

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 17, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Kevin McCurrie at the Palos Fire Protection District, Station 1, 8815 W. 123<sup>rd</sup> Street, Palos Park, Illinois.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** President Kevin McCurrie led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** On the call of the roll, Trustees Kevin McCurrie, Richard Nogal, Todd Thielmann, and Ed Verdino responded as present. Gene Adams is not in attendance.

**OTHER PRESENT:** Chief Gabriele, Deputy Chief Stukel, Recording Secretary Dana Fischl, and fire station personnel are also in attendance. James Howard from Governmental Accounting Inc., and Attorney Thomas Courtney are in attendance via Zoom.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to revise the agenda to move the Old Business discussion and possible board action of Cook County 911 Dispatch IGA to the forefront of the meeting. Trustee Nogal made that motion, and Trustee Verdino seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion and possible board action of Cook County 911 Dispatch IGA

Martin Bennett, Executive Director, and Chris Lienhardt, Director of Fire Operations, are in attendance.

Discussion ensued.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the Cook County 911 Dispatch IGA. Trustee Nogal made a motion to approve the IGA between the Cook County 911 Dispatch, on behalf of the Cook County Sheriff's Office, and the Palos Fire Protection District. Trustee Thielmann seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the open session minutes of the January 20, 2026, regular meeting, as written. Trustee Verdino made the motion, to which Trustee Nogal seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the closed session minutes of the January 20, 2026, regular meeting as written. Trustee Verdino made that motion, and Trustee Nogal seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

**TREASURER REPORT:** James Howard presented the Treasurer's Report and did an excellent job of explaining the District's Financial Analysis for the 9 months ending January 31, 2026, and the Summary of Revenue and Expenditures.

**Revenue Highlights** indicate that we are 75% through the budget year and 48.2% of the total budget.

- Collected \$2,710,203 or 39% of the budget (1st Major Installment(s) from Cook County).
- Collected \$841,623 or 74.0% of the budget in Ambulance Fees.
- Collected \$25,706 or 64.3% of the budget in Personal Property Replacement Taxes.
- Collected \$199,603 in interest, or 121.0% of the budget.
- Collected \$34,539 or 138.2% of the budget for Fire Recovery

**Expenditure Highlights** convey that we are at 67.4% of the total budget (excluding transfers).

- Operating expenditure is \$5,980,665 or 68.0% of the budget.
- We have made 8 of 12 Health Insurance Payments.
- Paid Personnel is \$4,225,641 or 77.9 % of the budget.
- Debt Service & Capital Expenditures: \$129,123 or 30.9% of the budget.
  - St 2 Roof and Skylights = \$91,400
  - Station Alerting Installation = \$23,145
  - Ambulance 10 Loan=\$10,000 (9 of 10)

President McCurrie stated that the district had \$391,707.26 in payroll and \$142,361.61 in accounts payable. President McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Trustee Thielmann made that motion, and Trustee Verdino seconded. The motion was carried by a roll call vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

**CHIEF REPORT:**

- The district responded to a total of 304 calls in January.
- NFPA 1710 creates a standard for response times. Attached to this report, there is a breakdown of the apparatus and shift times for January.
- Tax money has been coming in as small deposits totaling \$2,710,203.04. We expect more soon, but the delay is still unknown. Cook County is forecasting the 1st installment bills for 2026 to be delayed until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.
- The heaters at Station 2 stopped working. The lowest bid for 2 new heaters was \$13,000.00. Truck 9 had a long list of repairs totaling \$22,000.00.
- The communication microwave on the Orland tower side was struck by lightning last August. We received a call saying that the equipment had finally failed. The quote to replace the damaged equipment totaled \$6,184.36. An insurance claim has been filed. Equipment has been ordered and will be replaced in March.
- Retired Chief Christopher Courtney has been removed from all accounts associated with the district and replaced with the new Fire Chief.
- We had many promotions effective February 1. William Stukel to Deputy Chief. Brian Vlcek to Battalion Chief and Daniel Duffy to Lieutenant.
- Many members have commented on seeing a boost in morale.
- The Lieutenant promotional list is complete and finished with 5 candidates. The final list will be posted on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be good for 3 years. We are now starting the Battalion Chief promotional process. We have 2 members interested in testing.
- Full-Time testing is ongoing. We have 11 candidates who have applied according to our National Testing Network portal. Application period ends March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Gabriele concluded his report by expressing his gratitude to Trustee McCurrie for his 29 years of service. Well wishes for Kevin McCurrie's retirement from the Palos Fire Protection District Board of Trustees were extended by all in attendance.

Trustee McCurrie took this time to express his appreciation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Approve Contract for Brian Vlcek to Battalion Chief**

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the Battalion Chief contract for Brian Vlcek. Trustee Nogal made that motion. Trustee Thielmann seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

**b. Approve Benefit Summary for Administrative Assistant, Dana Fischl**  
Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the Benefit Summary for Administrative Assistant Dana Fischl. Trustee Thielmann made that motion. Trustee Verdino seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

**c. Discussion and possible board action of Local # 4480 successor CBA**  
This will be discussed in Closed Session.

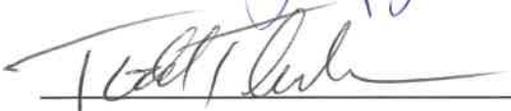
**d. Approve Proclamation concerning President Kevin McCurrie's retirement**  
Trustee Nogal moved to approve the Proclamation concerning the Retirement of Trustee Kevin McCurrie. Trustee Nogal proceeded to read the Proclamation in its entirety. Trustee Thielmann seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to go into closed session for contract negotiations, full-time negotiations, and/or matters of legal counsel and possible litigation at 7:38 pm. Trustee Nogal made that motion, and Trustee Thielmann seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

Back in open session at 7:57 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business to bring before the Board, President McCurrie moved to adjourn the open session at 7:58 pm. Trustee Nogal made that motion, and Trustee Thielmann seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

The next regular meeting of the Palos Fire Protection Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m.

  
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