

FOREIGN FIRE INSURANCE TAX BOARD

Minutes of Meeting
1150 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

June 18, 2025

Board Members in Attendance:

Lance Harris
James Stempien
Kevin Flynn
Ross Chapman
Marty Moran
Rob Losik

Absent:

Scott Miller

Guests:

Scott Vasicek
Walter Prestel
Brian Walsh
Matt Oates
Jeff Jakalski
Catherine Miarnowski

Jim Stempien called the 2nd quarter 2025 meeting to order at 9:04 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the March 5th, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Chief Harris made a motion to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Kevin Flynn; no objections; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The current fund balance as of June 9th, 2025 is \$242,382.78. Total amount paid out this year so far is \$143,617.22. Jim Stempien made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report to the record; it was seconded by Marty Moran; no objections; motion carried.

To accommodate guests, items of New Business were considered prior to opening Old Business for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Teams – Scott Vasicek on behalf of the Technical Rescue Team presented a request for buildout of Squad 145. With the planned decommission of Squad 145, TRT is proposing the reallocation of 145 to become a new TRT squad. The request is for the initial outfit of the squad for its intended purpose. It includes the purchase of all of the equipment for following disciplines: Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, Tower Rescue, Structural Collapse Rescue, VMO/VMT Rescue, Elevator Rescue. The request also includes the purchase of equipment mounting. A comprehensive list of all equipment is available upon request. The proposed amount is not to exceed \$50,000. The board raised concerns with the Elevator Rescue equipment as they believe the Department does not have the capability of doing elevator rescues to the extent of securing elevator cars, therefore there is no need for that equipment at the moment. The board would also like to break up the purchase into phases to make sure the correct equipment is purchased.

Marty Moran made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for initial purchase of the TRT Squad equipment. Seconded by Ross Chapman.

Roll was called:

Ayes: K. Flynn, R. Chapman, M. Moran, L. Harris, R. Losik, J. Stempien

Nays: None

Ayes: 6; Nays 0

Motion carried.

Fitness Equipment – Walter Prestel presented a request for upgrades to the workout room at Station 2. He is looking to purchase new 88 lb. kettle bells, 75-100 lb. dumbbells, racks to accommodate those dumbbells, NordicTrack treadmill and a Step Mill machine - Scott Limbers has a contact who we can use to purchase a Stairmaster for 50% off. This request would also require movers for a total cost of \$16,594.

Ross Chapman made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$17,000 to purchase fitness equipment for Station 2. Seconded by Rob Losik.

Roll was called:

Ayes: K. Flynn, R. Chapman, M. Moran, L. Harris, R. Losik, J. Stempien

Nays: None

Ayes: 6; Nays 0

Motion carried.

Chief Harris had to leave the meeting to attend a one-on-one meeting with the Village Manager.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audio Equipment – Brian Walsh presented a request to replace the current audio equipment, which is due for an upgrade. He presented 5 different systems and recommended a JBL Portable PartyBox speaker, because of the ease of use, sound quality, battery life, high power output and splash resistance. He also recommends purchasing 2 speakers for larger events or in case there are two events happening at the same time. The total cost for both of the speakers is \$3,900, he is looking for an amount not to exceed \$4,500, as the quote was from a few months ago and he wants to cover a possible price increase.

Ross Chapman made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$4,500 for a purchase of new Fire Department sound system handled by Brian Walsh. Seconded by Marty Moran.

Roll was called:

Ayes: K. Flynn, R. Chapman, M. Moran, R. Losik, J. Stempien

Nays: None

Ayes: 5; Nays 0

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Station tools – This is an ongoing project throughout all 4 stations, with each station presenting separately on what tools they would like to purchase. Matt Oates presented a request on behalf of Station 1 to purchase Station 1 tools. The request includes what was purchased for Station 3, as well as an addition of ladders, chainsaws and shelving units.

Jim Stempien made a motion not to exceed \$6,500 for a purchase of station tools for Station 1. Seconded by Rob Losik.

Roll was called:

Ayes: K. Flynn, R. Chapman, M. Moran, R. Losik, J. Stempien

Nays: None

Ayes: 5; Nays 0

Motion carried.

Matt Oates presented a request on behalf of Scott Miller for a purchase of a backpack leaf blower. The current one is a handheld blower. The backpack leaf blower has twice the power of the current one. 3 different models were presented. A few questions came up and since Scott Miller was not here to answer them – the discussion has been tabled until next meeting.

Clothing items – Matt Oates presented request on behalf of the FAE Academy. The request is for a purchase of several clothing items for the FAE instructors. They currently have mismatched uniforms, and since the program attracts students from the entire Chicagoland area, the instructors should look more presentable and professional. The purchase would include a new logo, hats, sweatshirts and t-shirts. The cost is about \$210 per instructor and there are 15 instructors. The total cost is around \$3150 and he wanted to purchase a few extras for future instructors.

Jim Stempien made a motion for an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for the initial, one-time purchase of clothing items for Arlington Heights Fire Department FAE Academy. Seconded by Kevin Flynn

Roll was called:

Ayes: K. Flynn, R. Chapman, M. Moran, R. Losik, J. Stempien

Nays: None

Ayes: 5; Nays 0

Motion carried.

Station tools – Jeff Jakalski presented a request on behalf of Station 2 to purchase Station 2 tools. The total cost of the purchase is around \$3,675 for all new tools including additional tool boxes. The request is for an amount not to exceed \$4,500 to cover possible price increases.

Ross Chapman made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$6000 for a purchase of station tools for Station 2 to be handled by Jeff Jakalski. Seconded by Kevin Flynn.

Roll was called:

Ayes: K. Flynn, R. Chapman, M. Moran, R. Losik, J. Stempien

Nays: None

Ayes: 5; Nays 0

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Education Reimbursements – Reggie Castillo presented a request for reimbursement for boots that he purchased for a class that he attended. While checking back on the policy it was noted that only books, mileage and tuition are reimbursable.

Marty Moran wanted to add the Building and Fire Code Academy in Elgin to the preapproved list of schools for tuition reimbursement. The school has also been approved by the Training Division.

Marty Moran made a motion to add Building and Fire Code Academy in Elgin to the preapproved list of schools for reimbursements. Seconded by Kevin Flynn.

Roll was called:

Ayes: K. Flynn, R. Chapman, M. Moran, R. Losik, J. Stempien

Nays: None

Ayes: 5; Nays 0

Motion carried.

House Fund Requests – No outstanding requests

EMS Coats – Tableted until next meeting.

Vehicle Headsets – Ordered.

Vehicle Storage Compartments – All is going well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kitchen Items – No requests

Window Shades – Jim Stempien on behalf of Drew Hansen and Scott Miller presented a request for window tinting at Station 1. The blinds at Station 1 are in a bad condition and they would like to remove them and tint the windows by buying the film and applying it on the windows themselves. The cost of the film is around \$200. Jim Stempien would like to run this idea by Administration prior to fully approving it.

Jim Stempien made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$200 for privacy film tint roll pending approval from Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. Seconded by Marty Moran.

Roll was called:

Ayes: K. Flynn, R. Chapman, M. Moran, R. Losik, J. Stempien

Nays: None

Ayes: 5; Nays 0

Motion carried.

Health & Wellness Training Supplies – Matt Sigler mentioned to Jim Stempien that he possibly wanted to purchase Gatorade drinks for the upcoming Health and Wellness training, however there is no actual request.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Motion made by Jim Stempien to adjourn 2nd quarter meeting; seconded by Marty Moran. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.