

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES - March 22, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.
Village Hall - 740 Hillgrove Avenue, Board Room
Western Springs, IL 60558

Present

Chair Lewis, Member Tyrrell, President Gallagher, Village Manager Ellen Baer, Director Michael Kelly, Director Sean Gilhooley, Director John Mastandona, Deputy Chief Brian Scott, Attorney Anne Skrodzki

Chair Lewis moved to open committee meeting, seconded by Member Tyrrell. The motion passed on a roll call vote. Voting aye: Chair Lewis and Member Tyrrell. The Public Health and Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Agenda Items

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approval of Minutes

Member Tyrrell moved, seconded by Chair Lewis, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 4, 2023, as read. The motion passed on a roll call vote. Voting aye: Chair Lewis and Member Tyrrell. Voting nay: None.

3. Review

Director of Fire and EMS, Chief Kelly provided a summary of the Foreign Fire Board legislative changes and Attorney Anne Skrodzki reviewed the contents of her memo to the Committee.

The Village of Western Springs has not established a formal foreign fire insurance board and the Village Code must be amended to create such a board. Previously, the Village Code provided for funds allocated by the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Act to be collected by the Village, under a separate revenue line item in the General Fund. This is no longer permissible; the Treasurer of the foreign fire insurance board must be the one to receive the funds paid under the Act.

Additionally, the decision on how to manage the funds collected under the Act and to determine which items are appropriate expenditures under the Act must be left to the foreign fire insurance board. The Ordinance reviewed by the Committee makes certain amendments to the Village Code in order to satisfy these and other requirements of the Foreign Fire Insurance Fee Act as amended by Public Act 102-0740.

Director Mastandona described the amounts previously received and how those funds were allocated to the Fire Department budget generally. Attorney Skrodzki also explained that the Village and the new Foreign Fire Insurance (FFI) Board are allowed to work together if the FFI Board desires to. This might yield savings in the area of audits, banking fees, etc.

Member Tyrrell moved to recommend the approval of the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Chair Lewis. The motion passed on a roll call vote. Voting aye: Chair Lewis and Member Tyrrell. Voting nay: None.

4. Fire Department Annual Report

Director of Fire & EMS, Chief Kelly asked Deputy Chief Brian Scott to provide an overview of the report. DC Scott gave a thorough review of the contents of the report including major events of the department during the past year and key initiatives of the department. Some staffing highlights included the recruitment of seventeen new members of the of the department's Paid-on-Call (POC) staff, the retirement of Assistant Chief Chuck Lichtenauer, and the promotion of Steve Smith to Assistant Chief and Karl Hammond to the Captain position.

The addition of the new Pierce Saber fire engine with funds secured through a grant made possible by the support of then House Leader Jim Durkin. This engine will provide service to the community and our neighbors for the next twenty years and is a significant upgrade to the Fire Department's fleet.

Chief Kelly acknowledged the excellent work of Firefighter POC Matt Villacana who took on the responsibility of producing the report for the department.

5. Adjourn

Chair Lewis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Tyrrell. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen J. Baer

Village Manager