WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 28, 2026, 9:30 A.M.

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on July 28, 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, Deputy Chief Bill Oeffling, Battalion Chief Dave Harwood, Battalion Chief Mike Young, Attorney Ericka Thomas and no members from the department or public were present.

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

PUBLIC HEARING: J. Bruchsaler motioned opening the Public Hearing at 9:37 a.m. R. Berndt seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. No public was present therefore R. Berndt motioned to close the Public Hearing at 9:38 a.m. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- R. Berndt wanted to know if the Board had an obligation to allow a non-resident to speak in Public Comments. Attorney Thomas advised anyone is allowed to speak in Public Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 23, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed. E. Gall motioned to approve the Minutes as written. R. Berndt seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: J. Basista motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2026. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of $69,001.05 for June 2026 and their fee was $3,450.05.

J. Bruchsaler motioned for L. Busse to have permission and ability to move money between bank accounts to cover costs of department expenses/payroll as they arise or to cover recurring payments prior to the Trustees meeting to avoid late fees. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. J. Basista motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for June 2026 totaling $198,000.00. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

CHIEF'S REPORT- We had 140 calls in June and only had to call for mutual aid one time to cover a 3rd call. We had two house fires in June and a memorable EMS call. Kudos to the crew for handling these calls well.

The insurance has advised us they will be insuring our lost/stolen radio. Once the funds are received from insurance, we will purchase a new radio.

Discussed UTV being provided to us by the solar farm company. J. Basista would like the UTV to be a tandem axle to accommodate for water weight. Deputy Chief Oeffling suggested getting aluminum frame. We will wait to hear back from solar farm company.

The Squad (1621) has made it to Ohio, and we have received the funds for it.

There is no news on the tender or ambulance other than the ambulance will not arrive until January 2027.

L. Busse to get information to Attorney Thomas on the fire apparatus we have purchased in the last six years which is for a class action lawsuit.

The accountant has been set up with remote access to Quickbooks.

Consulting firm has spoken to our personnel, and they are gathering preliminary data.

Discussed seal coating bids for both stations. D/C Oeffling recommends Todd's Mastercoat. J. Bruchsaler motioned to approve Todd's Mastercoat bid in the amount of $8,113.00 which includes both stations and an additional $150.00 to fill the low areas at Station #2. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Kim from East End pizza would like to host the "Falloween" festivities again with donations going to the fire department to update water rescue equipment.

Chief Harwood will continue working on incident command training with officers and will continue training with members.

Discussed fitness room policy. For retired members or family members to use the fitness room at the station, a hold harmless must be signed. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by their parents. The Village of Wonder Lake will create an MOU so their officers are able to use the fitness room.

The next phase of Stonewater will be building 900 homes in McHenry's District. After that is completed, they will start building in Wonder Lake's District.

The Village of Wonder Lake is doing a complete mapping of the water system. We offered to help with any hydrant testing. Chief Yegge advised he wants to make sure if a main breaks during testing, it doesn't come back with the Fire Department being liable. Attorney Thomas advised the Village should be insured and something in writing from them stating we aren't liable would suffice.

Discussed cell tower behind station #1. The Village would like to put up an antenna on that tower. E. Gall motioned to allow the Village of Wonder Lake to enter into a contract with the cell tower company to put up an antenna on the tower at Station #1. J. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed outdoor signs. The Chiefs approached the Village to see if they would want to contribute to the replacement of them. The Village of Wonder Lake doesn't see any use for them currently.

The water and sewer hookup at Station #1 will begin at the end of September or early October. We signed off on the permit to cap the septic and well at Station #1. J. Bruchsaler wanted Chiefs to research if we need to cap the septic and well at Station #1.

Discussed ride along policy. Will move forward.

Discussed training agreement. We will add required hours worked to training agreement. Attorney Thomas advised to avoid any questions, we should start a wait list for classes. This way there can't be any accusations of favoritism.

Discussed application for employment. We need Attorney Thomas to review our release of information and make sure it has all the information we need. D/C Kozel will get the release to Attorney Thomas.

Chief Yegge met with Chief Spraker on upcoming projects between our districts. Chief Spraker was interested in continuing to work together on projects.

Chief Yegge will be on medical leave and while he is out, Battalion Chief Harwood will have the Chiefs vehicle.

Working with ETSB buttoning up some connectivity issues.

Command Boards have been implemented in Chiefs vehicles and they are working great.

Ryan Hughes is our new Battalion Chief.

Will do a year in review at our company meeting in September.

Discussed statistics and data.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussed Budget and Appropriations Ordinance 26-02. J. Bruchsaler motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-02 Adopting the Budget and Appropriations of the WLFPD for Fiscal Year 5/1/26 to 4/30/27. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Discussed long term goal of replacing the boat.

Discussed IPWMAN Resolution and Ordinance. Attorney Thomas's concern is why no other fire district in the entire State of Illinois is part of this?

New policies are tabled until next month.

NEW BUSINESS – R. Berndt would like a thank you letter sent out to Mike Hogan for the use of his equipment. L. Busse will send out a thank you letter.

Discussed adoption of current International Fire Code and Fire Inspection Ordinance. We will be able to enforce codes with this to make buildings safe for owners, customers and firefighters. We have 3 inspectors. D/C Oeffling, B/C Young and Lt. Klincik. R. Berndt motioned to adopt the 2021 International Fire Code and Fire Inspection Ordinance. J. Bruchsaler seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. Attorney Thomas will draw up an Ordinance in WLFPD format.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Discussed County Trustees meeting. There were discussions on pension and community risk reduction.

ATTORNEYS REPORT – Discussed Down and Dirty case. The court denied the motion for a summary judgement. A bench trial date has been set for 8/11/26. D/C Oeffling will be the department representative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

E. Gall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m. J. Basista seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: ____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall