

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on October 28, 2025, at MPOA Office, 7602 Hancock Drive at 9:30 a.m. Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustee/President Todd Rishling, Trustee/Treasurer Dave Bruchsaler, Secretary/Trustee Erv Gall, Trustee Rick Berndt, Chief Matt Yegge, Deputy Chief Bill Oeffling and Attorney Ericka Thomas and 6 members from the department or public were present.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 22, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. E. Gall motioned to approve the Minutes as written. T. Rishling seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

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

September 23, 2025, Executive Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Minutes as written and keep sealed. R. Berndt seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Randy McCafferty advised to keep up the good work.

Public comments from last month were reviewed to make sure all questions were answered.

TREASURER'S REPORT: E. Gall motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2025. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$43,392.67 for September 2025 and their fee was \$2,169.63.

John Falduto will attend next month's meeting to discuss bond investments.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

OLD BUSINESS – The engine is listed on Bradford and Brinlee Mountain. There was someone interested, and they wanted service records. We have sent the records over and are awaiting their decision.

Northwestern Medicine Occ Health provided us with pricing for physicals. Tabled for now.

Chief Yegge has reached out to Tom Cooper about the lift and the pier and has not heard back. George Thompson reached out and stated our current insurance company is no longer insuring our boats and we will get a stand-alone boat policy. Will get back with George Thompson on boats. R. Berndt motioned to increase the fiduciary coverage including the Admin. Asst. to 100k and to add a blanket bond of 100k for all

officers. Will discuss property valuations and coverages in November 2025 meeting. D. Bruchsaler. seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Bundling TV, Internet and Phone tabled until next month.

Long Term Planning Committee tabled until next month. Trustees advised we need more than one bid on 3rd party consultant. Also, there is no intent on closing Station #2. Our intent is to staff both stations 24 hours a day.

Sikisch will come out for accounting review to look over accounting, budget, billing process, checks and balances on 11/7/25.

Per Attorney Thomas, we need to put any purchase/improvement out to bid if it is something over \$25,000.00 unless it is a single source company that no other company specializes in. An RFP will cover us if we have more than 2 companies respond to bid. B/C Harwood will investigate the RFP.

Discussed online bill pay. The State Bank Group is working on getting L. Busse access to online bill pay.

Discussed Village of Wonder Lake using Station #2 cell tower. Per Attorney Thomas, we only own the land the tower is on. We can't put something on the tower under false pretenses. It would expose the District to a lawsuit. D. Dycus from the Village was told he could do an IGA with the fire department to get the Village receiver put on the tower. Attorney Thomas advised we don't own the tower and we only have an agreement to put the fire districts receivers up. The Board wants to cooperate with the Village. T. Rishling asked if we could put the receiver on our stations. D. Dycus advised it would not be high enough. We need a clean legal way of doing this. D/C Oeffling will get the lease paperwork to Attorney Thomas. Per Chief Yegge, we can't sublease the towers. Harmony tower stated they would rent space to the Village for \$450.00 per month. The District authorized contract review with attorney if needed.

Attorney Thomas prepared a use agreement and license for water sampling for station #2. The Board has reviewed. D. Dycus advised the village would like to pull water from a line or a few lines to validate sampling on the Village end and the IGA requests came as a surprise to the Village. D. Bruchsaler advised it is a secured facility, and we have narcotics in the building, and we need verification of who, when, where is coming into our building. We would allow two door access fobs so it can be tracked. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the sampling water use agreement between the fire department and the Village of Wonder Lake. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. We will get a copy of the agreement to the Village for them to approve.

Discussed preliminary approval of build out in the back barn. B. Oeffling is asking for approval up to \$50,000.00 for back barn offices and meeting room. He advised it wouldn't cost that much but needed a little wiggle room. There is no water out in the barn. Trustee Rishling advised that it is a steep price to pay. He advised we need to house vehicles and the office build out will take up room. He suggested getting prices on portable building and when we are done with it, we can sell it. The rest of the Trustees agreed. Tabled until next month after we get more information and prices on portable buildings.

