

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on July 22, 2025, at Station 1, at 9:35 Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President/Trustee Todd Rishling, Treasurer/Trustee Dave Bruchsaler, Secretary/Trustee Erv Gall, Trustees Jackie Basista and Rick Berndt, Chief Mike Weber, Deputy Chief Matt Yegge, Attorney Ericka Thomas and 4 members from the department or public was present.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 24, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Minutes as written. J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

November 26, 2024, February 25, 2025 and April 23, 2025 Executive Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Minutes as written and keep closed. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. Attorney Thomas will keep these closed session Minutes in her possession.

TREASURER'S REPORT: R. Berndt motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2025. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$61,266.15 for June 2025 and their fee was \$ 3,063.31. \$47,882.34 was paid back to the State for GEMT. The Board agrees to continue with GEMT.

We are in the process of eliminating the ambulance account at Wonder Lake State Bank. Money will be transferred to the Operating Account at Schwab. We will only have the Capital Account, Petty Cash and Operating Account at Wonder Lake. All Tax revenues will go in the Operating Account at Schwab. The goal is to make money on our financials to maximize our revenue.

CORRESPONDENCE – Received Gordon Flesch enhanced service contract at \$600 per year. R. Berndt would like to know whether toner cartridges for copier are included with our service contract or is it an extra charge and if so, what are the charges. T. Rishling signed the enhanced contract to include 12k black and 6k color copies.

Trustee Rishling and Trustee Bruchsaler signed the ACH forms to get our direct deposit switched to Schwab.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussed Ambulance Billing Ordinance. D. Bruchsaler motioned to direct Attorney Thomas to draw up an ordinance to increase ambulance fees as recommended by PBS. E.

Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. Attorney Thomas will draw up a new ordinance with a 3% increase in ambulance fees.

Discussed Crystal Lake Engine. It has been transported down south to have a dealer sell it. It has been shown but not sold yet.

Discussed budget. We need to show what capital budget items are earmarked for. We will have categories of Capital purchases of building/facilities, fire, ambulance and equipment for a life expectancy greater than 3 years. The long-term committee can come up with the long-term plan and then budget can be more detailed. E. Gall motioned to pass the 2025/2026 budget. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. Attorney Thomas advised we will need to have a Public Hearing next month. We need to begin the 2026/2027 budget process by January/February next year.

Discussed purchase orders. Looking into what programs surrounding departments use for purchase orders. Tabled until next month.

Discussed MOU with police department. There is a new Chief at Wonder Lake Police so will need to work with him on the MOU. Tabled until next month.

Last Alarm Board is completed and will pick up plates today.

We could do a memorial plaque or memorial garden for past non firefighter members who have passed away if we choose.

Discussed physical policy. Only active members who work shifts, answer calls and are on the OSFM roster would need physicals. As long as the physical is an NFPA physical, we can accept it from somewhere else but it will need to include fit for duty paperwork. D/C Yegge would like to see physicals every year. If something is found, then the employee would go to their own physician for follow up at the employees own cost. Attorney Thomas will have policy for next meeting.

We need to review all policies. Attorney Thomas can provide their fees for reviewing policies and we can decide if we will review internally or have Attorney Thomas review them.

Discussed our insurance policy. Will schedule a meeting with insurance agent, insurance carrier, D/C Yegge, Chief Weber and Trustees Basista and Berndt to go over all our coverages. Chief Weber forwarded all Trustees our insurance policy so they can review it ahead of time.

We did not apply for the Safer Grant because we did not have our budget set yet. Funding Navigator is a company who can write our grants. For \$4500.00/year they could apply for 4 grants a year. They apply for a lot of private grants as well. D. Bruchsaler motioned to enter into a contract with Funding Navigator for \$4,500.00 per year to write our grants. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed long term planning committee. Would like two trustees on the committee. R. Berndt and E. Gall would like to be a part of this. D/C Yegge advised he will get a committee together. Will get a

basic template and then include Trustees after template is made. D/C Yegge, R. Berndt and D. Bruchsaler are in agreement of hiring a consultant firm to see what our future needs will be. This will be a work in progress. Will start out with a 6 month to year plan and then build upon it. Will discuss next month.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussed Explorer Insurance. The Explorers fit into the category of the non paid employees under insurance. Need to update the roster with insurance anytime there is a new member of the Explorer Post. We are not associated with the boy scouts of America. Explorer program is a cadet program of our department now.

Discussed accounting service company Sikich, and various services they offer. Looking into possibly having them help with our budget and P.O. system. L. Busse advised our current accounting firm only does quarterly's and W-2's. We have a separate accounting firm that does the audit. Our current accounting firm has never been asked to be a part of our budget process. R. Berndt advised we can get a quote from our current accounting firm on these services as well. D. Bruchsaler will look into Sikich further and discuss next month.

Discussed warning siren system for weather emergencies. It has been decommissioned due to being expensive to maintain and expensive to integrate in an auto response to the County. Our sirens were not made for weather related emergencies. There are new technologies such as phone weather app, weather radio etc. that residents should rely on.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Discussed the survey sent out by the Village of Wonder Lake. Within the survey it mentions the Fire Protection District. The Board wanted to make it clear that the Village of Wonder Lake does not provide fire service.

We have a County Trustees meeting on Monday 7/28/25. It s in Union and we have 5 members going.

ATTORNEYS REPORT – Discussed Down and Dirty. We have a discovery status on Thursday. We have answered their discovery and went to Bull Valley Ford with the Chief and met with the mechanics. Attorney Thomas has a clear understanding of what is going on. There will be depositions shortly but overall we have a good case.

Discussed public comment policy. R. Berndt would like “Public Comments” to be in the beginning of the agenda and have a Public Comment sign in. If someone goes over the allotted time for Public Comments, the President should let the person know they have exhausted their time limit. J. Basista motioned to adopt the Public Comment Policy. R. Berndt seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Attorney Thomas will draw up a resolution regarding this.

Discussed Job Description Policy. There are members not on the OSFM roster who volunteer for us. Greg Mieling is our Safety Officer, Joe Houston is our Photographer/Social Media Liaison/Web Page Liaison, Dan Cox is our Chaplain and Door Security Liaison. D. Bruchsaler would like to discuss in Executive Session.

CHIEF'S REPORT – The Board thanked the Chiefs for sending out the Chiefs report ahead of time.

Discussed the lack of coverage on the weekend. Discussed paying members more to work weekend shifts. D/C Yegge suggested hiring more employees. Chief Weber is not opposed to offering more money to work weekend shifts for a trial period. We are now requiring our Officer's to work one weekend shift a month. Trustees suggested doing a survey. D/C Yegge advised we need to be able to get people hired quicker. The Board is in agreement that hiring is left to the discretion of the Chief.

We need direction on the best way to house 5 people on duty. T. Rishling advised to purchase an Amazon building. Also, we have Plymovent and positive airflow so bunking off the bay floor shouldn't be a problem. Discussed bunk options. We also need to make our engine an upgradeable BLS engine. D. Bruchsaler advised there is a lot of office space on Hancock Drive we could rent for administrative offices. R. Berndt advised he would like offices for Chief Weber, D/C Yegge and Administrative Assistant L. Busse. Trustees meetings could meet at Station #2. The Board is directing the Chief to look into rental space for administrative offices.

Discussed gas vs. diesel engines on new ambulance. D/C Yegge will work with Chief Weber on the new ambulance.

Discussed 75th Anniversary Picnic. T. Rishling motioned for the 75th Anniversary celebration to be a picnic for our members and past members on 8/24/25 at 1:00 p.m. not to exceed \$10,000.00. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. J. Basista will head this up.

Chief Weber advised if Lt. Spangler is to come back to work, she needs to produce a return to work physical.

1644 has been modified with new equipment. Will get quotes for further modification.

Fontana Fire Department donated and dropped off an RDC and a Zodiac. Thank you to Fontana Fire Dept.

Chief Weber would like to put FF/PM Michael Bieber and FF/EMT Kinga Zieba on the department. Per Attorney Thomas, we do not need Board approval to hire members. The Chief has discretion to hire members. J. Basista suggested doing social media checks on applicants as well.

Will be doing trainings with Spring Grove and McHenry.

Chief Weber advised we had a kitchen fire this month and everything went well with the fire. No injuries and the attack was handled well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – J. Basista motioned to go into Executive Session at 12:20 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 2:42 p.m.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for July 2025 totaling \$225,000.00. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

R. Berndt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 p.m.; T. Rishling seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall