

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on September 23, 2025, at Highland Shores Community Building at 9015 Woody Trail at 9:30 a.m. Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

R. Berndt motioned to have D. Bruchsaler as President Pro Temp. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustee/President Pro Temp Dave Bruchsaler, Secretary/Trustee Erv Gall, Trustees Jackie Basista and Rick Berndt, Chief Matt Yegge, Attorney Megan Lamb and 8 members from the department or public were present.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 26, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. R. Berndt motioned to approve the Minutes as written. J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

July 22, 2025, Executive Session Meeting Minutes are tabled until next month.

August 26, 2025, Executive Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. J. Basista Motioned to approve the Minutes as written and keep sealed. E. Gall Seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Rick Merick questioned why it took 6 minutes to get to a fire which was a few blocks from station #1. He advised if that were a heart attack, the patient wouldn't make it. He advised he voted yes to the referendum a few years back because it was going to staff both stations 24/7. He also stated one of his friends works at McHenry and they told him they had to come to Wonder Lake 5 times in a short period of time. He asked if we can't cover our calls why not hire an ambulance service? Chief Yegge advised the shift commander was at Station #1 during the fire and was there less than 6 minutes. The other crew was on their way to a previous call and diverted back to the fire. D. Bruchsaler advised in regard to staffing, we tried to hire a private ambulance company, but they didn't have employees to give to us. The fire/ems personnel shortage is nationwide. D. Bruchsaler also advised our department is a steppingstone to get onto full-time departments, so we tend to have a revolving door with employees moving on to full-time departments. We can't afford to have full time employees, but we do offer a ¾ position where we offer the employee insurance and time off. D. Bruchsaler advised we are heading in the right direction with staffing 5 members a day/night. We are working on increasing our command staff in order to help train the younger generation. We are also creating bunks at station #1 to house 24-hour coverage at Station #1. We are increasing our ambulance billing. Chief Yegge advised we also still have an Explorer Program but now McHenry and Woodstock also have Explorer Programs. We do have a great relationship with MCC, and students are encouraged to contact us. He also advised if we hire someone with no certifications, it takes a year in a half with schooling before they are ready to work shifts. If we hire someone with certifications, it

takes time due to the EMS office having criteria before they can work. Chief Yegge is working with EMS office to try and loosen the criteria.

Rick Merick also asked why we aren't applying for grants to get the storm siren working. D. Bruchsaler advised the sirens on top of the firehouse's were originally used to notify in district employees there was a call. They are not storm sirens. The gentleman was advised to speak with someone at the Village in regard to the storm sirens.

TREASURER'S REPORT: J. Basista motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2025. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$64,176.42 for August 2025 and their fee was \$ 3,208.82.

Interest on the Schwab Ambulance Account year to date is \$15,085.00.

Interest on the Schwab Capital Account year to date is \$8,495.00.

CORRESPONDENCE – Received a thank you letter from Chief Horist for Wonder Lake's assistance on a fire.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussed Ambulance Billing Ordinance 2025-01. R. Berndt motioned to approve the ambulance billing ordinance as drawn up. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed Crystal Lake Engine. Chief Yegge advised Brindlee is willing to list the engine, and it can stay in Illinois. There is no charge from either company if it does not sell. R. Berndt thought the contract looked good. Attorney Lamb advised the contract was alright to sign. D. Bruchsaler signed the agreement.

Discussed budget. E. Gall motioned to approve the budget and appropriations ordinance 2025-02 as drawn up by Attorney Thomas. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye.

Discussed MOU with police department. Chief Yegge advised the Board signed an MOU for the watercrafts back in 2022.

NFPA and physical policy discussion. Looking to start in 2026 and looking for other price options. Tabled until next month.

