



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

November 11, 2015

AGENDA --- FIRE AND WATER

- Des Plaines Fire Department
- Red Center Video
- Rain Barrels
- City Issues

GUESTS

Firefighter/Paramedic Dan Garhan
Chief Alan Wax

WELCOME

Thank you to our Veterans on this Veterans Day.

Fire – Dan Garhan, Firefighter/Paramedic is here to present a slide show on how the Fire Department serves our Des Plaines community. Dan has been a member of the Department for 3 years and is stationed at 61 (River Road) on the Engine. He is also a representative of the Firefighter's Union, which assists in the PR information that is given to the public; such as the brochures handed out at this meeting. Union, along with the Fire Department are producing videos, a short video shown on Red Center.

Recently, Denise and Alderman Sayad had the opportunity to partake in a Fire Training Program giving Denise and Alderman Sayad first-hand experience of a Firefighter's job.

Water – The second part of our meeting will be on how to get a free Rain Barrel.

DES PLAINES FIRE DEPARTMENT – THE FACTS

City has 3 fire stations covering the 14.5 square miles of the City with 22 firefighters on duty every day. All Firefighters are crossed trained as either EMTs or Paramedics. Many firefighters are also crossed trained in specialty fields. (Will discuss later.)

- Station 61 – 405 S River Road
 - 9 Personnel (includes Firefighters, Officers and Shift Commander)
 - 1 Engine; 1 Ladder Truck; 1 Ambulance
- Station 62 – 1313 E Oakton Street (smallest station)
 - 5 Personnel (includes Firefighters and Officer)
 - 1 Engine and 1 Ambulance
- Station 63 – 130 E Thacker (Thacker/Dempster).
 - 8 Personnel (includes Firefighters and Officer)
 - 1 Engine, 1 Ladder Truck; 1 Ambulance

Des Plaines Department has 3 shifts, Black, Red and Gold with shifts rotating in a 24 hour timeframe (8 am to 8 am). There are 22 Firefighters on duty in each 24 hour shift. A Firefighter's schedule is 24 hours on duty and 48 hours off. Firefighters live together very much like a family, they eat together in the kitchen, sleep in one bunk room, housekeeping duties and share the day room. A kitty is set up by the firefighters of each shift for their daily food staples. The chef of the day plans and shops for 2 meals with the cost of the meals divided by the firefighters' personal contributions.

Other Facts

City of Des Plaines has 2 major tollways; 1 Casino; and 9 Assisted Living/Nursing facilities. All of which are covered by the Fire Department.

Fire Station Coverage is divided by the 3 main railroads and 32 rail crossings. Fire Department plans for alternate routes to get through/around the 32 rail crossings in Des Plaines and if unable to get through, will call for another station for backup if stopped by the train and unable to take the call. City is divided in half at the CN tracks for the 2 Fire Trucks.

- ? Question: What about calling in another town to cover? Mutual aid is not always a good alternative, especially if it is for a life threatening call since this will increase the response time of getting an ambulance to that person.
- ? Question: With as many trains and crossings that Des Plaines has, is there any other solution to get fire equipment across quickly? DPFDD does have alternate routes. Department wants to get across tracks fast and cross as few as possible and plan the route accordingly. (Dan provided example of routes used.) Ideal would be an over or underpass at a street/railroad crossing location. Based on a study, Des Plaines should have 5 fire stations, which is a "huge" expense and not feasible.
- ? Question: Compared to other communities, what is Des Plaines' response times? Fire Department Goal is 6 minutes which is 90%, we are at 78 – 82%.
- ? Question: Can anything be built over tracks just for fire trucks. Yes, that is a good idea but the overpass would be at a high cost and would have to take the weight of the truck into consideration. Such an overpass could be done at Algonquin near Wolf but is cost prohibitive at this time.

The Vehicles

Engine: Carries 750 gallons of water, connects the hose from the engine to the hydrants and pumps water into the hoses and onto the fire.

- Engine's personnel attack the fire and help to preserve property.
- Pumps the water
- Carries the hose
- Small Ladders
- Basic Tools
 - Pike Pole
 - Axes
- Truck / Tower: Carries the heavy extrication equipment that assists with a rescue, ventilation, and search and rescue. Truck's personnel are responsible for ventilating at the fire both roof and windows to let out the gases created by the fire. Truck is also responsible for search and rescue of victims.
- Large 100' ladder with a basket at the end of the ladder.
- Heavy Extrication Tools:
 - Saws
 - Jaws of Life
- Lights and Generators

Ambulance:

- Medical Equipment
 - Ambulance goes to the following hospitals, Lutheran General, Resurrection, Northwest Community, Alexian Brothers and Glenbrook. Paramedic makes the determination on taking the patient to the nearest hospital. If not a life-threatening call, patient may pick the hospital.
 - Engines also have the capability of responding to Ambulance calls because they are EMS certified and start assisting with the patient prior to an Ambulance becomes available.
- ? Question: Why does the Truck or Engine go with Ambulance on calls? An Engine or Truck accompanies on a call to provide extra manpower, scene safety, provide the necessary equipment for an extrication. The patient is not removed from a car at an accident – the car is removed from the patient. This is to prevent any more injury to the patient.
 - ? Question: How long does an Ambulance take at the hospital? The Ambulance crew stays with the patient until hospital takes over the patient's care. Ambulance will stick at the hospital until all paperwork and/or reports are completed, approximately 15- 20 minutes. Ambulance needs to be cleaned. If any supplies are used in the Ambulance, the Ambulance Team needs to re-stock supplies at the hospital.
 - ? Question: Who pays for the supplies? Anything used is put on the patient's bill.

FYI: These are trucks with only a ladder no basket – these can be called "stick" trucks.

Specialty Teams :

- Technical Rescue: Team trained in repelling to do rescues involving embankments, or ditches where it is necessary to pull a person.
- Hazardous Team: Trained personnel to deal with any sort of chemical spills/leaks and/or biological threats.
- Water Rescue: Dive team is trained for water rescue. Dive Boat is located at Station 61, which keeps it close to river and lakes.

Qualifications to be a Des Plaines Firefighter:

- Paramedic prior to hire.
- 21 years of age.
- Pass Tests:
 - Written
 - Physical
 - Oral
- High School Diploma or higher
 - Having an Associates' Degree Extra Credit
 - Military Service helps Extra Credit
 - Military Service places candidate at the top of list per State of Illinois requirements.

? Question: What is retirement age: 65 is the limit.

? Question: Why aren't there any females on the department? Didn't score high enough on the test. Des Plaines did have a female firefighter that retired from the Department.

RED CENTER VIDEO

Recently, the Fire Department changed dispatch systems to Red Center, which changed frequency and vehicle names. Red Center is very good, providing better product to the Firefighters in the street. Red Center is proactive and anticipates what is required when going to a scene. Red Center is the best dispatch center in the state and is the State's dispatch center.

A short video was presented to show the process and steps of an emergency call that comes into Red Center and then dispatched to the Fire Department.

For more videos on the Fire Department, go to Des Plaines@YourService on the City's website media Center.

WATER BARRELS

Metropolitan Water District is offering Free Water Barrels to the citizens of Des Plaines. Each resident is allowed up to 4 barrels and will be delivered to your house. Barrel will hold up to 55 gallons and there is even a color choice for the barrel: Terra Cotta; Blue; Black and Gray. Delivery will take 12 weeks, just in time for spring.

Rain Barrels are a big hobby amount some people, with individual designs and colors to the barrel. Those interested in getting a free barrel, Denise has forms that can be filled out.

CITY ISSUES

S Curve Pedestrian Crosswalk: Vote during budget meeting was not to do a feasibility study. Final Budget up on Monday's Council Agenda and will be asking for an amendment so that we may have a chance for Federal Funding for that locations, especially with the new residential development. We are receiving qualifications from engineering firms on the pedestrian walkway. If we want to get this done and want Federal Funding for the project, City does need the feasibility study.

4-Housing Developments:

- Residential Development on Graceland for people with disabilities
- Assisted Living facility on Lee Street
- Northwest Highway (Littlefuse property) Condos
- Graceland/Lee corridor that involved, Casa Royale, Old Tyme Ribs, and Good New Church.

*2010 census has city with a little over 58,000 residents, which is down from last census.

NEXT MEETING

December 1, 2015 – Change of Date.

Submitted by Ruth Bethscheider, volunteer

Happy Thanksgiving

TO CONTACT DENISE

- Phone Number: 847.514.6318. Please call Denise at this number with issues, questions and concerns.
 - Email: denise@3rdward.org
- Facebook is set up for the 3rd Ward. Search DP3 in Facebook.
 - Twitter's hash tag is @Denise Rodd
 - Web Site: www.3rdward.org