

DARIEN-WOODRIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON: November 16, 2023

Location - Station 89, 7550 Lyman Ave, Darien.

Time - The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M.

Call to order:

Roll call of Commissioners present: Ed Cryer, Julia Beckman and Dominic Marsiglio
Guests: Retiring Chief Karasek, Incoming Chief Jimmy Lahanis, Incoming Deputy Chief Jamie Tunk and Trustee Brian Chaplin.

Review of previous minutes and documents:

- A. The minutes of the following regular meeting were reviewed:
May 11, 2023; Member Beckman moved and Member Marsiglio seconded motion to approve. Approved by unanimous vote.
- B. The notes of the following Swearing In Ceremony were reviewed for record only:
October 20, 2023.

Correspondence:

- A. **Trustee's Meeting:** Previous Trustee Board meetings were attended by member/s of the Board of Commissioners. An update report was given at all meetings.
- B. **Trustee's Report:** The report packet included previous months' meeting minutes, Treasurer Report, Chief's report were issued along with the agenda for the current monthly meeting.
- C. **Other communications:** Various emails were sent to the commissioners for information covering DWFD issues.

Personnel and General Issue Report:

- A. Retiring Chief Karasek thanked the Commission for our service.
- B. A personnel update was given by Chief Lahanis: one person just completed probation after workers compensation period. Officer Shilney is finishing probation and will be sworn in at January trustee regular meeting. Officer Matt Noyes will finish probation in August, 2024.
- C. Dominic Marsiglio was recognized for agreeing to another 3 year term on the Commission.

Old Business:

A. REFERENCE ONLY: Important Upcoming dates:

- 1. The old list of FF/PM candidates has expired due to lack of candidates. The earliest time for FF/PM list is January, 2024
- 2. The Lieutenant eligibility list will expire on 11/16/2026
- 3. The current Battalion Chief Eligibility list is exhausted. If someone leaves, new list must be established. Battalion Chief list must be complete within 180 days of vacancy. Could work with Lisle Woodridge FD to borrow a battalion chief or hire from outside.

New Business:

- A. Election of officers: Member Marsiglio moved to re-elect Ed Cryer, President; Julia Beckman, Secretary. Motion seconded by Ed Cryer. Unanimous vote.
- B. Meeting dates for 2024 set by consensus as follows: 2/22, 5/16, 8/22 and 11/14. All meetings will begin at 2:00pm at DWFD Station 89.

- C. All present approve of new Swearing In ceremony at Board of Trustee meetings.
- D. The Commission reviewed the new testing agency, National Testing Network. Candidates can take the test at their convenience. One year membership - \$750 plus \$65 exam fee per candidate. Full background check - \$900. This check may take longer, but is more complete, including social media, criminal, sexual predator, global terrorist, employment and education. Chief Lahanis recommended pursuing the Network. Current eligibility list will expire 1/15/24, after which the Commission will get the new list. They may also request to have their name added when list re-opens. A general discussion was held on how to attract new staff. Onsite training could cost \$200,000 including salary. Chief Lahanis reported there is a statewide task force working on the issue. The Commission will interview candidates at end of January or early February.

Public Comments: None

Next Meeting: The Next DWFD Commissioner meeting will be on February 22, 2024 at 2:00pm held at station 89, 7550 Lyman Avenue, Darien.

Adjournment: With no further business, Julia Beckman moved and Dominic Marsiglio seconded the motion to adjourn. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Beckman
Fire Commissioner
Recording Secretary

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