

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
September 15, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: The September 15, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:00 P.M. at 8815 W. 123rd Street, Palos Park, Illinois.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Everyone in attendance rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Trustees Nogal, Adams, Bump, Gracias, and Verdino were present.

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

The board discussed reorganizing the Fire District Board. Trustee Nogal moved to renominate the current board, with Trustee Nogal as President. Trustee Verdino as Secretary, and Trustee Adams as Treasurer. Trustee Gracias made that motion, and Trustee Bump seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

Trustee Nogal recognized BC Rutter and everyone who made the open house a great success.

Trustee Verdino commented that the new railing looks great.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Nogal asked for a motion to approve the open session minutes of August 18, 2026, regular meeting, as written. Trustee Adams made the motion, to which Trustee Verdino seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

Trustee Nogal asked for a motion to approve the closed session minutes of August 18, 2026, regular meeting, as written. Trustee Adams made the motion, to which Trustee Gracias seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/ DEMONSTRATION:

FF Egyarto and FF Jucik demonstrated air packs and turnout gear.

TREASURER REPORT: James Howard presented the Treasurer's Report, explaining the District's Financial Analysis for the 4 months ending August 31, 2026, and the Summary of Revenue and Expenditures.

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Revenue Highlights indicate that we are 33% through the budget year and 9.5% of the total budget.

- Collected \$424,351, or 5.9% of the budget (No Major Installment(s) from Cook County).
- Collected \$302,216, or 26.3% of the budget, in Ambulance Fees. Paid GEMT back to the State in the amount of \$54,847.
- Collected \$13,548, or 45.2% of the budget, in Personal Property Replacement Taxes.
- Collected \$118,767 in interest, or 57.9% of the budget.
- Collected \$3,685, or 10.5% of the budget, for Fire Recovery

Expenditure highlights show we are at 30.3% of the total budget (excluding transfers).

- Operating expenditure is \$2,489,769 or 27.9% of the budget.
- We have made 4 of 12 Health Insurance Payments.
- Paid Personnel is \$1,735,407 or 29.8% of the budget.
- Debt Service & Capital Expenditures: \$159,555 or 34.9% of the budget.
Station 1 & 2 Asphalt = \$131,105
Station 1 Concrete and pillar Removal = \$19,500
Station 1 Tuckpointing = \$8,950

President Nogal stated that the district had \$439,031.69 in payroll, including \$89,497.89 in overtime, and \$205,004.43 in accounts payable. President Nogal asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Trustee Bump made that motion, and Trustee Gracias seconded. The motion was carried by a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

LOCAL #4480 UNION REPORT: Union President, FF Schaller, stated that the Golf Outing was a success.

CHIEF REPORT:

The board acknowledged Chief Gabriele's report as presented.
The board acknowledged Trustee Verdino's investment report.
The board acknowledged the Deputy Chief's response times report.
Discussion ensued.

INVESTMENT REPORT:

The board acknowledged Trustee Verdino's investment report.

TRAINING REPORT:

The board acknowledged Deputy Chief Stukel's August 2026 Training Report as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Discussion of Facility Maintenance/Improvement Plan Schedule**
- b. **Discussion of Establishing Strategic Planning Goals for the District**
- c. **Discussion of Community Relations Programs**

Brief discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Annual review of BC Aaron Rutter Contract**

To be discussed in closed session.

- b. **Discuss transitioning from paper packets to iPads**

Discussion ensued. Trial run for the October meeting.

- c. **PFPD Policy Manual access and review by Board of Trustees**

Brief discussion ensued.

- d. **Discussion on FOIA requests and OMA**

FOIA requests will now be brought before the Board for approval.

- e. **Review sealed bids for replacing apparatus overhead garage doors at Station 1 with possible board action.**

BIDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Price</u>
HELSON'S	\$40,900.00 (Doors Only)
TAZA	\$82,786.00

Discussion ensued.

Trustee Nogal asked for a motion to approve the bid from Helson's Garage Doors, LTD for the overhead garage door replacements for the Engine, Ambulance, Brush, and BC bays in the amount of \$40,900.00 9 (forty thousand nine hundred dollars). Motion made by Trustee Gracias and seconded by Trustee Bump. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

Trustee Nogal asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss issues concerning personnel, contract, full-time negotiations, and/or matters of legal counsel and possible litigation at 6:40 pm. Trustee Gracias made that motion, and Trustee Adams seconded. On a roll-call vote, the motion passed.

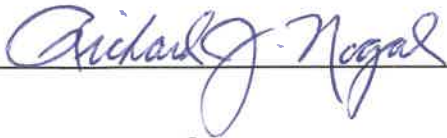
Return to Open Session at 6:44 pm.

Trustee Nogal asked for a motion to approve Battalion Chief Rutter's contract as presented. Trustee Verdino made that motion, and Trustee Bump seconded. On a roll-call vote, the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to bring before the Board, President Nogal moved to adjourn the open session at 6:45 pm. Trustee Gracias made that motion, and Trustee Bump seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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The next regular meeting of the Palos Fire Protection Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, October 20th, at 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be held at Station 1, 8815 W. 123RD St., Palos Park.

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