R. Berndt, J. Basista, Chief Yegge and L. Busse have been involved in meetings with our insurance carrier and insurance agent. With increasing our public dishonesty from 50k-100k and adding L. Busse to that portion of the policy, adding a blanket bond for Chief Officers and increase it to 100k, increasing the agreed upon value of the ambulance from 55k to 125k, increasing the agreed upon value of the new engine to 1.2 mil, increasing medical expense from 5k to 10k, covering personal property off premise to 8k and having on duty death coverage from 5k to 10k would increase our policy by \$1,649.00. D. Bruchsaler thanks all who worked on this. The insurance company stated they would come out and review the current values of the firehouses and Harrison Hall. We also need to make sure we have insurance on the boat lift and liability on the pier. Need to get a bill of sale from Tom Cooper on the lift. Chief Yegge will get clarification on who owns the pier. Tabled until October and will approve then. L. Busse will check with insurance on additional coverage for the boat lift.

L. Busse and Chief Yegge will be setting up a meeting with Rudy from Comcast to discuss new phones and bundling internet, tv and phone.

Long-term planning committee tabled until next month.

Discussed accounting consultant. D. Bruchsaler advised in the contract it didn't identify how many hours they will be working. Their response was it is an estimated dollar amount instead of an estimated hour amount. They will be reaching out soon and hoping to begin in the fall. Attorney Lamb advised us to make sure we attach email correspondence with the contract.

Chief Yegge will be getting more quotes for consulting firm.

NEW BUSINESS – D. Bruchsaler and L. Busse are working on online bill pay.

Chief Yegge thanked Greg Mieling for all his years of service with the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District and presented him with a plaque.

Greg from the Village of Wonder Lake inquired about putting an antenna on top of the Verizon tower at Station #2. They are ready to begin work and waiting for fire department approval. Attorney Lamb advised to check with Verizon to make sure this is allowed per our contract and that there is space to put an antenna on the tower. Chief Yegge will contact Verizon.

Greg from the Village of Wonder Lake would like to use Station #2 as a sampling point for water. It would better represent the town's water supply. They would pull a sample once a month from a tap they would put on the water line. They would prefer not to use tap water due to the screen on the faucet etc. It would go in the first bay by the cold-water supply line on the wall. They would need a key fob to get into the building. D. Bruchsaler concerned about giving a key fob out due to dangerous equipment around the firehouse. Attorney Lamb can draw up an agreement on it.

Discussed building additional bunks at Station #1 and moving offices to Harrison Hall. The weight room will stay in Harrison Hall. Chief Yegge went to County and it looks like we will need an architect to draw up plans on what we want to do. Will have a better estimate of costs next month. This is a temporary fix as we are waiting on the sewer lines so we can do a station remodel.

TRUSTEES REPORT – D. Bruchsaler received an email inquiring if we wanted to sell our cell tower. He did not respond.

R. Berndt advised we could possibly use the MPOA offices for future meetings. R. Berndt will follow up with the MPOA.

MPOA is going to enforce lake owners putting their addresses on their piers.

ATTORNEYS REPORT – There is small litigation update, and it is budget and levy season. We had depositions with the mechanic, and it went very well for our side. Chief Weber will need to be deposed soon.

Next step is levy. CPI is 2.9%.

CHIEF'S REPORT – We had a lot of interest in the posted positions of Deputy Chief, of which 9 applied, Battalion Chief of which 8 applied and Lieutenant of which 6 applied.

Last month we approved some capital purchases which have not arrived yet.

We had some significant calls this month from traumatic injuries, full arrest and a fire. On the full arrest we did get him back and transferred him to the hospital. Great job to our members who were on these calls.

Discussed the total number of calls and what District they were in. About 50% of our calls are on the East side, 40% on the west side and 10% mutual aid.

The Board approved the ballistic vests. They have been sized and ready to go. A policy was sent out.

We had some warranty repairs done on our ambulance at Bull Valley Ford. The Lincolnshire ambulance has an oil leak, and we were recommended to a company out of Woodstock for the repair. This is not covered under warranty.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – D. Bruchsaler motioned to go into Executive Session at 10:27 a.m. to discuss specific individuals pursuant to two (c) (1) of the Open Meeting Act and legal matters. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Reconvened at 11:11 a.m.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – D. Bruchsaler motioned to authorize Chief Yegge to hire the 2 Deputy Chiefs, 4 Battalion Chiefs and 7 Lieutenants as discussed in closed session. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. J. Basista motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for September 2025 totaling \$190,000.00. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

R. Berndt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall