

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on September 28, 2023 at Station 1, Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President/Trustee Todd Rishling, Secretary/Trustee Michelle Stierle, Treasurer/Trustee Dave Bruchsaler, Trustees Cheryl Hammerand and Erv Gall, Chief Mike Weber, Attorney Ericka Thomas and 3 members from the Department or public was present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the agenda as written. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The August 23, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. M. Stierle motioned to approve the Minutes as written. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The March 21, 2023 Executive Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Minutes as amended with spelling correction and keep confidential. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The June 27, 2023 Executive Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Minutes as written and keep confidential. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The July 25, 2023 Executive Session Meeting Minutes were tabled until next month.

The August 8, 2023 Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Minutes as written and keep confidential. C. Hammerand seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The August 23, 2023 Executive Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Minutes as written and keep confidential. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** C. Hammerand motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2023. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$26,870.64 for August 2023 and their fee was \$1,302.18.

Discussed LPL account and possibly putting some of the available cash in a higher earning interest rate account. M. Stierle motioned to put \$75,000.00 from the LPL account into a 9-month CD at an APY of

5.65%. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Katie Fitzgerald sent an email to the Trustees advising of her interest in a Trustee position. Trustees advised Ken Schroeder is also interested in a Trustees position.

**OLD BUSINESS** – The notice of budget hearing was published. C. Hammerand motioned to open the budget hearing at 9:52 a.m. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. Hearing no comments, C. Hammerand motioned to close the budget hearing at 9:53 a.m. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. E. Gall motioned to approve the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance 2023-03. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

M. Stierle motioned to approve the Spiller Pay Ordinance 2023-04. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

G. Hennessey gave an update on the dog/drone program. Jager is ahead of schedule and is ready for a level 2 to start. Indiana Task Force wants Jager on their team but it is a 4-hour drive and other costs. They are funded by FEMA and get more calls than we do. G. Hennessey and her wife have spent over \$10,000.00 of their own money to provide Wonder Lake this resource. There has also been a t-shirt fundraiser to provide funds. She feels she does not have support with this program. Each individual certification is between \$200.00-\$500.00. As far as the drone program, Wonder Lake Fire Protection District was donated a drone by Crystal Lake Dodge but it has a low battery life and will only get about 5-10 minutes of fly time. It is a great start for someone to learn and practice. J. Larsen is interested in being certified. G. Hennessey would like to recruit multiple departments to come together and use each other's resources to train together and become a solid team. The team would have to be certified through MABAS Division if went beyond Mchenry County. T. Rishling advised he would like to get a written letter from Indiana stating interest in dog/drone program and we would vote on signing a MOU and can get funding. D. Bruchsaler concerned about sustainability. Worried about spending all the money on the dog/drone program and then G. Hennessey resigning from the department. She advised she would have no problem signing a sustainability contract. T. Rishling motioned to reimburse, after the first of the month, M. Weber for \$1,000.00, which is for reimbursement of his own money to start the dog/drone program. M. Stierle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. T. Rishling motioned to reimburse, after the first of the month, G. Hennessey for \$3,587.87, which is the remainder of the funds donated to the department for the dog/drone program. M. Stierle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. Trustees advised they would like G. Hennessey to work with the Chief and give monthly reports of legitimate expenses.

D. Bruchsaler motioned to keep 1644 as a reserve engine instead of selling it, as was discussed last month. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. M. Weber advised it will still get rig checks and will go to MCC if they need it.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Discussed engine loans. T. Rishling advised Old National Bank would work with us for a loan. He also spoke with Pierce and they advised they would go through PNC so we might as well go with local bank. E. Gall spoke with Wonder Lake State Bank and they would be

willing to work with us as well. D. Bruchsaler looked at grants and the State of Illinois has small equipment grants but we would not be able to use this for engine, only small equipment.

T. Rishling would like all 2023 meeting minutes added to the website.

**ATTORNEY REPORT** – Proceeding with investigation as directed. More than half way done and will have report for Trustees next month.

Need to change our response policy to “engine will follow ambulance as needed”. This way we can take funds out of ambulance account if needed to pay bills or put money down on equipment.

**CHIEF’S REPORT** – Total calls for August 2023 is 90. We provided mutual/auto aid 4 times and we received mutual/auto aid 11 times. Other Chiefs in surrounding areas are aware of our labor shortage and are always willing to help. If we do not have the manpower, we do not send anyone for auto aid.

In August, we ran 14 shifts without medic and 15 shifts without EMT or FF.

Discussed septic update. Getting a survey at a cost of \$750.00. Once survey is completed, we can go for permit and will know more about what is needed.

Two IV pumps have been ordered.

New generator at Station #1 will be ready to ship on 6/6/24. In the meantime, if electric goes out during winter months, we need to make sure our pipes do not freeze.

Discussed Narc boxes. Our current narcotics safes are outdated and not supported any longer. Researched new narcotics safes. Knox Box Narc Safes cost is at \$14,683.00-\$15,394.00. Medix Safe/Bioconnect cost is at \$9,889.00. Both bids would cover three ambulances, two engine and one in station box. T. Rishling motioned to purchase Medix Safe not to exceed \$10,000.00. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed camera options for both stations. Chief Weber will get price on proposal.

Discussed CPR program. Due to losing many of our CPR instructors, we are looking for outside instructors. Julie Randecker is a CPR instructor and would charge \$150.00 per class. We would provide the equipment and room. Would like to move forward with this. D. Bruchsaler motioned to hire a CPR instructor at a cost of \$150.00 per class. C. Hammerand seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Been working on recruiting members. It is not happening as fast as we would like. We have advertised on social media, web page and signs at both station. Will put up signs at hospital. We need certified people. Discussed hiring  $\frac{3}{4}$  employee. Have to call neighboring communities for help. Need to brainstorm for next meeting.

Discussed deferring Deputy Chief Salary to M. Weber for all the extra work Chief Weber has been doing. T. Rishling motioned to defer Deputy Chief salary to M. Weber. M. Stierle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye.

Chief Weber recommends hiring Olivia Hughes. She does not have any certifications. T. Rishling motioned to hire Olivia Hughes as a probationary member. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Chief Weber advised S. Papic has been hired full time on Woodstock and will need a 6-month leave of absence. T. Rishling motioned to allow S. Papic a 6-month leave of absence. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL** – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. M. Stierle motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for August 2023 totaling \$130,000.00. C. Hammerand seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

D. Bruchsaler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 p.m.; E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Trustee/Secretary: Michelle Stierle