



**CRETE TOWNSHIP
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

26730 S. Stoney Island
Crete, Illinois 60417-4746

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EMERGENCY: DIAL 911

www.cretetwpfire.com



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MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 2022 CTFPD TRUSTEES' MEETING

March 14, 2022

Crete Township Fire Protection District – Station #41

26730 S. Stoney Island

Crete, IL 60417

7:00 PM – Meeting was called to order by Trustee Miller.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present - Trustee Miller, Trustee Peterlin, Trustee Zimmerman, Chief Panega, Deputy Chief Radtke, Lieutenant Moeller

Absent - Assistant Chief Swanson, Lieutenant Haemker, Lieutenant Pinnick

Secretary's Report: Motion was made by Trustee Peterlin to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting. Second Trustee Miller. Motion carried. (3-yes, 0-no)

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report was read by Trustee Peterlin. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Trustee Miller. Second Trustee Zimmerman. Motion carried. (3-yes, 0-no)

Fire Call Report: Written report presented - 131 calls were reported for the month of February.

EMS Report: Written report presented. SMO tests have been completed by all members.

Training Officer: Written report submitted. Members listed are working on completing outstanding trainings.

Grant Summary: No word has been received on the outstanding grant award notifications.

Fire Prevention: Written report submitted. Installation of the new fire alarm system at the Forest Preserve on S. Stoney Island is complete. A letter was sent to Balmoral Park regarding the inoperative sprinkler system and multiple violations with the location. CTFPD continues to work on updating to the 2018 Fire Codes.

Deputy Chief: Written report submitted. Currently, all six positions on the Kurtz contract are filled. Three new part-time employees have been hired which will help in filling the daily schedule. One former member has been rehired as a part-

time/paid-on-call member and is completing training. Contact has been made with members delinquent on monthly training. Accident and ambulance billing are current. CTFPD received \$29,799.04 from the Covid-19 fourth round of relief funds. Working with Will County to convert the old Fire House software to a stand-alone system. Work continues on setting up the new Zoll Fire Reporting software; training has been scheduled for March 23rd & 24th.

Chief's Report: Written report was presented. The Work Comp audit was completed March 11th. The brush truck will be going in for service to repair a misfire on cylinder 3. Work has begun on the 2022/2023 budget. Engine #43 is expected back from Alexis in the next few weeks. The rechassis of Ambulance #43 will not begin until next fiscal year.

Approval of Bills: Motion to accept bills as submitted by Trustee Miller. Second Trustee Peterlin. Motion carried. (3-yes, 0-no)

Communications: **Steger Fire Department – Thank You** - A thank you was received from Steger Fire Department for responding to a structure fire on January 28th.

The Strickland Family – Thank You – A thank you was received from the Strickland Family for services provided.

Walter & Jeanette Podlin – Thank You – A thank you was received from Walter & Jeanette Podlin for the consistent service provided by CTFPD to the residents of Crete Township.

Lt. Kyle Haemker – Letter of Resignation from Kurtz Contract – Trustees accepted Lt. Kyle Haemker's letter of resignation from the Kurtz Contract.

Firefighter/Paramedic Zachary Bolda – Letter of Resignation – Trustees accepted the letter of resignation from Firefighter/Paramedic Zachary Bolda.

Firefighter/Paramedic Marcus Franklin, who has been hired on the Kurtz Contract, was introduced to District Trustees.

Old Business: None.

New Business: **Approve Renewal of Insurance – Corkill Insurance** - A proposal for the renewal of insurance was reviewed by Trustees. The premium for coverage is \$30,500.00; an increase of \$931.00. Motion by Trustee Miller to approve the renewal of insurance for the District with Corkill Insurance. Second Trustee Peterlin. Motion carried. (3-yes, 0-no)

Resolution #2022-01 – A Resolution Authorizing Reimbursement to Donald Radtke Jr. by the Crete Township Fire Protection District – A Columbian Life Insurance policy was offered to members approximately

thirty years ago by the District. Due to only three members being left on the policy, District Trustees voted to terminate the program at the May 10, 2021 District Meeting. Columbian Life Insurance issued Donald Radtke's check from his personal account to Crete Township Fire Protection District in error and would not reissue the check due to the account being closed. As previously discussed with the accountant, auditors and attorney, CTFPD deposited the check in the District's bank account and will need to reimburse Donald Radtke Jr. for the amount he is due. The proposed Resolution authorizes the District to issue the reimbursement to Donald Radtke Jr.

Motion to approve Resolution #2022-01 – A Resolution Authorizing Reimbursement to Donald Radtke Jr. by the Crete Township Fire Protection District by Trustee Miller. Second Trustee Zimmerman.

Roll call vote - Trustee Miller – yes
Trustee Peterlin – yes
Trustee Zimmerman – yes

Motion carried. (3-yes, 0-no)

Discussion and Possible Approval of Ordinance Submitting the Question of a New Pension Tax Rate to Referendum – As discussed at a previous meeting, CTFPD's attorney was directed to prepare an ordinance to submit the question of a new pension tax rate to referendum. Trustee Miller stated due to the condition of the economy he did not feel this is the right time to be asking for a referendum from taxpayers. Currently, the issue would be too difficult to sell or promote. Trustee Zimmerman stated it may still be a good idea to ask for the referendum in order to show the District's need for the funds and get the answers from the taxpayers where the issue may stand. Trustee Peterlin commented in order to attract people in the workforce it has to be in the benefits offered, no matter what field of work it is in.

Further discussion included the fact that the new pension tax rate could only be used for a pension, which would add no additional funds to the general budget for salaries or an increase in personnel. If the District were to hire six full time employees and they were to unionize, CTFPD would also be faced with the loss of part-time personnel who would no longer be able to work for the District because they hold full-time union positions at other departments. As a result, it would create a shortage of part-time manpower.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Peterlin to table the Ordinance to submit the question of a new pension tax rate to referendum until a later date. Second Trustee Zimmerman. Motion carried. (3-yes, 0-no)

Closed Session: None.

Citizens Speak: No one from the public was present for comment.

Motion to Adjourn the March 14, 2022 meeting at 7:50 PM by Trustee Miller. Second Trustee Zimmerman. Motion carried.