

North Shore Fire Department Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: July 12, 2022

Meeting held virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Eido Walny, representing Bayside
Wanda Montgomery, representing Brown Deer
Douglas Frazer, representing Fox Point
Bryan Kennedy, representing Glendale
Rebecca Ewald, representing Shorewood
Kevin Buckley, representing Whitefish Bay

Also Present: Robert Whitaker, Fire Chief
John Maydak, Assistant Chief
Toby Carlson, Assistant Chief
Dan Tyk, Battalion Chief
KateLynn Harrigan, Finance Director
Kerry Wenzel, Administrative Coordinator
Andy Pederson, Bayside Village Manager
Tyler Burkart, Brown Deer Village Manager
Karl Warwick, Glendale City Administrator
Paul Boening, Whitefish Bay Village Manager
Peter Ziegelbauer, Local 1440
Becky Rowland, North Shore Health Department Director

2. PERSONS DESIRING TO BE HEARD

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mayor Kennedy and seconded by President Walny to approve the May 10, 2022 Board of Directors minutes as presented. Motion carried.

4. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT ON DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES RELATING TO DEPARTMENT CALLS, STAFFING, APPOINTMENT/PROMOTION NEEDS, TRAINING, FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Chief Whitaker stated the Department, along with members from Bayside Communications Center, are working on the first training portion for Emergency Medical Dispatch.

Chief Whitaker stated nine new hires began their respective shifts within the last week. He reviewed the second quarter response statistics noting an approximate 18% call volume increase. All communities have seen an increase and the Department will continue to analyze those statistics. The unit hour utilization (UHU) remains concerning for some response units. Changes were made on July 1 to manage that call volume. For the 2023 budget, Staff will discuss options to staff a permanent ambulance rather than a cross-staffed unit.

5. NSFD COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chief Whitaker stated the Fire Commission is set to meet this evening to interview firefighter candidates.

6. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – KATELYNN HARRIGAN

Finance Director Harrigan stated the Department is 50% through the fiscal year. Revenue sources continue to perform well, including ambulance collections and permit fees. The Department is just over 60% at revenue estimates. Approximately \$45,000 was paid to J&H controls for HVAC work performed at Station 81 and Station 85.

President Montgomery asked what the Department is seeing regarding diverse recruit candidates. Chief Whitaker stated we have some diverse candidates interviewing this evening. There continues to be challenges regarding finding candidates that have both paramedic certification and firefighting certifications. As such, the Department began hiring EMT-Basic candidates and will take the position to begin training employees at the Paramedic level. Chief Whitaker stated the Department anticipates 3-4 more retirements this year; however, those are included in the fall academy.

President Montgomery asked if the Department anticipates health insurance costs due to recent family growth in the Department. Finance Director Harrigan stated the Department offers a single or family health insurance plan and we do already see many of these on the family plan. She noted the Department was a member of WEA Trust and we were recently notified they will no longer offer a health insurance plan. Staff has begun looking at our options and will continue to research providers.

7. UPDATE REGARDING FIRE STATION 82 (GLENDALE) PROJECT

Chief Whitaker stated Staff has finalized plans for the building and a bid package is being developed. We are scheduled to be on the agenda for the Glendale Planning Commission in August. Staff is planning for a bid opening in late August/early September and will bring information to the September Board meeting.

President Walny stated Bayside is comfortable to go to bid but have concerns with the increased cost estimates. President Frazer agreed and believes the Board should move carefully.

8. SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

The Board is set to meet on August 9, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom.

President Montgomery asked if anyone has any agenda items, please reach out to her or Chief Whitaker. Chief Whitaker added Staff intends to have the Preliminary Budget available at the August meeting.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tyler Burkhart updated the Board regarding the Brown Deer Road closure at the Railroad. The detour will use County Line Road. President Montgomery added the fireworks are scheduled for August 17 in conjunction with Community Vibes.

National Night Out is scheduled for August 2 in Shorewood.

Mayor Kennedy stated Glendale will recognize former Alderperson Wiese for his contributions to the City.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by President Montgomery and seconded by Mayor Kennedy to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:46 a.m.

Submitted by:
Kerry Wenzel for
Bryan Kennedy
Secretary/Treasurer
NSFD Board of Directors