

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 20, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on March 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. 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 Megan Lamb and one member 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 February 27, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. M. Stierle motioned to approve the Minutes as written. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

February 28, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes were reviewed. T. Rishling motioned to approve the Minutes as written. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: M. Stierle motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2024. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$19,558.38 for February 2024 and their fee was \$977.92.

L. Busse verified with Carol from PBS that WLFPD is enrolled in GEMT. Our first collection was in the month of February for approximately \$2,000.00 of which we will have to give 50% back to the state of Illinois.

The family and friends of Russ Nykaza donated \$265.00 to the department. Thank you to the Nykaza family.

CORRESPONDENCE – We received an Amendment of the Unified Development Ordinance of McHenry County requesting rezoning of agricultural land. Per Attorney Lamb, there is not a lot we can do about re-zoning.

We received ACH Information Validation from the County. It was signed and L. Busse will send back to the County.

We received a proposal for lawn mowing from Johnny B Landscaping for \$55.00 for the East side and \$45.00 for the West side. Will vote on it next month.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussed D/C Salary. The budget allows for a \$32,000.00 salary. Attorney Lamb advised drafting a contract for the Chief and Deputy Chief and forwarding it to Attorney Thomas to finalize. L. Busse and Chief Weber will produce contracts for next month.

Discussed payroll budget. Chiefs would like to get numbers for five personnel per day. Randy McCafferty suggested giving new members a sign-on bonus and would have to stay with the departments a certain amount of time. Chiefs are looking into many options.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussed command car for D/C Yegge. Chief Weber advised he would like to get a command vehicle for D/C Yegge but with the hefty bills we have coming up and the shortage of staff, it is not possible at this time. He suggested using the B/C vehicle as D/C Yegge's vehicle and he would be able to take this home. D. Bruchsaler advised we could use the brush truck as our command vehicle.

Our next meeting will be on 4/24/24 at 10:00 a.m.

ATTORNEY REPORT – Economic Interest Statements are due May 1st. Attorney Lamb was advised all our Economic Interest statements have been filed.

Discussed doing ACH for bills.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Dr. Gallant passed away yesterday. Condolences are given to his family.

T. Rishling will be at Pierce on April 1st and 2nd and will get a progress report on our engine.

The Trustees were advised the department does live burns. We normally incorporate Woodstock and Hebron. We have four members who passed Wildland Fire tests and need to pass pack test. Randy McCafferty suggested putting up a sign stating live burn when we are doing them.

CHIEF'S REPORT – Total calls for February 2024 are 75. We provided mutual/auto aid 5 times and we received mutual/auto aid 14 times.

The parade and fireworks are on July 6, 2024. We would like to have the open house and dress up dog contest after the parade.

Thanks to Lt. Spangler for planning the Easter Egg hunt and breakfast.

Hancock Drive has been annexed into the Village.

Crystal Lake has purchased our dive suit for \$1,350.00. They will send a check at the end of the month.

Lt. Laing requested extending her leave of absence until December 2024 when her probation period with her full-time job is over. The Board is in consensus to let the Chief make this decision. Chief Weber recommends we allow the extended leave of absence.

R. Mischke will be going through the paramedic program and will be sponsored by McHenry and has also received a grant. Congrats to FF Mischke. K. Albert will also be going through the paramedic program and will get sponsored through Woodstock. O. Hughes and E. Bonni have registered for the summer BOF class through MCC.

Received a letter of resignation from E. Wanderer effective immediately.

Discussed dog program. The cost outweighs the benefits of the dog program. C. Hammerand advised when G. Hennessey first came to the Board, she stated the program would not cost the District anything. Jager was

a sworn member of the department and since we will no longer be able to sponsor him, due to budgetary constraints, he will be retiring from the department effective 3/2/24.

Our current expenses are:

Engine due in August: \$368,738.76

Ambulance September 2025:

Ambulance 6495: Down and Dirty changed turbo: \$12,252.00, still not right and tried to fix again \$3,472.00, still not fixed, and new engine would be \$26,500.00.

Ambulance 7877: Is at Bull Valley Ford due to breaking down at hospital with high pressure oil sensor.
1621 Light Tower: Will not replace the light tower due to being too expensive (\$26,500.00). Instead, will replace scene lights with LED at a cost of \$12,500.00.

1621 Fuel Tank: \$4000.00

1670 pump valve replacement

1641 needs rear brakes

Station #1 Generator due in June \$38,517.00

Boiler at Station #1 fix \$3,500.00

Septic: \$50,000.00

Aluminum fuel tank on 1640

Attorney Lamb advised we need to start writing grants for these expenses. Chief Weber will speak with McHenry Chief to get help with writing grants.

Chief Weber spoke to a Milwaukee rep and there may be a possibility we could get some Milwaukee tool donations.

D. Bruchsaler will create a policy on purchasing. We want to get the best price on products.

Received a letter from D/C Yegge: Continuing to investigate permanent part time position but current paramedics are not interested. He will approach the EMT's as well.

We did our first public CPR class at Harrison School, and everything went well.

Have been going to a lot of community meetings.

Medix Safes are all up and running and no problems.

Boy Scouts of America does not sponsor Explorer post any longer, but the WLFPD still sponsors boy scouts. We did a BSA CPR class as well.

D/C Yegge forwarded his report to Chief Weber. Shift coverages were discussed. He would like a list of known fire department personnel living in Wonder Lake. We still need additional paramedics. Continuing to investigate permanent part time positions. Our current paramedics are not interested but do have a few EMT's from other departments who are interested.

Spring Grove model: works 24/48 schedule, unpaid Kelly day every 10th day, five paid vacations days and 3 paid personal days. They pay 80% of health insurance premium for individual only. They match 3% on a retirement account for any employee who works more than one thousand hours per year.

One Digital pays \$20.00 per hour. The District would have to pay at least 25% of the insurance premium and is based on whatever policy the District chose. If interested, they would give us a quote.

Woodstock permanent part-time pays \$50,000 for an EMT and \$55,000 for a Paramedic. They do give preference points for permanent part-time members when applying for full-time positions.

J. Kedrok, M. Niezgodzki, P. DeVore are all eligible to run shifts. H. Gruba decided he did not have time to dedicate to the District. We have a few more people going through the hiring process. Discussed staffing options. D/C Yegge would like to budget four people on shift which would be Shift Commander, paramedics/Company Officer, Paramedic/EMT, EMT. With a budget for five people we would have Shift Commander, Paramedic/Company Officer, Paramedic, EMT, EMT. Having 5-person staffing would give us the ability to have three on shift at Station #1 and 2 on shift at Station #2. This will require a change to current responses. In addition, with a 5-person staffing level, would like to change the procedure of every call, being a callback for off duty members. Call backs would be left to the discretion of the Shift Commander. Hopefully, this will help with the cost of staffing the 5th person.

Need to form a committee and budget to determine potential Fire Department Station location(s). This is a continuation from last month. Will work on ESO reports to get preliminary information needed.

We have five members attending the FAE class at McHenry Township Fire Department. McHenry has also reached out to us about an upcoming Nicor and ComEd class to be held at their Station #1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. E. Gall motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for March 2024 totaling \$110,000.00. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

T. Rishling motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Michelle Stierle