant Fire Chief and Lieutenant Jason Peters the position of Battalion Chief; negotiations for contracts to follow.

Good of the District – Nothing at this time.

Public Comment- Nothing at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board on a motion duly made by Secretary Bohlman and seconded by Treasurer Speyers the meeting was adjourned at 20:40 hours; the motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary Bohlman