

WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 23, 2026, 9:30 A.M.

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on June 23, 2026, at the MPOA Office, 7602 Hancock Drive at 9:30 a.m. Wonder Lake, IL

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President/Trustee Todd Rishling, Treasurer/Trustee J. Bruchsaler, Secretary/Trustee Erv Gall, Trustees Jacki Basista and Rick Berndt, Chief Matt Yegge, Deputy Chief Chris Kozel, Battalion Chief Dave Harwood, Attorney Ericka Thomas and 1 member from the department or public were present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS- None

JOHN FALDUTO: Discussed investment portfolio. Chief Yegge would like 1.2 million in Schwab Capital account.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 26, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. R. Berndt motioned to approve the Minutes as written. J. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: J. Basista motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for June 2026. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of \$56,241.61 for May 2026 and their fee was \$2,812.08.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. J. Basista motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for May 2026 totaling \$125,000.00. J. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

CHIEF'S REPORT- Discussed fire on Ramble Road. Great job to all who helped.

Chief Yegge received the affidavit for portable radios.

Discussed solar farm. Construction is under way. D/C Oeffling is working with company to propose a spec for UTV/ATV.

The squad was sold at auction. Will work with gov.deals to obtain the money.

The new battalion went into service but currently at Castle Chevy, getting some items fixed.

The new Tender should be completed by January 2027.

Upcoming ambulance delivery is expected at the end of October.

The ambulance which was donated to the police department has been sold and we received the funds for it.

Discussed physicals for our members. Most new hires have presented previous physicals from other departments.

Working through questions/solutions with new accounting firm.

Working with consulting firm for long term planning.

Capital purchases are earmarked in the budget.

Received a thank you letter from Harlem Roscoe Fire Department where we provided coverage for their department while their crew attended a funeral. Kudos to B/C Harwood and the crew for picking up their shift.

Spring Grove is heading up a collaborative venture with Wonder Lake and McHenry for a FIT test machine and Airpack washer/dryer.

Discussed the 457 Plan and 115 Plan. The 457 Plan is open. Will have a department meeting to roll out the 115 Plan.

The Department and B/C Harwood have been working on command training along with regular training.

Two members have completed FAE training at McHenry. Using Chiefs as instructors has saved us money.

Discussed having a ride along waiver.

Discussed use of fitness equipment by the Wonder Lake Police Dept., retired members and non-members. R. Berndt would like a policy drawn up and asked what is considered retired. L. Busse advised being considered retired is 10 years on the department and over 40 years of age. Attorney Thomas is concerned about the liability of having retired or non-members using the facilities. We can draw up an intergovernmental agreement with the police department's use of fitness equipment. T. Rishling advised reaching out to the insurance to see if this is covered and to see if we need an umbrella policy.

Lt. Pat Ryan resigned from the department effective immediately.

D/C Kozel is working on Motorola radios. We've consolidated and reworked our lines being used which should be a cost savings on the Starcom bill.

Box cards were updated last month and paid huge dividends with our two major fires within 2 weeks.

Working on increasing our reliability and connectivity with our vehicles. Looking into switching over to geo-based dispatching. Working with ETSB, AdNet and Verizon Wireless.

We did water supply training with McHenry and Spring Grove last month. Next month we are set up to do driving cone course.

There were three promotions in June. T. Bradtke and Steve Urban were promoted to Lieutenant and Ryan Hughes was promoted to Battalion Chief.

The boat is in the water and on the lift. Crews have been training on the boat.

Making needed repairs on E1 and T2 apparatus.

All ambulances passed the safety lane and IDPH inspections. We are now heading into pump and ladder testing.

All our fire extinguishers have been tested and serviced. We will get our fire alarm test done next.

We provided coverage for the car show fundraiser. Crews have been attending ski shows when weather permits.

Working on CPR classes.

We did not have any work comp claims in 2025.

Gemco has moved to the old Adams building on E. Wonder Lake Road.

R. Berndt is impressed with station #1 remodel. Good job to all who helped.

In the month of May we had 28 days where we were staffed with 5 members. Trustees thanked Chiefs for all their hard work.

Discussed ride along policy. Attorney Thomas will revise the policy to align with what the Chief's idea is.

OLD BUSINESS – The consulting firm has added the data we provided them. They will now do interviews with Trustees and members.

Discussed Capital Improvement.

T. Rishling will produce a rolling catalog of members on the shared drive. We will have to get a price on a new printer.

Auto Aid Agreements, IPWMAN and driveway sealing quote tabled until next month.

Discussed Budget Appropriations Ordinance. Will pass it next month.

We do not need to go out to bid on the UTV if we use Sourcewell. We will still need a trailer for it.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussed AFG Grant.

Discussed health insurance renewal. We have reached out to another broker but haven't heard back. One Digital looked into Humana but was more expensive.

TRUSTEES REPORT – R. Berndt asked about Knox boxes. He was advised any resident can contact us and buy a Knox box from us and we can install it. We keep a secure key in our command vehicles and ambulances. J. Bruchsaler would like lock boxes on our rigs for Knox box keys.

J. Basista attended the conference and advised there was a lot of good information shared.

The 100 club offered to come out and speak with our Firefighters in regard to the house explosion.

ATTORNEYS REPORT – There is a lot FOIA fraud right now.

Discussed Down and Dirty. The motion for summary judgement has been fully briefed and will be heard on 7/1/26. Our briefs came out well. They didn't respond to the consumer fraud claim.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

J. Bruchsaler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. R. Berndt seconded the motion.
All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall