

**WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 28, 2026, 9:00 A.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on April 28, 2026, at the MPOA Office, 7602 Hancock Drive at 9:00 a.m. Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President/Trustee Todd Rishling, Secretary/Trustee Erv Gall, Trustees Rick Berndt and Jackie Basista, Treasurer/Trustee D. Bruchsaler (remotely), Chief Matt Yegge, Deputy Chief Chris Kozel, Attorney Ericka Thomas and 2 members from the department or public were present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Tom Henley, representing Wonder Center Property Owners Association, asked if the new sewer water system is tied into Stonewater. Chief Yegge advised the new system is tied into Stonewater subdivision. Currently the Wonder Lake has an ISO rating of 4. T. Rishling advised our reliance on fire hydrants as our primary source of water has never been the priority. He advised tactically we won't change.

Randy McCafferty asked what our anticipated flow and size of mains are. Chief Yegge will get that information and get back to Mr. McCafferty.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 30, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. D. Bruchsaler advised there is a spelling error and a sentence referred to twice. R. Berndt motioned to approve the Minutes as amended. J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: E. Gall motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for April 2026. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$47,447.12 for March 2026 and their fee was \$2,314.61.

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 \$209,000.00. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE – Received Resolution for 457 and 115 plans.

Kudos to our crew who transported a patient who turned out needing a triple by-pass.

CHIEF'S REPORT- Discussed budget numbers. Towards the end of the year, we will need funds to pay for an ambulance and tender. Discussed 2.5% pay increase. J. Basista motioned to approve the budget as proposed with 2.5% pay increase. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed station and staffing study. The recommendation is to hire McGrath Consulting Group. E. Gall motioned hiring McGrath Consulting Group. R. Berndt seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion Approved. Thanks to the station and staffing committee for all their work on this.

Discussed insurance denial on portable radio. M. Yegge to send Attorney Thomas a police report on the missing radio. Attorney Thomas will prepare a letter to the insurance company.

A public release was done about tornado sirens. Warnings via apps are continually sent to the public. We will continually investigate sirens as the budget allows. Trustees would also like to look at Thorguard for lightning warnings as well.

Discussed solar farm. Chief Oeffling is taking care of getting the UTV.

Cadet Policy has been sent to the Trustees for review.

We hired FF/PM Lindsay Slater.

The Squad is listed for sale.

Tender and ambulance are coming later this year.

Discussed property insurance.

Will start working with new accounting firm on Thursday.

The new Battalion vehicle was picked up from Red Line this morning. The Chief's vehicle has a punch list of items needing completion.

Signed documents for the 457 plan and the 115 plan. We will email them to John Spratt. Once in place, we will get the information out to our members.

Discussed Wonder Lake residents.

Discussed ISO evaluation. Chief Oeffling is working on ISO review for the fall.

Our members are doing a great job filling shifts.

Our cadets will be doing shadow shifts until they get their EMT-B, BOF and Class B Non CDL.

D/C Kozel is getting our computer system up to speed. We have internet and phone services in the back barn, formal extensions and voicemail capabilities. Since we are VOIP, we were able to cancel our Frontier and MCI phone service which will save us money.

Working on radios so we have better accountability.

Still working on employee compliance training, which appeases state laws.

Updating shift schedule to fill and maintain the schedule.

D/C Oeffling is working on Explorer program and combining training with Spring Grove and McHenry.

We received a grant from 100 Club for our fitness equipment.

We are working on doing inspections on commercial properties and Air B&B's. The Alibi will be reopening under new ownership as a restaurant.

In March, we gave aid 11 times and received aid 1 time.

Chiefs are investigating grant opportunities.

OLD BUSINESS – D/C Oeffling will send report in regards to heating and cooling at both stations. Currently everything is working fine but the concern comes with the age of the equipment.

Our Box Cards have been updated.

Waiting for updated declaration from George Thompson Insurance.

NEW BUSINESS – Meeting Dates are 4th Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m.

Discussed FOIA policy. Per attorney, FOIA is not an individual policy. If you suspect it is AI generated, then you can make them come in and call or pick up at the station. A person doesn't have to identify themselves.

Discussed 457 and 115 Plans which were approved last month. If you work over 1000 hours, the department will match up to 3%. T. Rishling signed the Plan 457 Resolution. Will give updates on the 115 Plan as they become available.

Chief Horist announced his retirement and Chief Spraker will be taking over.

EMS Schooling was discussed last month. We have different options for cost of classes and have an agreement with Condell for paramedic class.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Discussion was had about replacing Trustee if they resign. D. Bruchsaler and R. Berndt would like to establish a policy or format for replacing a Trustee.

ATTORNEYS REPORT – Discussed Down and Dirty case. Attorney Thomas filed a motion for summary judgment and in process of being briefed. Hearing date is beginning of June.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – J. Basista motioned for Executive Session at 10:47 a.m. to discuss personnel. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

E. Gall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall