

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 27, 2026, 9:30 A.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on January 27, 2026, at the 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, Trustees Rick Berndt and Jackie Basista, Chief Matt Yegge, Attorney Ericka Thomas and 1 member from the department or public were present.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December 29, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. J. Basista motioned to approve the Minutes as written. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

December 29, 2025 Executive Session Minutes were reviewed. J. Basista Motioned to approve the Minutes as written. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-** R. McCafferty advised to keep up the good work and thanks for keeping the community safe.

FYI: The discussion on the sleuth gates from last month, the work has not been completed and will have to begin in the spring.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** R. Berndt motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2026. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$83,742.22 for December 2025 and their fee was \$4,175.02.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Received an email from Illinois Fire Protection District stating our membership will expire in 14 days but then received another email stating there were glitches in their system. L. Busse confirmed we are paid through 12/31/26.

Discussed Economic Interest filing. Trustees are personally responsible for filing.

T. Rishling and R. Berndt were approached by an organization to get fire department patches to surprise a young man. R. Berndt drafted a letter to send back to the young man.

There is a Trustee training conference on 2/6/26 in Lombard, IL. If you need training feel free to attend. There is another one in Peoria in June. The first year Trustees need 16 hours for the initial training and 8 additional hours per year after.

Received an email from the cell tower company. Chief Yegge will contact them.

Melissa from Boy Scouts advised they have not received this year's charter yet.

Ice Fishing derby is this Sunday. Fire District will be there.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Discussed accounting firm.

**TRUSTEES REPORT** – Attended County Trustees meeting.

Discussed scholarship requests.

Discussed no tax on overtime reporting rules.

**ATTORNEYS REPORT** – Discussed Down and Dirty case. We have the arbitration set up at end of February and have subpoena's out.

**CHIEF'S REPORT** – Castle Autoplex did a bid on another pickup truck. The 2026 work truck is \$45,120.00 and the 2026 4x4 crew 1500 series is \$47,250.00 We officially purchased the work truck. Chief Yegge would get the new vehicle, D/C Kozel would get the White Tahoe. Sourcewell and Houston Galvaston were more expensive. This vehicle would need to be outfitted with lights, siren, tano cover and striping. D. Bruchasler motioned to approve purchasing a truck from Castle Autoplex not to exceed \$60,000.00 including outfitting. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

We are keeping the 2012 Tahoe to put at Station #2.

We had a fire on Bayview Dr. McHenry that our older tanker was at. It pumped for 6 hours in -10 degree weather and did well other than an intake valve froze and cracked.

Held a zoom meeting with the solar farm executives. They are asking for approval to put a solar farm in. Per Attorney Thomas, we do not have a duty one way or the other to approve a solar farm. The solar farm does not have a battery backup; it is a power generating facility not a storage facility. We discussed the inability to access anyone if they get hurt inside the facility. Chief Yegge will request the solar farm purchase the district a UTV with a skid for the department. D. Bruchasler motioned to approve the proposed emergency services plan for this facility if there are resources, provided by the solar farm, to be able to fulfil the emergency response plan. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. Chief Yegge will get UTV/skid pricing to the solar farm.

This Thursday will be Chief Yegge's 2 year anniversary with the department and he would like to thank the Board for allowing him this opportunity.

Discussed capital projects for this fiscal year. Discussed money moving to and from Sawyer Falduto Schwab accounts. Discussed needing to keep ambulance and capital funds separate. Would like to have one Wonder Lake account and 2 Sawyer Falduto accounts where one account will have both ambulance and fire and the other account will be for Capital purchases. Chief would like to change accounts now.

Discussed new accounting firms. Discussed having outside company doing payroll and bills. Chief Yegge would need to research this more.

D. Bruchsaler motioned to give L. Busse permission to keep a \$10,000.00 balance in Capital and Ambulance account at Wonder Lake. Anything over should be transferred to Schwab. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

E1 Engine has been sold, and we received a check for it. Discussed sale or donation of 1621 Squad.

Working on new Battalion vehicle. The deck system for the back is in and working on slide out.

George Thompson Insurance is working on information on new boat policy. He has the information to value the buildings.

Discussed newly hired personnel, N. Leinhardt, M. O'Malley and T. Bradtke. We also hired 4 cadets who will be starting the fire academy in the next couple of weeks.

We will be taking delivery of a new ambulance in fall of 2026 for \$342,000.00. It will still need to have radios and lettering installed. Hebron Fire is interested in taking a build out slot for a 2027 ambulance. The Board is fine with this.

Still working on physicals.

Consulting firm tabled.

Discussed new tenders and pricing. R. Berndt's recommendation is to go with Pierce. T. Rishling motioned to purchase the Pierce Tender up to \$550,000.00 as presented in the bid with no prepayment option. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

ID cards tabled.

Chief Yegge advised a lot of turn out gear are expired. We need around \$32,000.00 worth of bunker gear. The gear is through Conway Shields. There is a 3-year plan to replace all gear. This gear will be fitted. E. Gall Motioned to purchase turn out gear not to exceed \$36,000.00. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye.

Discussed statistics of all of McHenry County fire departments. Our call volume went down by 4.9%. We have a lot of days with 5 on shift which allows us to staff both stations. D. Bruchsaler asked how our response times are doing. Chief Yegge will investigate.

Discussed missing portable radio. Chief Yegge was directed to make a police report and follow up with insurance to see if we can get reimbursed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**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 January 2026 totaling \$185,000.00. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

R. Berndt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

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