

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 28, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on January 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Station 1, Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Trustee/President Todd Rishling, Treasurer/Trustee Dave Bruchsaler, Secretary/Trustee Michelle Stierle, Trustees Cheryl Hammerand (Remotely) and Erv Gall, Chief Mike Weber, Deputy Chief Matt Yegge, Attorney Ericka Thomas and two 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 December 17, 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.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** E. Gall motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2025. M. Stierle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected \$63,493.07 in November 2024 and their fee was \$3,174.65. PBS collected \$51,958.81 in December 2024 and their fee was \$2,597.94.

We need a cash management policy put in place to direct Sawyer Falduto what to do with our bank accounts. They should be able to do this for us and if not, our attorney can do that as well.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Received paperwork from McHenry County Office of Assessments. T. Rishling signed and L. Busse will send back to County.

Received Levy Confirmation for 2024. D. Bruchsaler signed and L. Busse will send back to County.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Auricle Chiropractic Presentation tabled until next month.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**ATTORNEY REPORT** – Discussed Down and Dirty. Attorney Thomas filed a motion for substitution of judge. Down and Dirty filed a motion to dismiss the consumer fraud portion of our lawsuit but there is no merit to it. Both sides are also doing discovery.

Medicaid has been frozen for Illinois for the time being.

**TRUSTEES REPORT** – Three Trustees attended the Trustee County meeting last night. Marv Hill reported there is a resolution where State is trying to get volunteer fire districts to be a training ground for

full time municipalities. T. Rishling advised we are already doing this. There was a presentation on pension which does not affect us.

**CHIEF'S REPORT** – Thanks to Firehouse Subs in helping us get our grant. The tools will take 90 days to get here from the time Firehouse Subs sends it to Genesis Tools. That gets us a cutter and spreaders. Discussed future grant/tool purchases.

Working on policies. Everyone who is going to class this semester signed a training agreement. There is going to be a considerable increase in cost for Paramedic class due to twelve credit hours being added to the program. We will need to account for this in next year's budget.

T. Rishling has a DICO certificate and per Attorney Thomas, he can be the department DICO.

Discussed uniforms. Chief Weber and Lt. Sielck are working on this. Once uniforms/shields and helmets are received we will have a promotion ceremony.

We hired FF/EMT Jack Sullivan. He is currently in paramedic class. We interviewed seven people who had one certification and in process of doing background checks on six of them.

Lt. Randecker, CJ Homuth and Shawn LaMar have resigned effective today.

Discussed how we can best serve the community and what we need to do to get people to apply here. Talked about adding bunks to station #1 and running 24-hour calls here. Discussed adding fifth position once our membership is up. D. Bruchsaler advised we need to make this a fun place to work. If we are going to man two stations, we need a minimum of five people. There might be some days we will put a fifth on but not 365 days a year.

We have a lot of new members on our department and have to make sure we staff where members can work independently with new members. Chiefs will have a policy on a fifth person next month. Attorney Thomas advised Trustees can give Chiefs authority to put on a fifth person as needed.

Chiefs will put a sign at each station stating stations are not staffed 24 hours a day.

There is an AFG grant to remodel stations but have to sign paperwork stating you will work out of remodeled station for 10 years. D. Bruchsaler has requested a 5, 10 and 15-year plan for the department, i.e.: short term/long term plan. T. Rishling advised he believes we should apply for station improvement grants. The only way to get maximum rate on taxes is to do a referendum. Some of our reserve funds will need to be earmarked. The Homeland Security Grant was not applied for due to time limit it needed to be submitted.

Derek Decker is our new Office of State Fire Marshal rep. He will be here at 3:00 p.m. on 2/7/25.

Ice Fishing tournament is coming up and will have additional crews on. Thanks to T. Rishling and P. DeVore for helping teach airboat training.

We have 20+ Explorers currently. Thanks to Joe Houston for advertising for Explorers.

The radar run is 2/9/25 starting at 10a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Discussed using funds from summer fundraiser to purchase vests for firefighters. Will order by next month.

Village of Wonder Lake would like to put hardware on our towers which would allow them to electronically read meters. The tower company advised we have it in the contract to do this.

E. Mergl is a stand-alone paramedic. K. Mule and A. Wagman are close to becoming stand-alone paramedics.

Thanks to D. Bruchsaler for attending Officer Meetings. Thanks to Joe Houston for publicizing our airboat training on social media.

The Stevens family would like to come to Trustees meeting to discuss shirts to be worn in the month of March.

D. Bruchsaler motioned to write a check out of the Capital account in the amount of \$12,253.00 for general insurance. M. Stierle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed donated engine. Original owner asked if he could buy it back for what we have in it.

Discussed Ambulance 7877 and putting it up for auction. We can set a minimum.

**FIREHOUSE SUBS GRANT** - We applied for the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Grant. In order to get the grant, it is always a good idea for Firehouse Subs to endorse the grant. Thank you to the owner of Firehouse Subs in Lake in the Hills for endorsing our grant. We will receive \$36,140.00.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Joe Houston thanked the Board for all they do, and the Board thanked Joe Houston for all he does for the department.

**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 2025 totaling \$110,000.00 . D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

E. Gall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. T. Rishling seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary/Trustee





