

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT HELD 26 AUGUST 2025 AT STATION 123

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1800 hours by Trustee Wolski.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. ROLL CALL OF TRUSTEES – Trustee Joseph Wolski, Trustee Michael Mensinger. