

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2024, 5:00 P.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on October 22, 2024, at 5:06 p.m. at Station 1, Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The September 25, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Minutes as written. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The September 25, 2024, Closed Session Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler advised to add him to the first paragraph as he was a part of the conversation with the attorney. M. Stierle motioned to approve the Minutes as amended. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: E. Gall motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2024. C. Hammerand seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$56,263.81 for September 2024 and their fee was \$2,813.19.

CORRESPONDENCE – D. Bruchsaler will give investment firm of Sawyer Falduto Asset Management a call to discuss possible investments.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussed draft audit. Consensus of the Board is to move forward with the final audit.

Discussed election materials. Still waiting to hear from Debra Nieto with County Clerks office on rules for accepting petitions.

The new engine will be delivered next week. There were some items that needed changing, and the manufacturer will pay for those changes. It is at MacQueen and will need a few members to drive the engine back to Wonder Lake. We can plan for it to be delivered if necessary.

All meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. The November meeting was changed from 11/20 to 11/26.

NEW BUSINESS – Paul Thomas was presented the painted firefighter's helmet from the Fall-O-Ween Fest as he was the winner of the raffle. Paul Thomas thanked everyone and advised what an honor it was to receive this but also wanted to donate it back to the department due to our members dedication to Wonder Lake.

ATTORNEY REPORT – Need to discuss levy and will need to be published and passed by November meeting. Per Attorney Thomas, we have black boxed the last three years. T. Rishling thinks we need to black box at 9.95%. D. Bruchsaler advised there is financial justification to black box due to keeping up with state

mandates and we also need station remodeling. M. Stierle motioned to black box at 9.95% for levy. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The Down and Dirty status update is on 11/12/24 at 9:00 a.m. We have not received any discovery request. There will be a case management entered on that date and then discovery will start.

A question was asked if we have a dance or carnival on property, can the department sell alcohol. Attorney Thomas will look into this.

TRUSTEES REPORT – None

CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Weber and D/C Yegge are working on specific rules for permanent part-time positions. Items being discussed are ability to move unpaid days off, scheduling paid time off and ability to work overtime hours. Policy needs to be sent out to membership.

C. Franz and T. Prajel started in September. Currently processing 1 FF/EMT and 1 Cadet. Need a process for onboarding prior to adding more employees. Looking for more personnel. We are short paramedics.

Job description posting for B/C and paramedic have been posted throughout Division 5 and MABAS Illinois. As of 10/11/24 we have five applicants for B/C (of which three are not paramedics). Application information is due by 10/15/24 at 16:00. Three of the applicants are paramedics and two are EMT-B. Seven of our members have applied for the Lieutenants position. Interviews will be 11/13/24. The interview panel is Trustee Bruchsaler, Chief Klicker, Chief Horist and Chief Prickett. This will be the last step in the process. Should have a list and recommendation ready for approval at the November Trustees meeting.

Need to look at financial ability to have five members on shift daily. Due to paramedic shortage, we have been unable to keep medics on every shift. With only two on crew, we are unable to safely staff an engine. Need to discuss criteria for adding the option for more staffing. Discussed shift statistics. T. Rishling advised need to staff what we have consistently before we add more staff. Hoping to spur interest in people applying to department.

How do we reach the following staffing levels? Paramedic/Officer Paramedic, EMT/Paramedic EMT, EMT
This gives us the flexibility especially with call-offs to staff at a minimum BLS unit.

Lincolnshire ambulance is in service. Few glitches that we are working out. Some will be a training issue. Thank you to Chief Weber and B/C Rodewald for their work in getting this vehicle in service.

We currently have two members in paramedic class and two in EMT class paid for by the District. Need updated class reimbursement form.

OSFM Small Tools Grant and Firehouse Subs Grant have been submitted. Thanks to M. Yegge and L. Busse for getting the information together for these.

Upcoming projects: Officer and Acting Officer promotions, station remodel or location. With staffing issues, we need to look into one station. Building out training schedule and capturing hours. Look into daily trainings with McHenry Township Fire Protection District. Shift Commander, Officer, and Acting Officer Training. RIT, RTF, and Driver training. Will continue training with quad departments. Discussing upcoming training with Wonder Lake Police. Air boat training. Trustee Rishling has offered to assist.

Attorney advised if we do not transport, we should be getting a release signed.

Thank you to the Trustees for allowing the department to have the fundraiser. It was a great turnout. We could have used more help but will learn for next year. Incredibly happy with community and businesses who donated money. T. Rishling thanked Chief Weber for the amount of work he put into this. It was an incredible event. We still have money coming in but so far donations have exceeded \$10,000.00.

Next weekend is Fall Fest at the police station. We will have an ambulance and engine there.

S. Papic will be resigning from the department effective today. She will be bringing back the rest of her equipment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – R. McCafferty advised in the event Scott from Aria does not have time, his daughter is available to help out with proper training and diet. He is also available to help with interviews.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – M. Stierle motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:34 p.m. under five ilcs 120/2 for purposes of discussion on specific personnel, employment, or performance of specific employees. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – M. Stierle motioned to terminate the employment of J. Larsen effective 10/23/24. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed personnel.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. M. Stierle motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for October 2024 totaling \$530,000.00. C. Hammerand seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

E. gall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Michelle Stierle