

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 27, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on May 27, 2025, at Station 1, Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President/Trustee Todd Rishling, Treasurer/Trustee Dave Bruchsaler, Trustees Jackie Basista, Rick Berndt and Erv Gall, Deputy Chief Matt Yegge, Attorney Meghan Lamb and seven 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:** April 23, 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.

May 20, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes were reviewed. J. Basista motioned to approve the Minutes as written. R. Berndt seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**PARAMEDIC BILLING SERVICES:** T. Rishling introduced Samantha Rovik from PBS. She advised GEMT is helping us get more revenue. It is federally funded, and the program is submitted to the State. We must pay 50% back to the State of the gross Medicaid collections. Our biggest payer is Medicaid because of GEMT. Medicaid/Medicare does not pay for treatment no transport. In 2026 the laws will change on treatment no transport. In order to bill treatment no transport, you need a dedicated ALS ambulance for it, otherwise we will not be able to collect from Medicaid for treatment no transport.

S. Rovik advised to improve processing; we should move away from sending PDF's. S. Rovik will schedule a meeting with L. Busse to go over the new process.

PBS current process is getting insurance through software uploads. After insurance pays, the patient will get a bill for the remainder. If the patient is a non-resident and does not pay, they will be sent to collections. Currently, residents do not get sent to collections. S. Rovik advised it will not hurt to increase our price per call. T. Rishling would like to know what the top three departments billing per call are. We would like to maximize our billing capabilities. S. Rovik will do a projection on what collections would be with a 3% increase of our billing fee.

**SWEARING IN PATRICK DEVORE:** Lt. P. DeVore took the oath of office given by T. Rishling. Congratulations Lt. DeVore.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** J. Basista motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2025. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$51,642.22 for April 2025 and their fee was \$ 2,568.86.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Discussed a possible training structure in Wonder Lake. A resident would like the fire department to burn it down. D/C Yegge will look into it and get back to Trustees.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Training and call back policy tabled until next month.

Discussed fraud insurance. T. Rishling motioned to approve the \$10,000.00 fraud insurance at an additional premium of \$200.00 per year. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Crystal Lake engine tabled until next month.

Our old ambulance has been donated to the Wonder Lake Police Department. Trustees preferred to keep the ambulance in our community. Discussed possible PR on this.

Discussed hiring a part time inspector. T. Rishling would rather farm out plan reviews and inspections. Per Attorney Lamb we have an obligation to protect our community against fires which is where the inspections come in. D. Bruchsaler will reach out to an inspector he knows. Tabled until next month.

Our certified divers are M. Lafin, Lt. DeVore, Lt. Norris and B/C Rodewald. Discussed dive suits. T. Rishling will get rid of old dive tanks.

Discussed PLAWA policy. T. Rishling motioned to adopt the PLAWA policy. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. L. Busse will get to Chief Weber to sign.

Discussed Explorer Post. M. Davidson has a current roster. Right now, we are at 22 members.

Discussed updates to Permanent Part Time Policy. Discussed vacation/personal and sick time. J. Basista would like vacation/personal and sick time accrued, not given all at once at the beginning of the year. D/C Yegge would like vacation/personal and sick time to count towards the 212 hours in a 28 day pay cycle. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Permanent Part Time Policy with accrued vacation/personal and sick time and also include those as part of the 212 hours per 28 days' pay cycle. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Discussed ECG Monitors and Stair Chairs. Per T. Rishling, we are not approving a contract for ECG monitors today but would entertain stair chair purchases. D/C Yegge advised he would like to demo it first. The motorized ones are very heavy, and we have capital improvements that we need as well. D/C Yegge advised we should not be getting anything until the budget is set and we know we can afford it.

Board positions: E. Gall motioned to nominate T. Rishling for President. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. T. Rishling accepts the position. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

E. Gall motioned to nominate D. Bruchsaler for Treasurer. R. Berndt seconded the motion. D. Bruchsaler accepts the position. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

D. Bruchsaler motioned to nominate E. Gall for Secretary. R. Berndt seconded the motion. E. Gall accepts the position. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Trustees would like to streamline re-occurring bills such as utilities to auto pay. L. Busse will switch over to auto pay on utilities.

Discussed purchase orders and will review next month.

Discussed NFPA physicals. D/C Yegge advised we should reintroduce physicals. Trustees would like to see annual physicals. Need to reach out to Northwestern to see if there is a contract for this. Trustees would like to see blood work, heavy metals, cardiac, breathing, strength, eyes and hearing tested. L. Busse will look into this.

Discussed raise increases. J. Basista motioned approve submitted raises with changing B/C pay to permanent part time at \$27.56/hour, scheduled at \$27.56/hour and unscheduled at \$26.68/hour and paying hour for hour for POC and trainings. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call Vote: All Trustees present voted Aye.

Trustee Berndt ask if the Trustee's need to give bond to the District per our by-laws under section 2.02. Attorney Lamb wasn't sure on that and said she would forward to Attorney Thomas to report at next meeting.

Trustee Berndt ask if the District still has and uses a District stamp/seal for the District on legal matters paperwork that was used when he was a Trustee before? Then he asked if it is even needed? Attorney Lamb again wasn't sure and would forward to Attorney Thomas to comment on at the next meeting.

**TRUSTEES REPORT** – This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire department. J. Basista is designing a challenge coin. It was also suggested to have Chief Weber as the grand marshal due to his dedication to the community.

**ATTORNEY REPORT** – Down and Dirty is progressing. We are in the discovery phase. The next status date is 7/24/25.

Attorney Thomas will have the investigation report at the June meeting.

There is a bill being introduced that would eventually ban PFAS. Companies that sell fire equipment with PFAS need to report to State why they have those chemicals in it. This is a few years off.

IAFP conference is 6/19/25-6/21/25.

**CHIEF'S REPORT** – Discussed permanent part time members: Lafin, Sullivan, Smith.

Going through members uniforms to determine what is needed for each member.

WL Police department does our background checks and now they do fingerprints. Is this something we want? D/C Yegge will look into ID cards for members.

Discussed current staffing levels. We are always looking for paramedics.

Discussed sleeping quarters at Station #1. Prefab units are too expensive. Discussed a 10x50 or 12x60 trailer being sold on Amazon for about \$15,000.00. Getting a structure out back would require permits and County approval. T. Rishling suggested to temporarily convert the radio room into a bunk room and get two murphy beds to put in the day room. This would be a short-term solution until we can have a solid permanent plan for sleeping quarters.

We are putting six members through FAE class and four members have just come out of the academy.

We had ninety-six calls in April. We received aid six times. We were able to cover most second calls.

1644 extrication equipment has been ordered and will go in service in June.

Majority of genesis tools are out on crates.

We could use some additional Battalion Chiefs. When we do not have staffing at 5, we need FF/Medics.

Discussed Safer Grant and is due July 3<sup>rd</sup>. One of the rules for the grant is we must guarantee staffing for the duration of the grant, or you have to pay the grant back. Also, if you cannot live up to your end of the grant, for a certain number of years you are ineligible for any other grants. It is the consensus of the board to explore this grant.

Working on getting Home Depot credit card.

Once we get the engine compartments fabricated for the new tools, we would like to take some pic with Firehouse Subs. Would like to do this the third week of June.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – T. Rishling motioned to go into Executive Session at 12:41 p.m. to discuss specific individuals pursuant to two (c) (1) of the Opens Meeting Act. R. Berndt seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Reconvened at 1:31p.m.

#### **ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL** – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. D. Bruchsalder motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for 2025 totaling \$160,000.00. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

R. Berndt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m.; J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall