

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 23, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on April 23, 2025, at Station 1, Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

As their terms ends on 4/30/25, the Board, Chiefs and Department would like to thank Cheryl Hammerand and Michelle Stierle for their dedicated service to the Fire District for many years.

Congratulations to Richard Berndt and Jacklyn Basista who will be our new Trustees and take office on 5/1/25.

**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:** March 18, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. E. Gall 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 April 2025. C. Hammerand seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$71,669.42 for March 2025 and their fee was \$ 3,583.47.

Discussed Sawyer Falduto Investment Account on where we are at today and projected future income.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Received Management Letter from GW & Associates regarding our audit for FY 2024/2025. T. Rishling signed the letter and L. Busse will send back to them. Audit process should begin in June 2025.

Received updated Charles Schwab account signers. New Trustees, Jacklyn Basista and Richard Berndt, will sign as of 5/1/25 when they take office.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Wauconda Fire Department is not interested in our engine. A fire department in North Carolina is interested in our engine. They will know more after today. B/C Rodewald also put it up for sale on the government auction site. E. Gall motioned we sell the engine for no less than \$20,000.00. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed old ambulance 7877. The Wonder Lake Police Department is looking at creating a SWAT team and evidence truck. D. Bruchsaler and C. Hammerand would like to donate ambulance 7877 to the Village of Wonder Lake Police Department. D. Bruchsaler motioned to donate the ambulance 7877 “as is” to the Village of Wonder Lake Police Department. T. Rishling seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The Village of Wonder Lake is also looking for medics to join their SWAT team. Attorney Thomas advised we would need an intergovernmental agreement for our medics to join the team.

L. Busse made a claim with VFIS regarding the direct deposit fraud. Unfortunately, we were denied due to no coverage for cyber fraud. L. Busse contacted George Thompson to get a quote on adding cyber fraud to our policy.

D. Bruchsaler motioned to move Old National LPL account over to Sawyer Falduto. C. Hammerand seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Happy Administrative Assistants Day to Laurie Busse.

Discussed training pay. D/C Yegge would like trainings to be paid per hour instead of a stipend. D. Bruchsaler advised there needs to be consistency in hours at training. Need to do more trainings on shift. We will not pay members for training hours while at class. D/C Yegge will produce a policy for trainings and call backs to be approved at the next meeting.

Per Attorney Thomas, vacation time and sick time does not count toward overtime. Overtime is only paid on hours worked.

Discussed hiring a part time fire inspector at a rate of \$25.00/hour and approximately 10 hours per week. Attorney Thomas advised it would be better to contract this out otherwise we have to pay insurance, work comp etc. Chief Weber will have more on this next month.

Discussed uniform issues. Chief Weber advised we have everything we need for uniforms for promotion ceremony. D. Bruchsaler is frustrated with the tattered work shirts that are being given out to our members. They represent our department and need to be professional looking. He advised everyone needs a job shirt and a polo shirt. Chief Weber advised members are not contacting the quarter master for items they need. If someone needs something regarding uniforms, they need to email Lt. Sielck. There is also a form on Fire Manager if you need new gear. T. Rishling advised we are going to set up an online store with Today’s Uniforms. All items ordered will be approved by quarter master and it is a free service to us.

Discussed dive tanks. T. Rishling advised we need two per person. Chief Weber would like to surplus the old dive tanks. If we are going to start up a team, we will need new tanks. Currently Lt. DeVore, B/C. Rodewald and H. Norris are certified.

The Trustee Meeting dates for FY 2025/2026 are as follows, all meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. at Station #1:

May 27, 2025

June 24, 2025  
July 22, 2025  
August 26, 2025  
September 23, 2025  
October 28, 2025  
November 25, 2025  
December 19, 2025  
January 26, 2026  
February 24, 2026  
March 24, 2026  
April 28, 2026

**TRUSTEES REPORT** – Trustees attended the 100 Club Award Ceremony where B/C Rodewald was recognized for going above and beyond the line of duty. Thanks to all who attended. We were the only fire department in McHenry and Lake County that was recognized with this award. Chief Weber would like to recognize B/C Rodewald at our promotion ceremony as well.

**ATTORNEY REPORT** – Down and Dirty is progressing. They are frustrated by the counter claim. We are moving forward into the discovery phase.

**CHIEF'S REPORT** – D/C Yegge thanked the Department for supporting organ donation.

Need to get approval on permanent part time policy. Chief Weber will get policy to the Trustees.

We need a PLAWA policy for 2025.

Lt. Sielck and G. Basista are doing a good job with uniforms.

In March we put on seven members. M. Lafin is a paramedic, J. Gehr and E. Smith are FF/EMT, and the rest have one certification. The academy is starting on 5/18/25.

T. Rishling requested when we put on new members to email a picture along with a quick bio of the new member. We can leave it up to the new hire if they would like to be on our social media.

Station #1 remodel is put on hold.

B. Herdus, H. Menzel, P. Menzel and T. Prajel will be graduating from BOF on 4/28/25 at 6:00 p.m. Congratulations to all! B. Herdus and T. Prajel already have their EMT license. We have a few members in medic class.

McHenry Fire Department is hosting RIT training and we have had members attending. We will co-host an FAE class with McHenry. Would like to be able to do ride time at Wonder Lake for outside paramedic classes. Might have to go to IDPH to make this happen.

Discussed Explorer Program and funding vs total number of explorers we can train. Spring Grove and McHenry both have Explorer posts. We have six members interested in helping with Explorers. Explorer's meet two times per month.

Discussed staffing and opening a 5<sup>th</sup> spot (B/C, Officer, PM, Medic/EMT, EMT). Proposing going to three pay schedules, Permanent part time, scheduled shift, and unscheduled shift all with varying percentages of raises. Will vote on this next month.

Discussed station coverage and call volume.

Ballistic vests are on order and should be coming soon.

We have a grant for extrication equipment and should be here in a month.

Chief Weber congratulated B/C Rodewald for his award and thanked everyone who attended the ceremony.

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt went well. Thank you to Lt. Spangler for setting this up. Thank you to L. Laudick's daughter for playing "Easter Bunny."

Chief Weber and the duty crew along with D. Bruchsaler attended the scouts pancake breakfast. One of the raffle prizes was a ride to school on the fire truck.

Chief Weber, J. Houston and a few members attended the blue and gold ceremony.

We received our Starcom reimbursement, and it has been deposited.

There was a minor accident last month with backing up the ambulance. Parts have been ordered for both ambulances. Engine has been fixed.

E. Mergl resigned as of 4/20/25. She has been hired onto Carpentersville. Congrats to Emma!

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – D. Bruchsaler motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss specific individuals pursuant to two (c) (1) of the Opens Meeting Act. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

D. Bruchsaler motioned to reconvene at 9:15 p.m. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Discussed Chiefs contracts. D/C Yegge advised he does not wish to have a contract. Discussed Chief Weber's contract. T. Rishling motioned to not renew Chief Weber's contract and terminate the existing contract with the intent to revisit once the new board members have been in office for a few months. D. Bruchsaler seconded motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL** – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for April 2025 totaling \$175,000.00. T. Rishling seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

E. Gall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.; T. Rishling seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Trustee/Treasurer: Dave  
Bruchsaler