Funding New Schwab Account is tabled until next month. John Falduto will be here at the next meeting to explain our bond investments.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussed Woodstock Fire Proposal for PIO. It is the consensus of the Board to keep this internal.

T. Rishling motioned we add Trustees (Todd Rishling, Dave Bruchsalter, Erv Gall, Jackie Basista and Rick Berndt), Admin. Asst. (Laurie Busse) and Chief Yegge to the Safety Deposit Box at Wonder Lake. D. Bruchsalter seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

T. Rishling motioned to have the Trustees (Todd Rishling, Dave Bruchsalter, Erv Gall, Jackie Basista and Rick Berndt) and the Fire Chief Matt Yegge to have signing permission on the Explorer checking account. D. Bruchsalter seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed Levy. Attorney Thomas advised our black box is under 5% and if go over 5% we have to black box. D. Bruchsalter advised even though he doesn't want his taxes to go up, he believes it is necessary to black box for the good of the District. To continue to do the service and build upon it, we will need to black box. Attorney Thomas advised we have a very supportive community, and we are catching up from years and years of neglect on capturing appropriate taxes to run the department efficiently. We are progressing and getting more personnel and hoping to have 24 hour coverage at both stations. T. Rishling advised we should go to 9.9% for the levy. D. Bruchsalter motioned for the levy to black box at 9.9%. T. Rishling seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. D. Bruchsalter advised Sikisch may be able to help with figuring out our levy for next year.

R. Berndt asked about impact fees for new development. Per D. Dycus, he believes there is money out there for impact fees. There is a new subdivision going in off of Barnard Mill Road. Would like to contact that municipality about getting impact fees for the fire district. Attorney Thomas advised County should have that information as well.

Discussed Battalion Chief 16 Replacement. Would like to go with crew cab pick-up. T. Rishling also advised we should be looking at a 250/2500. The old Battalion 16 would go to one of the Deputy Chiefs. D. Harwood has the RFP on this. The Board directed Chief Yegge to get pricing and present it next month. B/C Harwood advised we have the use of a UTV from McHenry.

TRUSTEES REPORT – R. Berndt would like ID cards and the picture board updated at each station. Chief Yegge advised our card printer is broken but will get this done. R. Berndt would like a Trustee sweatshirt. T. Rishling motioned to buy winter Carhart quilted jackets for all members not to exceed \$4,000.00. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

E. Gall and D. Bruchsalter are signed up for the mandatory Trustee training. R. Berndt already took the class and J. Basista is signed up for next year.

We hosted the County Trustees Meeting and thanked Ken Schroeder for speaking. R. Berndt motioned to send Ken Schroeder a \$100.00 gift card. D. Bruchsalter seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

ATTORNEYS REPORT – Down and Dirty is progressing rapidly and going very well for the District.

We are good on chaplain job description. Any social media post should have Chief or Deputy Chief approval before they are posted. We need to have a job description of the social media position. Attorney Thomas will draw something up.

CHIEF'S REPORT – We had 1644 outfitted for tools. We have the Illinois Public Risk Fund grant money of \$8,869.00 to help pay for outfitting 1641. D. Bruchsalter motioned to update 1641 extrication

cabinet to match 1644 utilizing the IPRF grant money. T. Rishling seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

All capital purchases mentioned in the previous meeting have been purchased with the exception of the hose which we are still working on.

Down and Dirty is a classic case of the need to do vehicle checks and how it is documented.

Discussed shift stats. Starting to hear from some members, shifts are filled and can't work as much as they want to. Trying to work with EMS office on getting paramedics to operate alone. September was busy with out-of-town calls. Trying to start breaking down data between districts and how often we can keep both stations staffed. No big outliers other than Mutual Aid calls.

Trustees thanked Chief Yegge for all his hard work. Chief Yegge advised he has great D/C's and B/C's which makes his job easier and he can concentrate on everything else.

T. Rishling would like cameras put up at the stations. M. Yegge will present choices next Trustees meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION None

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION –

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for October 2025 totaling \$155,000.00 and approve the blowhard company bill of 828.00 to be paid after the first of the month. T. Rishling seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

R. Berndt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall