

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on December 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Station 1, Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustee/President Todd Rishling (Remotely), Treasurer/Trustee Dave Bruchsaler, Secretary/Trustee Michelle Stierle, Trustees Cheryl Hammerand (Remotely) and Erv Gall, Chief Mike Weber, 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. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The November 26, 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.

The November 26, 2024, Closed Session Minutes were reviewed. M. Stierle motioned to approve the Minutes as written and keep closed. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: M. Stierle motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2024. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS did not have their collection report available.

Ed from Sawyer Falduto presented investment opportunities with Sawyer Falduto. They work with many fire and police districts. Their fee is billed quarterly after services are provided. Schwab is their third-party validation company, and we would not receive a bill from them. D. Bruchsaler motioned to enter into a contract with Sawyer Falduto Investments to manage our financial investments with our Capital Account and our Ambulance Billing Account. M. Stierle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE – Received Proof of Publication for the Black Box on Levy.

Received the Final Distribution report from the County and all monies have been collected.

LEVY HEARING – D. Bruchsaler motioned to open the hearing for the tax levy at 6:27 p.m. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. The public did not have any discussion therefore D. Bruchsaler motioned to close the hearing for the tax levy at 6:28 p.m. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. E. Gall motioned to approve to levy taxes in the amount of \$1,695,893.00 as broken down in the Ordinance 2024-03. M. Stierle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussed Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAWA). Personal part time employees will only be paid PLAWA for the time they were not working as personal part time employees. Chiefs and L. Busse would like to pay unused PLAWA to employees at the end of every calendar year. D. Bruchsaler motioned to payout time accrued under PLAWA but not used by employees for 2024 at the end of December. M. Stierle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. A formal policy will be presented to the Board at a later date. At the end of every calendar year, unused PLAWA will be paid out. If an employee resigns, they will not get paid their unused PLAWA.

Discussed class reimbursement Resolution 24-01. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve Resolution 24-01, a Resolution adopting a training reimbursement policy for the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS – None

ATTORNEY REPORT – The next status hearing for Down and Dirty will be on 1/16/25. We started discovery but have not received anything back from Down and Dirty lawyers and they have not answered the complaint yet. We also came up with a consumer fraud claim against them where we can recoup attorney's fees in addition to negligence claim.

TRUSTEES REPORT – None

CHIEF'S REPORT – Worked on SOG for Permanent Part Time positions and will get to Trustees this week.

L. Busse worked with accountant to get PLAWA/sick and personal time on paychecks.

We hired new Battalion Chiefs and promoted Lieutenants as of 12/5/24. Working on onboarding. Will set up a promotion/coming off of probation ceremony some time in January.

We need to look at financial ability to hire more people but currently having problems filling complete shifts.

Jeff Weber resigned from department effective 11/26/24.

Always looking for more personnel, especially FF/PM.

We are about 6 months into budget and will see where we are at financially.

We had three fires in the last couple of weeks. At one of the fires a neighbor used his fire extinguisher to help fight the fire before the fire department arrived. We will refill his fire extinguisher for him.

In January will go through all the applications we have. There are not any paramedics, but we do have a few EMT's who applied.

We will be putting a sign outside of our buildings stating we are not staffed 24 hours a day.

Thank you to the residents and our Trustees for our new engine and the push in ceremony. The crew is excited to get the new engine in service. A special thank you to B/C Rodewald, Lt. Davidson, Lt. Mule, FF/EMT A. Desantis and many more who spent days taking equipment off the old engine and mounting it on the

new engine. Thanks to the crews who helped with hose. Thanks to D/C Yegge, B/C Kedrok, B/C Rodewald and A. Desantis who helped train on the new engine. Thanks to Pastor Dan for blessing our new engine.

Thank you to Lt. Spangler for organizing our department breakfast with Santa. We also delivered secret Santa presents to the community the same day.

We received a donation of \$600.00 which were proceeds from the community Breakfast with Santa at Harrison School. Thank you to the school for letting us have it there.

The new business, Auracle Chiropractic, is offering first responders four free visits. The fire department cannot promote any business in town, but our members are free to do what they want on their free time.

The other new business in town is at the A-frame on Hancock Drive. They train dogs for deaf people, etc.

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 December 2024 totaling \$165,000.00 . E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

E. Gall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. M. Stierle seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Secretary/Trustee

