

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on December 19, 2025, 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, Deputy Chief Bill Oeffling, Deputy Chief Chris Kozel and Attorney Ericka Thomas and 2 members from the department or public were present.

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

BID OPENING FOR TRUCK: Chief Yegge opened the bids for a new truck: Castle in McHenry bid \$50,129.00 for a 2026 ½ ton work truck and \$56,004.00 for a 2026 ¾ ton work truck. Buss Ford in McHenry bid \$55,160.00 for a 2026 F150 and \$59,382.00 for a 2026 F250 crew cab XLT. All quotes are for gas engines. Chief Yegge advised a rough estimate for cap, rollout installations and graphics is about \$17,000.00 and to outfit with lights, sirens and radios would be about \$10,000.00. This vehicle will replace Battalion 16. R. Berndt motioned to purchase the ½ ton truck from Castle in the amount of \$50,129.00. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The current Battalion 16 would stay as a pool vehicle and kept at Station #2 for call backs.

A solar farm is being built on the corner of E. Wonder Lake Road and Rt. 120. Will approach them to purchase a UTV for the department so we are able to get back there should they need our assistance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 25, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. E. Gall 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 tabled until Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Ray O'Brien from the MPOA advised there will be dive operations occurring to repair the West sluice gate and there will be a cage around the East sluice gate. They are anticipating 3 days of diving.

Randy McCafferty advised the information the Board and Chiefs provide is outstanding. Keep up the good work.

TREASURER'S REPORT: R. Berndt motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2025. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$29,944.21 for November 2025 and their fee was \$1,497.21.

CORRESPONDENCE – Received Snow Plowing Bid from Johnny B. Lawncare. The cost is \$70.00/plow for Station #1 and \$60.00/plow for Station #2. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the snowplow bid from Johnny B. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Received tax exempt property paperwork from County.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussed existing vehicles. We have E1 Engine at Bradford apparatus for sale. The Board is in consensus to give Chief a discretion on where to sell the engine.

Discussed titles in safety deposit box and what we are missing. It is a \$50.00 application fee to get a new title.

Discussed repairs done on tenders by Kevin Hill with GEMCO. Chief Yegge advised a new tender would cost anywhere from \$475,000.00 to \$550,000.00 and we could get delivery within 6 months. Chief Yegge recommends selling the older tender and keeping the newer of the two tenders. The newer tender would require \$12,000.00 in repairs for ISO reasons. Working on capital budget. The ambulance we have is on order (which should arrive later in 2026) and a new tender would come out of that capital budget. Chief Weber also signed for an ambulance in 2027 but Chief Yegge would like to push that off for another 5 years. Will investigate getting out of the 2027 ambulance contract. Discussed squad responses. Chief suggests auctioning off the E1 Engine, Squad and older Tender. That will bring our fleet down, open space and lower insurance costs. Chief recommends any tools we can't use on another vehicle to be sold with the Squad. It is the consensus of the Board to surplus the E1 Engine, the squad and the 1994 Tender. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the purchase of a new tender not to exceed \$500,000.00. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

R. Berndt proposes increasing the agreed-on value of each vehicle to the following:

1994 Tanker #4141 to \$500,000.00
1995 Tanker #1186 to \$500,000.00
1999 Spartan Rescue #3420 to \$450,000.00
2006 Imperial Boat Trailer #2417 to \$40,000.00
2009 Ford Ambulance #7878 to \$350,000.00
2016 Pierce Pumper #6499 to \$1,100,000.00
2017 Ford Ambulance 6495 to \$350,000.00
2002 Emergency One Pumper #5575 Take Off Of Insurance
2016 Ford Ambulance #6430 to \$350,000.00
2024 Pierce Pumper #7196 to \$1,100,000.00

All deductibles would increase to \$1,000.00. Pickup trucks and staff vehicles are insured but can't be insured for replacement/agreed upon values.

R. Berndt motioned to change the agreed values of vehicles as presented previously and have the higher deductible. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

R. Berndt advised D/C Oeffling is working with our insurance to get an overview of our buildings. R. Berndt asks that L. Busse get these increased agreed values over to George Thompson Insurance. He would also like an updated property and casualty report.

Discussed IT, Phone, TV and Internet. Chief Yegge advised the best package is not to have a physical server or firewall. Everything would be stored in the cloud. He suggests going with a company called Adnet. Once we get approval, it will take them 6-8 weeks to evaluate what we have/need. The price is \$2,000.00 per month plus \$25.00 per month for phones. This includes emails, office suite, IT background work. Will check to see if there is a better level of service at a lower price for internet service. Robert with Netcomm2000 can't put everything together in one service. It is the consensus of the Board to have Adnet come out and evaluate everything before approving to go with the company. Tabled until next month.

Accounting overview is tabled until next month.

Consulting firm and long-term planning are tabled until next month.

Discussed Harrison Hall build out vs. mobile office. Tabled until next month.

Capital improvements are tabled until next month.

D. Bruchsaler motioned to begin the Levy Hearing for discussion. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. There was no response from the public. D. Bruchsaler motioned to close the Levy Hearing. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. R. Berndt motioned to adopt Ordinance 25-003 an Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes for the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Cameras are being installed at both stations. They have recording ability and working on an app to be put on Battalion Chief phones. Thank you to B/C Devore and D/C Oeffling for all the help with this.

ID cards and Picture Board are tabled until next month.

NEW BUSINESS – None

TRUSTEES REPORT – Our condolences go out to B/C Kedrok and B/C Harwood for the loss of their loved ones. R. Berndt would like something to be sent out on the departments behalf.

ATTORNEYS REPORT – Discussed Down and Dirty case. The next arbitration date is 2/27/26. Hoping to get a favorable decision from the arbitrator that day.

CHIEF'S REPORT – We are in the process of hiring 4 new cadets with either one certification or no certifications. D/C Kozel is working on getting their physical.

Two medics applied and once we get their background checks done, we will be putting them on.

We got rid of the clock in computer.

Working on issues with McHenry County Dispatch.

Shift statistics are looking good. We were able to staff both stations 8 times during the day and 7 times during the night.

Per T. Rishling the EMS office advised our calls are reflecting that positive things are happening in Wonder Lake.

We have 3 people in paramedic class right now.

Hoping to have a few members attend the Academy in January.

Trustees would like milestones put on our website. For example, when members graduate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – T. Rishling motioned to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussion of July 2025 closed session minutes at 11:59 a.m. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted. Motion approved.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – Open session reconvened at 12:13 p.m. J. Basista motioned to approve the changes to the Executive Session Minutes from July 2025 as discussed in closed session. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for December 2025 totaling \$205,000.00. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

E. Gall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m. J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall