# WONDER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
# REGULAR MEETING
# SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, 9:30 A.M.

The Board of Trustees of the Wonder Lake Fire Protection District held their regular monthly meeting on September 22, 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 (Remotely), Treasurer/Trustee J. Bruchsaler, Secretary/Trustee Erv Gall, Trustees Jackie Basista and Rick Berndt, Chief Matt Yegge, Deputy Chief Bill Oeffling, Attorney Ericka Thomas and two members from the department or public were present.

R. Berndt motioned for J. Bruchsaler to hold the position of President Pro Temp. E. Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**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-** Randy McCafferty asked what Chief Yegge's top 3 priorities were in the beginning and what they are now. Chief Yegge advised his initial priority was creating command staff, increasing our membership and covering shifts with 4-5 people a day. Our focus now is to do a station and staffing study to see how many staff members we need to run the District, increasing revenue, keeping our fleet up to date and training.

Randy McCafferty asked if Chief Yegge has spoken to other Districts in regard to the turn out gear class action lawsuit? The Attorney nor Chief Yegge have heard anything about a class action turn out gear lawsuit but will look into.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: August 25, 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 September 2026. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. PBS collected a gross amount of $63,012.44 for August 2026 and their fee was $3,014.88.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL –** The invoices and payroll were presented for payment. J. Basista motioned to approve the invoices and payroll for September 2026 totaling $226,000.00. R. Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE –** A former cadet stopped by the station to say thank you for everything Wonder Lake Fire Protection District did for her during her time here. She specifically named Zach Ignoffo. Chief Yegge did contact Zach to let him know.

Received a thank you letter from Chief Redlin for our help with the Twin Lakes fire.

**CHIEF'S REPORT-** Jim from the Village of Wonder Lake Water Department attended the meeting to advise the Village passed a resolution stating WLFPD will be charged for water and sewer (if applicable) at a 20% discounted rate. R. Berndt asked if we could keep the fire department at a flat rate no matter how many gallons we use. Jim advised after a few months that the accounts will be reviewed and we can revisit that. Also, the State of Illinois is requiring all buildings to have a water meter.

The Village of Wonder Lake hired a 3rd party testing company to come out and test hydrants. Hoping to have this done by October. It should take the company about 2 weeks to have the report back to us. This study is costing the Village $6,000.00.

Thank you to all the members for handling everything while Chief Yegge was off on medical leave.

The MPOA is having meeting about the lake/dam. We worked with Ray O'Brien, following NFPA guidelines, to figure out the occupancy of the MPOA meeting room.

Chief Yegge is requesting permission to make a fair and safe list of board up companies. The Board of Trustees advised to move forward with this and Attorney Thomas will look over a policy on this.

We applied for $85,000.00 Thornton Grant. We offered to put up 10% of the cost. Waiting to hear a decision on this grant. Jeff Bryant from central Illinois has offered to come out and recommend grants to us.

One of our ambulances broke down and will be $3,000.00 to fix the fuel control unit. We have already reached our budgeted amount for vehicle repair for the year.

Discussed tower rescue. The call ended well and we had a lot of good on the job training. Thank you to all the departments that attended this call.

Jenna Carsello requested a leave of absence.

We received a check from the solar farm. The UTV is on order from Twin Lakes Marine. The trailer was picked up from Rondo. The skid unit will be delivered in the first week of October. Thanks to D/C Oeffling for all his work on this. Once we receive the UTV, we can decommission the brush truck and use it for dive equipment.

Discussed station and staffing study.

Thanks to L. Busse for getting our GEMT reports ready for submittal. She has been working alongside our accounting firm.

D/C Kozel has created a google spreadsheet for evaluations. Members have been emailed.

Would like to do an all-department meeting.

We will be doing training on the lake this fall. We have permission from Deep Springs Woods and Center Beach to use their property.

The Department had a 9/11 luncheon that went well.

Attorney Thomas advised the fire department can't enforce fire codes, we have the go through circuit court.

Contacted Village of Ringwood about impact fees but haven't heard anything back.

The Village of Wonder Lake is still working on getting their antenna up at Station #1 cell tower.

We have started 3 non-certified members. We will begin sending them to the fire academy. 3 of our 4 members who are in EMT class have passed their National test.

D/C Oeffling and D/C Kozel are working on ISO.

Vehicle maintenance is constant. We are working with GEMCO prioritizing our repairs on all rigs.

Pump testing was completed and passed.

We received hand tools purchased with grant money.

We will have Reiche come out and install water meters at stations and button up any water issues.

We have two active Explorers and there is one person who is interested in rejoining.

Began inspections and businesses have been receptive.

The crews were present at water ski shows all summer.

Lt. Duszak is heading up the pre-plan program.

Lt. Klincik is the official school inspector and has an inspection scheduled for 10/15 at Harrison.

There is a CPR class for the public on 10/20/26. CPR is scheduled for Harrison School staff on 9/23/26.

We participated in McHenry Township Touch a Truck event. We brought an engine to MCC to help with BOF class. Will do a fire safety presentation at Harrison this fall.

Discussed station staffing and calls for the month of August. We had 5 members every day. There were 103 calls and 5 times we had multiple calls going at the same time.

Discussed property insurance. We are in the process of getting quotes from multiple companies. J. Bruchsaler motioned to give R. Berndt and Chief Yegge authority to approve a fiscally responsible

insurance quote. E. Gall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

**OLD BUSINESS** – (Discussed in Chiefs Report)

**NEW BUSINESS** – Discussed Trustee Petition and Filing Requirements for April 2027. Per Attorney Thomas, the petitions will need to be dropped off the week of 11/16-11/23. We don't have to be available every day, but we have to be open from 9:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. on 11/23. Trustees requested to put the hours L. Busse will be available that week on the website.

**TRUSTEES REPORT** – T. Rishling advised this will be his last meeting because his residency will change to Florida. His official last day will be 9/30/26. D. Bruchsaler wanted to personally thank T. Rishling for all he has done for the District. R. Berndt motioned to not fill the vacancy that T. Rishling leaves and let the election process play out in April 2027. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye, except E. Gall, he voted Nay. Motion approved.

T. Rishling resigns from the president position effective 9/22/26. E. Gall nominates R. Berndt as President but R. Berndt respectfully declines the nomination. R. Berndt nominates J. Bruchsaler as President. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved. E. Gall nominates R. Berndt for Treasurer. J. Basista seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

A resident of the District advised our lights on the fire station are not lit properly. Chief Yegge will look into this.

**ATTORNEYS REPORT** – Discussed Down N Drty. Attorney did not think we had a good faith basis to file a motion to reconsider.

Discussed class action engine lawsuit. Attorney Thomas advised we will be included in this class action lawsuit if we meet the criteria.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

R. Berndt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 a.m. Erv Gall seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____ Trustee/Secretary: Erv Gall