

FOREIGN FIRE INSURANCE TAX BOARD

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

September 25, 2025

**Board Members
in Attendance:**

Lance Harris
James Stempien
Kevin Flynn
Ross Chapman - delayed
Marty Moran
Rob Losik
Scott Miller

Guests:

Catherine Miarnowski

Jim Stempien called the 3rd quarter 2025 meeting to order at 9:02 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the June 18th, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Rob Losik made a motion to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Marty Moran; no objections; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The current fund balance as of August 31st, 2025 is \$341,768.02. Total amount paid out this year so far is \$184,865.21. Jim Stempien made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report to the record; it was seconded by Marty Moran; no objections; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tuition Reimbursement Requests – No outstanding requests

House Fund Requests – On behalf of Rocco Giardino presented a request to replace Station 2 kitchen mixer. They are looking to purchase a commercial grade Kitchen Aid mixer, similar to the one that is currently there.

Rob Losik made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$700 for a purchase of Kitchen Aid mixer for Station 2. Seconded by Chief Harris.

Roll was called:

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

Nays: None

Ayes: 7; Nays 0

Motion carried.

Station Tools – Jim Stempien wanted to provide an update regarding this request. All of the tools came in and have been nicely organized. A few items were found that will not be needed and those items will be returned and refunded. They will reuse to funds to purchase whatever was missed in the initial purchase.

Special Teams – Scott Vasicek and the TRT team has exhausted all of the funds that the Department approved for upgrades and is moving on to the approved Foreign Fire funds. He is also using Public Works as a resource to help minimize the costs.

Fitness Equipment – Walter Prestel has been handling the project. Some items have already arrived and some are yet to be delivered. Step mill is on backorder until November.

Clothing Items – Update regarding the Academy clothing purchase. Everything came in and was received well. The Department also restocked on all the duty T-shirts. They are being distributed on an as need basis. Rob Losing is keeping a record of what is being distributed.

The Under Armour workout shirts are running low on stock. We are looking to replenish the inventory. This is a continuous purchase item so no funds are needed to be approved.

Leaf Blower – Scott Miller presented a request to purchase a backpack leaf blower for Station 1 to replace the one they currently have. It is a gas-powered blower. It is not certain how the previous one was attained, as it was a long time ago. The gas-powered blower is much more powerful than the handheld, battery powered ones.

Ross Chapman made a motion not to exceed \$800 for a purchase of a backpack leaf blower for Station 1. Seconded by Rob Losik.

Roll was called:

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

Nays: None

Abstained: S. Miller

Ayes: 6; Nays 0

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kitchen Items – Handled through the house fund request.

Fitness Program – Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board funded the majority of last year's Illinois Bone & Joint Fitness Program, which included Tony Bruno as the instructor and was organized by Ross Chapman and the Fitness Committee. HR provided additional money to support the program through a grant, however it does not look like that additional money would be available this year. Ross Chapman provided an updated proposal with a price increase, due to the program being longer (increasing from 10 months to 12 months) and the hourly rate increasing from \$200 to \$215. The total amount needed would be \$31,000. There was a survey at the end of the program and the results came back indicating that majority of the Department felt that the program did not significantly impact their fitness. The Fitness Committee is also split whether they are in favor of continuing this program or not. The discussion included other possible options for fitness programs, however this particular request is only for continuing the 2024 Illinois Bone & Joint Fitness Program minus Tony Bruno.

Rob Losik made a motion not to exceed \$32,000 to fund continuation of the Illinois Bone & Joint Fitness Program. Seconded by Marty Moran.

Roll was called:

Ayes: S. Miller, M. Moran,

Nays: K. Flynn, R. Chapman, L. Harris, R. Losik, J. Stempien
Ayes: 2; Nays 5
Motion denied.

Elections – Jim Stempien wanted to inform the Board that three of the current Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board trustees' positions are expiring on December 31st 2025. Marty Moran, Kevin Flynn and Scott Miller are reaching the end of their terms. The Fire Department will be notified of the elections on October 1st, 2025 and the positions will begin on January 1st 2026. Marty Moran will not be running for reelection. If anyone is interested in running for the trustee position, please submit your names. The election will take place over a two-week period during the month of October and the new member will be invited to the 4th quarter meeting to observe.

Board Treasurer – Bond – The Board Treasurer's position is a bonded position just in case of any issues arising. It costs \$100/year just in case a financial error is made. Catherine will confirm whether the bond is tied to a name or the position in general. In any case, she will make sure it's updated and all set.

Hats – Request has been tabled until the next meeting.

Tech Rescue Team – Brian Buchek on behalf of TRT is presenting a request for cold weather clothing for the new members of the team, that don't have it yet, including coats and bibs. No need for a vote yet, until the team leader confirms the need. Tabled until next meeting.

Dive Team – Scott Miller on behalf of the Dive Team presented a request to replace the current BCDs (Buoyancy Control Devices) as they are passed the expiry date. Initial quote from Interspiro came in and there was money budgeted elsewhere for this request, but Scott does not have all the information at the moment. Request tabled for now.

FDIC – Ross Chapman presented a request for FDIC hotel rooms, which traditionally has been funded by the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board in previous years. The typical request is for 4 rooms for a week near downtown Indianapolis. The cost this year for this request comes out to \$15,000. He suggested alternatives such as staying near the airport, rather than downtown.

Ross Chapman made a motion not to exceed \$5,000 for 4 hotel rooms at FDIC Sunday through Saturday, location TBD. Seconded by Chief Harris.

Roll was called:

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

Nays: None

Ayes: 7; Nays 0

Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Red-Shirt Fridays – Chief Harris was recently made aware of what Red-Shirt Fridays represent and he would like the Department to participate in the tradition, which supports the Military. Deputy Benkert is also in favor of this tradition. Scott Miller and Matt Oates have a list of sizes already for the entire Department. Scott Miller suggests putting together a committee and invite our military veterans to be a part of it, in order to come up with an appropriate design.

Rob Losik made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$16,000 to purchase Red Veteran T-shirts to be worn on Fridays. Seconded by Jim Stempien.

Roll was called:

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

Nays: None

Ayes: 7; Nays 0

Motion carried.

Motion made by Marty Moran to adjourn 3rd quarter meeting; seconded by Kevin Flynn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 am.