



12-17-24

Orland Fire Protection District Decennial Report

Purpose: To study local efficiencies and report recommendations for increased accountability and efficiency to the Cook County board in compliance with the (50 ILCS 70/) Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act.

General Information

The Orland Fire Protection District (the “District”) is a special taxing district which is governed by a five-person elected Board of Trustees, serving six-year terms. While the Fire District works closely with the elected officials of Orland Park, Orland Hills, and Orland Township, it is a separate governing body. The primary revenue source for the Orland Fire Protection District is property taxes, accounting for nearly 75% of the income. The remaining 25% comes from special fees and grants.

The District covers approximately 26 square miles providing fire suppression, both basic and advanced life support ambulance services, water and dive rescue, fire prevention, fire inspection, fire investigation, and extraction rescues. There are over 163 employees at the District serving the community in a variety of positions. The Orland Fire Protection District employs over 129 career firefighters who are crossed trained as paramedics. The District has a Board of Fire Commissioners appointed by the Board of Trustees to conduct the testing of new firefighter candidates, promotional processes and potential discipline processes.

The District has its own dispatching center, training facility and maintenance facility; and operates out of six fire stations distributed throughout the area. The District holds an Insurance Service Office (ISO) class-one-rating for fire protection and has achieved Accreditation status from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. This places Orland within the top 3% of the best fire departments in the Country. The District has been awarded the Government Finance Officer Association awards – Certificate of Achievement on Financial Reporting and the Distinguished Budget Award for excellence in financial reporting. Based on a survey of patients transported by the District’s ambulance, 95% of those who responded rated the responding paramedics as excellent. The District operates a Fire and EMS-only Emergency Communications Center, Orland Central Dispatch. Besides serving the District and its residents, OCD provides emergency communication services to the following fire departments and fire protection districts: Blue Island, Calumet City, Chicago Heights, Garden Homes, Lemont, Merrionette Park, Oak Forest, and Palos Heights.

Fire Stations

Name of Station	Location
Administration Building, Dispatch Center and Station 1	9790 W. 151st Street Orland Park, IL 60462

Station #2	15100 S. 80th Avenue Orland Park, IL 60467
Station #3	15101 Wolf Rd. Orland Park, IL 60462
Station #4	16515 S. 94th Avenue Orland Hills, IL 60477
Station #5	8851 W. 143rd Street Orland Park, IL 60462
Station #6	17640 Wolf Rd. Orland Park, IL 60467
Training Facility	10728 W. 163rd Place Orland Park, IL 60467
Maintenance Facility	10704 West 163rd Place Orland Park, IL 60467

Committee Information

The committee was formed at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on May 16, 2023, and consists of the following individuals:

Name	Role
John Brudnak	Board President
Jayne Schirmacher	Board Treasurer
Beth Damas Kaspar	Board Secretary
Angela Greenfield	Trustee
Tina Zekich	Trustee
Michael Schofield	Fire Chief
Bill Bonnar	District Resident
Chris Evoy	District Resident

The committee held public meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 26, 2024
- Tuesday, May 28, 2024
- Tuesday, November 19, 2024

The programs and services the District offers are vast. For this report, the committee agreed to review the District's accountability and efficiency for the following programs/services:

- 10-year financial plan
- Fire house locations/expansion and growth

Financials

The budget and end of year financial report is attached hereto for fiscal years 2020 – 2025. The District is required to perform an annual audit that is completed by an independent auditing firm and provides information on the Districts ongoing financial status. The District is in compliance with this requirement and filing with the County.

Budget:

Fiscal Year	Annual Budget Amount
FY 2020	\$42,935,119
FY 2021	\$39,121,485
FY 2022	\$42,529,704
FY 2023	\$47,475,859
FY 2024	\$47,318,810
FY 2025	\$49,786,046

End of Year Financial Report:

Fiscal Year	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 2020	\$37,692,092	\$41,789,256
FY 2021	\$40,497,993	\$38,550,098
FY 2022	\$43,226,049	\$41,226,088
FY 2023	\$45,978,004	\$47,675,795

Committee Evaluation

Strengths & Efficiencies

The committee recognized the District is in a strong financial position. The District has worked extremely hard to maintain its financial position by budgeting, managing grants, having annual audits completed, and operating within financial means. The District has been awarded the Government Finance Officer Association award for excellence in financial reporting.

The District has worked to provide the best service possible to an ever-changing community. It continues to focus on providing the best EMS service response times and using the latest technologies available. Every firefighter is also a paramedic, and every fire engine, aerial ladder, and ambulance is paramedic-equipped. Every fire vehicle carries the necessary paramedics and equipment to treat any medical emergency, not every fire department can say that. This allows quicker response times to medical emergencies. We have 13 ALS equipped units staffed every day.

Early in 2024, the district announced that a new CAD-to-CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) technology grant was received that will significantly reduce the time it takes for firefighters and

paramedics in 40 south suburban communities to respond to emergencies. The District received \$600,000 in state funds for the purchase of the regional CAD-to-CAD system. This year the District also implemented the Pulse Point app. This app alerts trained citizens to an emergency in their immediate area, along with the location of the nearest AED. This new technology will save lives. The District prides itself in providing the best EMS service possible and the numbers show it in our success rate with cardiac arrests. Its success in EMS shows in our 71% save rate in 2023 for heart attack victims in V-Fib.

The District provides a lot more than firefighting. It has developed a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training residents; it hosts Coffee and Conversations monthly with our residents; it visits the nearby schools for life safety education; it hosts a summer kids camp, hosts monthly CPR classes, changes smoke detectors, conducts fire inspections, hosts a senior advisory board, and more. The District is also a leader in the Chicago area fire service, providing high-level Fire and EMS training across the State at our Regional Training Campus and partnering with the Orland Park Police to provide specialized training in Active Shooting / Hostile Events.

How can the District improve or increase efficiency?

The District can improve or increase efficiency by overall transparency. The District has hired a new IT company to bring the administration building and 6 fire houses up to date, as well as its vehicles; as well as develop a master recording system for organizational records. It has also hired a new web server for its website to provide more information, documents and will be more user friendly. The new website will be live by the end of the year.

The District can also improve or increase efficiency by beginning to plan early. With the ever-growing community, the District has tremendous growth predicted in the future at 159th Street & LaGrange (2 hotels, apartments buildings, restaurants, townhomes, the Triangle, project on old Yonker concrete sight, etc.). The District has also become a popular destination for medical facilities – ambulance calls continue to increase. In addition, the need for possible consolidation and/or expansion in the next 10 years and the potential cost to obtain land and build a new fire station, the District needs to start planning early to not impose excessive and unnecessary costs on its residents; and/or incur debt. The District needs to monitor area development, census, and demographic information to determine how we are going to be efficient and fiscally responsible to grow as a district, and what we need to plan for.

The following additional documents are attached to this report:

- Agenda and meeting minutes of first committee meeting
- Agenda and meeting minutes of second committee meeting
- Agenda and meeting minutes of third committee meeting

Board of Trustees:

President John Brudnak

Secretary Beth Damas Kaspar

Treasurer Jayne Schirmacher

Trustee Tina Zekich

Trustee Angela Greenfield

Fire Chief:

Michael Schofield



ORLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Administration Center

9790 West 151st Street • Orland Park, IL 60462

708/349-0074 • Fax 708/349-0354

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Orland Fire Protection District
Board of Trustees - Decennial Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
Administration Building, 9790 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL
3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
4. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
5. OVERVIEW OF APPLICABLE LAW AND PROCESS
6. POTENTIAL PROJECTS
7. RESIDENT SURVEY
8. ADJOURNMENT



APPROVED

11-19-24

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Orland Fire Protection District
Decennial Committee
9790 West 151st Street, Orland Park, IL 60462**

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 @ 6 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** Board President Brudnak called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. (Meeting was delayed due to BOT Meeting running over)
- II. **Roll Call:** Board President John Brudnak, Trustees Beth Damas Kaspar, Angela Greenfield and Tina Zekich (Trustee Schirmacher was absent); Chief Michael Schofield and Residents William Bonnar and Christopher Evoy
(Also Present: OFPD Finance Director Kerry Sullivan, Deputy Chief Nicholas Cinquepalmi, and OPFD Attorney Megan Roche Steigauf)
- III. Trustee Roche Steigauf spoke to the purpose of the Decennial Committee. We can do the introduction and overview today for our first meeting.

President Brudnak stated that the purpose of this Committee is to study local efficiencies and report recommendations for increased accountability and efficiency to the Cook County Board.

The first task was to form a committee that includes: the elected Board with the President as Chairman, and 2 residents appointed by the Board and any other members deemed appropriate. Attorney Roche Steigauf stated that the deadline was June 10, 2023 and we completed at the Board meeting on April 25, 2023. We could survey residents and begin gathering materials over the next few weeks.

Fire Chief Michael Schofield stated that one of the things the Committee is going to look at is the 10-year Financial Plan prepared by Finance Director Kerry Sullivan to see where we'll be, along with a 10-year Capital Plan. Looking at opportunities in the future, we have tremendous growth predicted at 159th Street & LaGrange (2 hotels, apartments buildings, restaurants, townhomes, the Triangle, project on old Yonker concrete sight, etc.). We need to look at how we are going to be efficient and grow, and what we need to plan for. Some things we talked about is securing property for the next 5-10 years. The purpose of this Committee is to look at how we can move ahead efficiently and get input from residents on how they want to see the fire district improve in the future. He thinks a 10-year Financial Outlook is very important. We are financially secure currently and we

have to look at the future and anticipated growth. We'll see more commercial growth in the next 3 years than we have seen in the last 20 years.

This could be a good time for the Committee to discuss expanding and consolidating. For example, we have talked in the past about consolidation with Tinley Park and Mokena, and to work with the Village to grab the old Willow Run Golf Course. This Committee will look at – what does the future look like and is consolidation part of that and will it benefit us.

President Brudnak asked what it costs to build a new station and Chief Schofield said approximately \$12,000,000 minimum. Trustee Zekich asked if we are budgeting for that now. Chief Schofield replied that amounts have been budgeted but other things come up that take precedence. For 2025 and 2026 we have tentatively budgeted \$500,000 each year. We know it will be a million dollars just to get 1-2 acres. This committee will help us plan for the future and our growth. Empty farmland will develop. Have been working with the Village on impact fees.

We will get you the information you need and hopefully get feedback from residents. Orland Park is now the destination location for medical facilities. Ambulance calls will continue to go up with the growth expected. An issue we have is that we can't add any more staffing because our stations are maxed out. Station 4 area is getting 2 hotels so it will have 4 hotels, 2 nursing homes, and the largest shopping facility outside the mall but it is on a small lot and space is maxed out.

We have to make a plan to do things better and move into the future—looking at consolidation and providing the best service.

Attorney Roche Steigaufer stated we'll need to compile a list of 2-3 topics from our resident members Bonnar and Evoy that we can gather information on for May's meeting.

Chief Schofield mentioned that fleet maintenance and dispatch as well as the regional training center have grown substantially and we have to make sure that we are doing what the taxpayers want from us.

Committee member Evoy inquired further about the timeline and Attorney Roche Steigaufer stated that a report would be filed with Cook County in December of 2024. She indicated that this would be required every 10 years.

Finance Director Kerry Sullivan stated that they can give their criteria they can build a scenario for projected revenue that are flexible if they are interested.

Adjourn: Trustee Zekich made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting and it was seconded by Trustee Greenfield. Motion Carried.

- **Ayes:** Members Zekich, Greenfield, Brudnak, Kaspar, Schofield, Bonnar, Evoy
- Nays:** None
- Absent:** Trustee Schirmacher

Meeting adjourned.

**Orland Fire Protection District
Board of Trustees - Decennial Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Administration Building, 9790 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL**

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. DISTRIBUTE RESEARCH RESULTS**
- 4. DISCUSS OBSERVATIONS (AREAS OF STRENGTH AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS)**
- 5. SURVEY RESIDENTS PRESENT FOR FEEDBACK**
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**



APPROVED

11-19-24

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Orland Fire Protection District
Decennial Committee**

9790 West 151st Street, Orland Park, IL 60462

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** Board President Brudnak called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Board President Brudnak, Trustees Damas Kaspar, Greenfield, Schirmacher and Zekich; Chief Schofield, Resident William Bonnar

Also Present: OFPD Finance Director Kerry Sullivan, Deputy Chief Nicholas Cinquepalmi, and OPFD Attorney Megan Roche Steigauf and Recording Secretary Gerry Strunka

- III. Chief Schofield talked to the Board about future growth of the district and possible station relocations that will be necessary in the not too distant future. In particular, lack of space without possibility of expansion (i.e. 2, 4).
- IV. Resident William Bonnar spoke on what needs might be going forward noting he looked at demographics and 24% of fire district population will be 65+ years old. Orland has become a hub for medical services and we need to prepare for growth.
- V. After Q & A from the Board, Trustee Zekich made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 6:01 p.m. and it was seconded by Trustee Greenfield. Motion Carried.

Ayes: Members Zekich, Greenfield, Brudnak, Kaspar, Schirmacher, Schofield, Bonnar

Nays: None

Absent: None

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting 11/19/24.

Board of Trustees:

President John Brudnak

Secretary Beth Damas Kaspar

Treasurer Jayne Schirmacher

Trustee Tina Zekich

Trustee Angela Greenfield

Fire Chief:

Michael Schofield



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Orland Fire Protection District
Board of Trustees - Decennial Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Administration Building, 9790 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - 3/26/24
 - 5/28/24
4. DISTRIBUTE RESEARCH RESULTS ON 2 WOLF ROAD PROPERTIES
5. DISCUSS STATION REMODELING DUE TO LIMITED QUARTERS AND NEW APPARATUS
6. DISCUSS FUTURE LOCATIONS FOR STATIONS
7. SURVEY RESIDENTS PRESENT FOR FEEDBACK
8. ADJOURNMENT



APPROVED

12-17-24

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Orland Fire Protection District
Decennial Committee
9790 West 151st Street, Orland Park, IL 60462**

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** Board President Brudnak called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Board President Brudnak, Trustees Damas Kaspar, Greenfield, and Zekich; Chief Schofield, Resident William Bonnar

Also Present: OFPD Finance Director Kerry Sullivan, Deputy Chief Nicholas Cinquepalmi, OPFD Attorney Megan Roche Steigauf and Recording Secretary Gerry Strunka

- III. A motion to approve the Minutes from 3-26-24 and 5-28-24 DC Meetings was made by Trustee Kaspar and seconded by Trustee Brudnak. Motion carried.

Ayes: Trustees Kaspar, Brudnak, Greenfield, Zekich

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Schirmacher

- IV. Distributed Research.

- V. Chief Schofield next addressed the need for major remodeling at the stations. We have basically outgrew 2 stations 3 and 4. The new ambulances will not even fit in the bay at Station 3 and to make it work would entail a remodel of approximately \$300,000. The sites are just too small to expand Stations 3 and 4. With regard to Station 4 the only spot really left in Orland Hills that is available is the old IL Bell property which is about 3-4 acres.

- VI. Chief Schofield talked to the Board about property referenced on handouts (139th & Wolf Road and 161st & Wolf Road). With regard to 139th & Wolf Road. Met with the landowner of Cornstalk Farms. It is approximately 3 acres and we talked about 3 possible options:

- Enter into an Agreement with right of first refusal;
- Purchase and landowner rents property back for a set time;
- Purchase the property outright

There was no discussion as of yet with landowner of what they are looking to get for the property and we could get an appraisal to see what it's worth.

Resident Bill Bonnar gave further update and insight into the property and an idea as to further growth and property demands for the west side down the road.

Chief Schofield reiterated that there's nothing to vote on but rather bringing the board information on something that will be a bigger issue down the road. The 139th Street property will sell in the next year or so and property in general will get harder to find. Both properties are in areas that will have the most growth and it's good to look to the future and be prepared.

The Board asked some further questions regarding the 161st Street property. Trustee Brudnak asked for the value of the 161st Street property. Attorney Roche Steigauf indicated that she had reached out but had not heard back as of yet. The property is owned by the Township and we would have to inquire about actual acreage.

Trustees asked if we are currently budgeting for future purchases and Kerry Sullivan indicated not budgeted currently but funding available in Capital Budget. Chief Schofield also mentioned the possibility of getting possibly a \$5 million loan at 3% or less that we can pay for property and the large expenditures as the build time for trucks is currently 3-4 years. Something we can consider for the future. Trustee Zekich mentioned the purchase/leasing back to owner option for 139th property but Chief Schofield indicated we might have an issue with the Village rezoning it.

Chief Schofield feels we should move forward with fact gathering regarding Cornstalks Farm and getting an appraisal. Trustee Greenfield indicated directly asking what they are looking to sell for to see if it is a possibility.

Chief Schofield next discussed some ideas/concerns he has regarding our Dispatch Center. It never was intended for us to be a Dispatch Center and with that comes a lot of liability. A remodel downstairs would be \$1-2 million. He and Deputy Chief Cinquepalmi toured Southwest Central Dispatch in Palos Hills. It is a beautiful \$25 million dollar project—just a couple of years old with a lot of space and the back up that we need. He asked the Board if they can sit down and delve deeper into that being a possibility looking to the future and streamlining. Southwest operates the same CAD system and computers and he feels it would be worthwhile to investigate further and bring finds back to the Board. Trustees Zekich and Greenfield can't imagine the Dispatchers going for it and isn't it better to have them on the premises? Trustee Kaspar asked if it was wise to "have them on an island of their own" and not close by. Chief Cinquepalmi stressed it's an exceptional facility and we would have the backup we needed.

After all business discussed, Trustee Zekich made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 5:55 p.m. and it was seconded by Trustee Kaspar. Motion Carried.

Ayes: Members Zekich, Kaspar, Brudnak, Greenfield, Schofield, Bonnar

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Schirmacher

Meeting adjourned.