

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

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on March 30, 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 Bill Oeffling, Attorney Ericka Thomas and 1 member from the department or public were present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. J. Basista motioned to approve the Minutes as written. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: R. Berndt motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2026. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$37,993.18 for February 2026 and their fee was \$1,784.36.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. J. Basista motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for March 2026 totaling \$190,000.00. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE – Received a bid for the lawn service from Johnny B. Station #1 would be \$65.00 per mow, and Station #2 would be \$55.00 per mow. Any extra services can be added on. R. Berndt motioned to approve the lawn mowing bid from Johnny B Lawn Service. D. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Trustees signed the ACH property tax form where tax money is deposited to the Schwab account. L. Busse will send back to County.

Discussed water/hydrant issue in Stonewater. Discussed property in Stonewater that is in Wonder Lake's District.

CHIEF'S REPORT- Discussed two missing portable radios. We received a check from the insurance company for the 1st radio. Attorney Thomas will write up affidavits to assist the District with the insurance claim on the second radio.

Discussed personnel and staffing. The Chiefs made the decision that if someone is on a leave, their access will be removed from emails and District information/programs.

The Chiefs truck is getting outfitted from Red Line in Lake in the Hills. The Battalion vehicle will go in next.

All vehicle titles are in the safety deposit box.

The new ambulance should be coming this fall.

Chief Yegge would like to put a committee together to work on next year's budget. Trustee Bruchsaler and Trustee Basista would be happy to help on this committee.

We are holding interviews for possible paramedic school candidates. The Chiefs have researched the cost of paramedic classes through MCC, Condell and A-Tec. Chiefs feel we can support 3 medics per year. T. Rishling thanked Chiefs for doing pre interviews and happy we are screening them before they interview.

D/C Kozel has been working hard on IT transition. We have extensions and voicemail. After 5:00 p.m. calls will go to voicemail. We also have apps on our phones where we can make outgoing and take incoming calls via the department.

Established preventative maintenance on vehicles with Gemco for the year. Ambulances are on a rotation for front line service.

Will be setting up a meeting with Spring Grove to discuss sharing resources for Explorers. Lt. Norris oversees Explorers. In April we will be doing a meet and greet with the parents and present an overview of the program. We are requiring a copy of a sports physical to be an Explorer.

We are in the process of gathering records for ISO review.

Discussed prevention bureau and utilizing ESO for it.

Discussed station outdoor electronic signs. The company we purchased them from is out of business. D/C Oeffling has reached out to two other businesses for repair. Both companies are going to quote replacement of the sign. We will be doing the purple lights again this year to represent the gift of hope month.

Discussed station staffing. We have had numerous days with multiple calls, and we are able to respond to the calls with Wonder Lake personnel.

Station shift bidding is going on. Shifts will be assigned by rank and qualification. The 6th spot could be filled by a cadet.

Thanks to B/C Harwood and D/C Kozel for handling calls this past week.

Discussed Auto Aid Agreements. Will bring it up at Chiefs meetings.

N. Maahs will take PHRN with Mercy. D. Bruchsaler motioned to pay the Mercy bill in the amount of \$1,500.00 after the first of the month. E. Gall Seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS – The Squad is listed on Shop Garage but no offers so far. New Battalion is built and waiting for shipping schedule from dealer.

Discussed solar farm off E. Wonder Lake Road and Rt. 120. They agreed to meet all our requirements.

Discussed insurance. Boat insurance is in force. Discussed dwellings and medical increase. D. Bruchsaler motioned to approve the guaranteed replacement cost of Station #1 and #2 and the increase in medical from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. R. Berndt would like a final revised VFIS Property & Casualty Summary of Coverages showing all the changes.

Discussed accounting firm. The decision has been made to use Katherine Andrus until 4/30/26 and then we will switch over to Carrie with Dam, Snell and Taveirne out of Fox Lake beginning 5/1/26.

Discussed station and staffing and what our future holds. We have interviewed 3 firms (McGrath, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and Jerry Stretch from Capstone LLC). The Chiefs also suggest potentially speaking with other departments about consolidating resources. Chief Yegge would like to get a committee together to go over station and staffing criteria. Trustee Gall and Trustee Berndt will be happy to be on the committee.

Discussed budget and finances. D. Bruchsaler motioned to keep \$400,000.00 in the Schwab ambulance account and transfer the balance to the Schwab Capital account. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

The Board would like to know who the members are in the department. Perhaps we could make a members only page and each member could write a few sentences of who they are, qualifications etc.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussed 2025 tax extension.

Heating and cooling reports are tabled until next month.

We were approached by John Spratt about putting a 457 and a 115 program together and the ability for our members to put tax free money away. Discussed department matching for the 457 programs. The 115 program is a retired health care program. T. Rishling motioned to pursue a 457 and 115 program with a company match of 3% if employee works 1000 hours. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed community resident.

Discussed Globe Life Insurance vs. Chubb Combined Insurance. The Trustees would like to stay with Globe Life/Liberty Mutual.

TRUSTEES REPORT – E. Gall took an online course on “How Not to Mess Up a Meeting”.

ATTORNEYS REPORT – Discussed Down and Dirty case. There was an arbitration, but no decision was made. We rejected the arbitration and have a schedule to do dispositive motions. It will be completed shortly and will have it filed.

If we receive a FOIA, be sure to get it to the Chief or Attorney and answer within the allotted timeframe.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

D. Bruchsaler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m. J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall