

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on January 23, 2024 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 (Remotely) and Erv Gall, Chief Mike Weber, Attorney Ericka Thomas and 1 members from the Department or public was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Attorney Thomas advised “Deputy Chief Interviews” should come before “Adjournment”. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the agenda as amended. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The December 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. C. Hammerand motioned to approve the Minutes as written. 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 December 19, 2023 Executive Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. T. Rishling motioned to approve the Minutes as written and keep closed. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye, except C. Hammerand, she abstained due to not being able to read the Minutes prior to the motion. Motion approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: M. Stierle motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report for January 2024. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$43,401.44 for December 2023 and their fee was \$2,095.72.

CORRESPONDENCE – Tax Levy confirmation has been confirmed by Attorney Thomas, signed by L. Busse and emailed back to County.

The resident who lives across the street from Station #2 has emailed the department with interest in becoming a Trustee.

Received a thank you letter from Bill Cristy’s family. He passed away on 12/21/23. The family wishes to buy the crew a pizza for all their help with Bill Cristy.

D. Bruchsaler thanked Chief Weber for putting up bunting for the passing of former Wonder Lake Lieutenant Russ Nykaza. Service will be 3/2/24.

Received a thank you letter from Toys for Tots for helping during Christmas gift deliveries.

OLD BUSINESS – Security system cameras are tabled indefinitely.

NEW BUSINESS – Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts is holding a conference on 2/2/24 and 2/3/24.

Economic interest will be coming out soon. All filing confirmations need to be emailed to L. Busse. They are needed for audit.

ATTORNEY REPORT – None

TRUSTEES REPORT – Discussed Trustee continuing education hours. Trustee class is an annual requirement. New classes are coming out. C. Hammerand will take them when she gets back from Florida.

CHIEF'S REPORT – Total calls for December 2023 is 93 with year-end being 1218. We provided mutual/auto aid eight times and we received mutual/auto aid 24 times.

There was a minor accident with one of our ambulances. There were no injuries but there was damage to upper section of ambulance 6495 and the overhang at Station #2. Will be taking it to Marengo Auto for estimates. C & A did not want to take on the challenge of fixing aluminum.

Cold weather and the large amount of snow did not create many problems for us. We put on extra shifts to cover storm. Johnny B had to move some of the snow on the north end of the parking lot at station two as it was creating a vision problem when pulling out of station and roads. In the future, Johnny B will push more snow to the south end of the parking lot.

At this time, Chief Weber would like to suspend the Drone part of the K-9/Drone program. The reasons being: There is a shortage of members certified to work in our EMS system that are needed to accomplish our main functions and the money it costs to get them certified for EMT, Paramedic, BOF and FAE. There are drones in the County and other counties the police or we can call to help. We are still working out the bugs and cost of the K-9 program. Per T. Rishling, DGI drones are no longer legal to use. Chief Weber contacted Wonder Lake Police Department about working together with a drone program. They are interested in becoming part of the program and sharing costs, but it will not be this year. The Board agrees to cancel the drone program at this time. Attorney Thomas will draft a document for the K-9 program.

Thank you to our new probationary member G. Basista for helping with plowing our boat ramps and cleaning up stations with his plow.

L. Ibarra is requesting a 1-year leave of absence. The Board agrees to approve his one-year leave of absence.

New members are moving along well but 90-day probationary period for stand-alone is hurting us.

Chief Weber has been going to the hospital with patients. Fire and EMS experience we are getting with new members is going well. Still challenging to have a BLS ambulance. Chief Weber is given permission to change the ambulance back to ALS. Chief Weber will contact Cindy Tabert to get the ball rolling.

NW Rescue is not moving as fast as we wanted to, due to 90-day rule. Right now, we have no help from the outside. T. Rishling advised he has a meeting with Cindy Tabert on 1/29/24 and will speak to her about the 90-day rule.

We received some donations from the Stinger family in memory of Terry Stinger.

The bunting put up for Russ Nykaza will be coming down this week and given back to Woodstock.

Explorers Parker and Hunter Menzel have turned 18 and would like to be put on as probationary members. M. Stierle advised she could help with Class B Non CDL. They both live in the District.

We have a few more people going through orientation but not going as fast as we would like.

Chief Weber recommends FF Rodewald be promoted to Battalion Chief. T. Rishling advised he would be a great asset with his knowledge, passion and drive for the fire/ems service. M. Stierle motioned to promote K. Rodewald to Battalion Chief. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed dive gear, which was purchased for Lt. Nicolay. Crystal Lake is requesting to purchase this gear. T. Rishling advised we would sell it to them for what we paid for it.

Discussed putting D. Bruchsaler on roster for paperwork purposes.

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 January 2024 totaling \$100,000.00. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

M. Stierle motioned to get Madison Bruchsaler a gift card for \$400.00 for all her help with Deputy Chief interviews. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye, except D. Bruchsaler, he abstained. Motion approved

DEPUTY CHIEF INTERVIEWS -

Keith Hass
Matt Yeggie
Bill Schmidt

E. Gall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m.; T. Rishling seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Michelle
Stierle