

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

DATE: September 12, 2024

The regular monthly meeting for the South Elgin and Countryside Fire Protection District was called to order on September 12, 2024, at 09:00. The meeting was conducted at Station 22, 2055 McDonald Road, South Elgin, IL, 60177.

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

ABSENT: Trustee Jeff Theriault

PRESENTATIONS –

- Chief Luchsinger reported that we received news that the District have received the GFOA Award for financial reporting for the 22-23 Fiscal Year. The District's efforts to increase transparency and reporting in local units of government were recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association which awarded the District with their highest level of award, the Certificate of Achievement Award. Notice of this award will be put on Facebook and our website, and we will receive a plaque in the mail.

Treasurer's Report –James Howard was present and reviewed with the Board the District's financial report as provided for August 2024. The Board discussed the District's financial position thus far into 2024. The Board discussed the necessity of additional manning to decrease overtime costs.

Acceptance and Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of August 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of August 13, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes
- c. Approval of Treasurer's Report for August 2024
- d. Approval September 12, 2024 bills in the amount of \$78,137.84
- Ratify August 9-September 11, 2024 bills in the amount of \$203,849.44
- e. Approval First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Elgin and the South Elgin & Countryside Fire Protection District for Fire Dispatch Services effective September 1st, 2024 through April 30th, 2030.

Secretary Bohlman made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Trustee Hazelwood seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 4-0 (Trustee Theriault absent).

ATTORNEY'S REPORT- Attorney not present.

CHIEF'S REPORT –

- Update Full-Time Hiring Process - Chief Luchsinger informed the Board that the candidate that accepted our offer of fulltime employment has completed all of the District's pre-employment processing. Chief Luchsinger will meet with the Fire Commission promptly to go over the reports.
- Electric Aggregation for all properties -The District's contract for electrical aggregation has expired. After shopping around Chief Luchsinger renewed our rate and signed once again with Vanguard. Chief Luchsinger reported that he has also been investigating aggregation for the District's natural gas for all three stations as well.

- The District received our GEMT invoice for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2023, and the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2024. The money the District had put aside for this expenditure has been building a considerable amount of interest. Chief Luchsinger feels we should set this money aside in investments to put towards the future purchase of new SCBA air packs.
- Chief Luchsinger reported to the Board that the District had a structure fire last week on Airlite Street in Elgin. He noted that the increased training and collaborative training efforts that we have implemented with the Elgin Fire Department made a hugely positive difference on the fire scene.
- Chief Luchsinger reminded the Board that he and A/C Schmidt will be out of the office September 16-19 as they will be attending the IFCA Conference in Peoria, IL. Chief also noted that he will be out of the office September 25-27 attending the Pension Conference.
- The District will soon start full-time testing on September 19th. The testing portal will be open until October 25, 2024. It has been decided to return to requiring having a current CPAT due at time of application and at time of hire. Chief Luchsinger reached out to the South Elgin High School's Beacon Academy to inquire if they would be interested in producing some short videos about our District to show on our Facebook page and website. The hope is that these videos increase interest in testing/working for our Fire District.
- Chief Luchsinger reported to the Board that we received a large tax payment on September 11th. The District also received a large, long awaited GEMT payment from the state this week. Chief Luchsinger will discuss with our investment advisors on how to manage this money in the most responsible way.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT- President Cornelissen asked the Board members to advise her of their preferences for scheduling next year's (2025) Trustee meetings.

OLD BUSINESS- Nothing at this time

NEW BUSINESS-

Discussion and possible approval of a quote from Stryker for 1-Power Load Fastener and Power-Pro 2 Cot with extended warranty in the amount of \$77,435.10- Last month Chief Luchsinger reported to the Board the need to purchase or order a stretcher for the new ambulance. Chief has submitted for a grant from IPRF to help cover over half of the cost of the stretcher. Secretary Bohlman made a motion to approve the purchase of a Stryker for 1-Power Load Fastener and Power-Pro 2 Cot with extended warranty in the amount of \$77,435.10 as presented. Treasurer Speyers seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 4-0 (Trustee Theriault absent).

Discussion and possible approval of Side Letter 24-003 Donation of Paid Time Off -

The current collective bargaining agreement does not allow for donation of sick time for the purpose of maternity or paternity leave. This side letter will correct that, this side letter has no financial impact to the District. The Union has voted on this side letter, and they have approved it as written. Secretary Bohlman made a motion to approve Side Letter 24-003 as presented. Treasurer Speyers seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 4-0 (Trustee Theriault absent).

Discussion and possible approval of Side Letter 24-002 Seniority Calculation- -The District's new Lieutenant's testing company identified that the past practice of applying seniority points to promotional testing candidates has been done outside of the language of the contract. The Union and the Administration both wish to continue with the practice that has been done for the past 14 years and need clarification in the contract of that practice. The Union has voted and approved this side letter in the Labor

Agreement. Trustee Hazelwood made a motion to approve Side Letter 24-002 as presented. President Cornelissen seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 4-0 (Trustee Theriault absent).

Any other New Business- None at this time.

Closed Session – President Cornelissen made a motion to suspend the regular meeting and go to Closed Session for reason 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 at 09:40. Secretary Bohlman seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 4-0 (Trustee Theriault absent).

By a motion made by Treasurer Speyers and seconded by Secretary Bohlman the regular meeting was resumed at 10:04.

Good of the District – Secretary Rick Bohlman thanked FF/PM Matt Turnquist and FF/PM Garrick Penrod for the compassionate care they gave him on a call recently.

Chief Luchsinger informed the board that the District has developed a plan of showing support, sympathy or congratulations to our employees during the loss of an immediate family member or the birth of a child.

Public Comment- None 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 Trustee Kathy Hazelwood the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 hours; the motion passed 4-0 (Trustee Theriault absent).

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary Bohlman