

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2026, 9:30 A.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on February 24, 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, Deputy Chief Chris Kozel, 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: January 27, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the Minutes as written. R. Berndt seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- None

Ed Lavin with Sawyer Falduto discussed where we are at with our portfolio and what we can do in the future. D. Bruchsaler motioned to take \$250,000.00 from the operating account of Schwab and put it in a 3-month treasury and take another \$250,000.00 from the operating account of Schwab and put in a 6-month treasury. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. D. Bruchsaler motioned to take \$150,000.00 from the Schwab Capital account and place it in a 3-month treasury. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: E. Gall motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2026. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$53,706.66 for January 2026 and their fee was \$2,585.93.

CORRESPONDENCE – Discussed GW & Associates PC audit engagement letter for FY 2025/2026. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the audit engagement letter not to exceed \$13,650.00. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Received a heartfelt thank you card from the owners of Riverside Bakery for helping with the fire.

OLD BUSINESS – See Chiefs Report

NEW BUSINESS – None

TRUSTEES REPORT – D. Bruchsaler will be going to Trustee Training in Peoria June 11th-13th. Per Attorney Thomas, Trustees should do training every 12 months but there is a 3-month grace period.

ATTORNEYS REPORT – Discussed Down and Dirty case. Arbitration is set for Friday. If arbitration goes well, the District would be awarded the cost of replacing the engine and attorney fees. We have 30 days to reject the arbitration. E. Thomas will email the outcome of the arbitration.

CHIEF'S REPORT – March Trustees meeting has been changed to March 30th at 9:30 a.m.

Discussed filed police report.

A police report and insurance claim were filed on 2 missing portable radios. Kill signals have been sent to both radios and they are not useable anymore. The Chief is in the process of getting quotes on replacing the 2 missing radios.

Discussed solar farm. A meeting will be set up between the solar farm, fire department and County. The solar farm is open to the idea of purchasing a UTV for the department, but it has not been approved yet.

Discussed personnel. We are in the process of hiring a cadet and will be sending him to EMT class in May.

D/C Kozel is working on minimum training requirements and documentation.

B/C Rodewald requested a 1 year leave of absence. The Board has approved a 1-year leave of absence. The Chiefs will look into another member heading up the Explorer Post.

The squad is officially out of service. We are pulling some assets from it. The Board would like to sell the squad. The Chief recommends we keep the squad in station while we try to sell it.

The new Battalion vehicle should be here next month. The new Chiefs truck has been delivered. We are waiting on Ultra Strobe to give us a price on lights.

Pierce Tender is on order and we received the performance bond. Our salesman will get in touch with us when building begins.

Discussed insurance coverages. L. Busse to make sure medical expenses have been increased from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. We are still waiting to hear from Sue with VFIS in regard to replacement value on buildings. R. Berndt motioned to have a standalone policy to insure the airboat for the agreed value of \$70,000.00 and the deck boat for agreed value of \$65,000.00. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The missing titles to currently owned vehicles have been applied for and should be coming in soon.

D/C Oeffling and B/C Young met with Foster Coach and changed a few specs on the new ambulance.

Working on physicals with Northwestern Medicine.

Discussed accounting firms. R. Berndt motioned to direct D. Bruchsaler to meet with accounting firms to discuss accounting services needed and approve a firm. J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye.

Chief Yegge reached out to Illinois Fire Chiefs Association to see if we can get a proposal on a consulting firm.

Discussed Capital purchases. Turn out gear is getting ordered and getting information on dive gear.

Discussed two rescue/recovery calls on the lake. Discussed drone programs.

Working on capital report. D/C Kozel is working with the EMS system.

Discussed items needed to get completed before ISO meeting. R. Berndt asked if we have to do ISO meeting. Per Attorney Thomas it is wise to complete everything needed for ISO.

Discussed our new IT company, Adnet. We will still have a server as of now and will transition to cloud-based software and hardware. Our phones will go digital and computer upgrades will be in phase 2. The barn will now have internet and phones. Chief Yegge spoke with Robert from Netcomm 2000 and he is helping us transition to the new company. Robert was very instrumental in getting us to this point. Trustees would like a thank you card to go out to Robert.

Working on radios, including purchasing scanners for both stations, to make sure we have tone outs.

Chief Yegge plans to meet with the county dispatch to switch over to AVL. Neighboring dispatch centers use this.

New fuel cards have come in. Cards are now assigned to a vehicle, and each employee has a pin #.

D/C Kozel is focusing on updating policies. Also focusing on updating onboarding.

MABAS has come out with a few policies tied to command. Sending all officers to training in Huntley and McHenry.

Our crews have been training in ice rescue drills with other departments.

D/C Oeffling is working on preventative maintenance schedule with vehicles.

Loud Brothers will give us a status report overview of both station's heating and cooling systems.

Discussed call volume and coverages. We can answer multiple calls per day. The crew is taking an interest in improving/cleaning the stations. D/C Kozel has moved his office to Station #2.

T. Rishling is impressed that we have gone from staffing 3 people per day to staffing both stations. Great job to the Chiefs and crews.

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 February 2026 totaling \$160,000.00. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

R. Berndt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall