

Rockland Fire Protection District
Board of Trustees

Minutes of Special Meeting
Monday, July 18, 2016
Knollwood Fire Department, Meeting Room
14 Skokie Highway, Lake Bluff, IL. 60044

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. President Snoblin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following attendance noted:

Trustee/President Karl Snoblin	Chief Jon Harlow
Trustee/Treasurer Dan Rogers	Deputy Chief Erik Kositzki
Trustee/Secretary Robert Grum	Attorney Brian O'Connor

Quorum acknowledged.
Others present – Members of the Public and Department.
2. Pledge of Allegiance. Recitation led by President Snoblin.
3. Public Hearing on Ord. 2016-01 Adopting the Budget & Appropriations for FY 2016-2017.
 - a. President Snoblin opening the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m.
 - b. Public Comment began with a presentation by Deputy Chief Kositzki for the Board and members of the Public and Department on how the Trustees calculated and prepared the budget and appropriations ordinance details.
 - c. After the presentation concluded President Snoblin asked for other comments or questions.
 - d. One question was asked about the new assisted care facility at Atkinson and Waukegan Roads [the Sheridan at Green Oaks assisted living facility development] and the impact on District operations.
 - i. Deputy Chief Kositzki and President Snoblin explained that the Board and chief officers had been in contact with the Village of Green Oaks and the property owners and site manager.
 - ii. They advised that the property was in a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district established by the Village of Green Oaks, which would detrimentally impact District receipt of tax revenue from the recent improvements on the property for another 20 years. Members of the public were not pleased to learn this.
 - iii. Deputy Chief Kositzki and President Snoblin also explained that the nature of the assisted care facility caused the chief officers to estimate an increase in ambulance calls to the District.

- iv. They noted efforts by the Board and chief officers to work with officials of the Village of Green Oaks and property owners and site manager to minimize the number of ambulance calls and to seek funding to support the anticipated increased ambulance services to the property.
 - e. A second question was asked about burden sharing and property tax contributions. Deputy Chief Kositzki noted the District had 649 residential properties and 60 commercial (business) properties. He explained taxes were based upon the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of the properties. He explained that although the EAV of commercial property was generally greater than residential property, the sheer ratio of residential properties to commercial properties probably meant that the residential properties collectively bore the brunt of the District's property tax burden
 - f. There being no further questions, President Snoblin closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.
- 4. Consideration of Minutes. Minutes from the June 13, 2016, regular meeting were reviewed. Trustee Snoblin offered a correction to the spelling of business identified in the 7th line of item 7(a) changing from "Network" to "Nextword" Communications. There being no further discussion, motion by Trustee Rogers, second by Trustee Grum, to approve the minutes as amended. No further discussion. Minutes were approved on a unanimous voice vote.
- 5. Public Comment. President Snoblin opened the meeting to comments from the public [5 ILCS 120/2.06(g)].
 - a. Resident Ed Whitehead addressed several questions to Trustees Rogers and Grum, which were answered.
 - b. Resident Pat Issel asked about voter approval of rumored efforts to consolidate or dissolve the fire department.
 - i. General discussion ensued involving Trustees Snoblin, Rogers and Grum including assurances that no action had been taken by the Board on the question of dissolution of the fire department.
 - ii. Attorney O'Connor explained consolidation was complex, and could range from functional consolidation of long-time practices such as auto-aid and mutual-aid responses to the extreme of full and complete consolidation under a relatively recent Section of the Fire Protection District Act.

- iii. Attorney O'Connor added that Trustees had the obligation to provide adequate protection from fire for all persons and property within the District while at the same time ensuring the services were provided in the most cost effective and efficient manner possible.
 - iv. Attorney O'Connor noted that the Board could contract for fire or ambulance services, but added that no action could be taken except at a properly convened Board meeting which members of the public were welcome to attend.
 - v. Trustee Snoblin and Chief Harlow noted the District had long provided adequate emergency ambulance service to the District, earlier by contract with the City of Lake Forest but more recently, due to cost considerations, by contract with the Village of Libertyville.
 - vi. Trustees Snoblin, Rogers and Grum affirmed that no action had been taken on the possible contracting for fire services to the District.
 - vii. Several members of the public expressed very strong support for the District Board to retain the fire department.
- c. One member of the public present made loud, vulgar and offensive comments (the "objecting member") to and about Trustee Rogers.
- i. Attorney O'Connor noted that the person's behavior was not proper and the conduct impeded the ability of the Board to conduct District business.
- d. President Snoblin asked for and motion was made by Trustee Rogers to recess the meeting at 7:39 p.m., seconded by Trustee Grum. Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote; meeting recessed.
- i. Attorney O'Connor announced for all present that the meeting would reconvene later that evening.
- e. In departing the meeting room, the objecting member left his seat and move toward confront, and made physical contact with, Trustee Rogers.
- i. Other persons present facilitated separation of the objecting member from Trustee Rogers. Trustee Grum interposed himself between the objecting member and Trustee Rogers.
 - ii. The trustees left the meeting room.

- f. The Lake County Sheriff’s office was contacted and a Deputy responded to investigate and take statements of events that had transpired.
- g. Emotions having subsided and calm restored, President Snoblin reconvened the meeting and Public Comment at 8:26 p.m.

Attendance as follows:

Trustee/President Karl Snoblin	Chief Jon Harlow
Trustee/Treasurer Dan Rogers	Deputy Chief Erik Kositzki
Trustee/Secretary Robert Grum	Attorney Brian O’Connor
Others present – Fewer members of the Public and Department.	

- h. No further public comment was offered.

6. Attorney’s Report. Tabled to the regular meeting August, 8.

7. Chief’s Report. Generally tabled to the regular meeting August, 8.

- a. Parking Lot Repairs. Brief discussion on recent parking lot repairs led by Chief Harlow.
- b. Repair/Replace 2 Second-floor Windows. Trustee Rogers advised he had earlier in the day received an invoice for repairs needed for the 2 windows on the second floor of the headquarters and fire station. During discussion the Board noted that onset of inclement weather of the fall and winter seasons increased likelihood of even greater damage to the station. After general discussion ended, Board consensus was to move forward with window repairs by David Hansen Construction to prevent expanded damage to the station with an estimated cost of \$745. An invoice for payment to be presented and considered at the meeting August 8.

8. Treasurer’s Report. Tabled to the regular meeting August, 8.

9. Approval of Outstanding Invoices. Tabled to the regular meeting August, 8.

10. Consideration of Ord. 2016-01 Adopting the Budget & Appropriations for FY 2016-2017. Trustee Snoblin briefly reviewed the Budget and Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017), noting the more thorough presentation by Deputy Chief Kositzki earlier at the Public Hearing.

There be no further discussion, motion by Trustee Rogers, seconded by Trustee Grum, to approve Ord. 2016-01 Adopting the Budget & Appropriations for FY 2016-2017. Roll call vote: Snoblin – yes; Rogers – yes; Grum – yes; Motion Passed.

Attorney O’Connor was directed to file the Budget & Appropriations Ordinance with the Lake County Clerk.

11. Invoice and bill payment procedures. Tabled to the regular meeting August, 8.
12. Building loan. Trustee discussion noting the mortgage on the station is a balloon that will need to be refinanced. Current mortgage holder, Northern Trust, will not renew. Consensus of the Board to authorize Trustee Rogers to research mortgage refinance options, which initially would include Harris Bank and Lake Forest Bank and Trust, with Trustee Rogers to report back to the Board on progress made and information obtained.
13. E-dispatch policy. General discussion between Trustees and chief officers on activation of e-dispatch for trustees. After general discussion on pros and cons and uses, consensus (1) to provide Trustees e-dispatch access for Rockland FPD (Knollwood FD) calls and (2) for Trustee Grum to prepare an e-dispatch policy for trustees for Board consideration at the meeting August 8.
14. Video of RFPD meetings. Tabled to the regular meeting August, 8.
15. Non-Agenda Items. Tabled to the regular meeting August, 8.
16. Nominations/Resignations/Terminations of Members of the Knollwood Fire Department. Chief Harlow advised that 1 member, Brian Sidollo (phonetic), had resigned.
17. Adjournment. Trustee Rogers made a motion to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. which was seconded by Trustee Grum. The Motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian J. O'Connor
District Attorney

Approved _____, 2016

Karl Snoblin
Board President

Robert Grum
Board Secretary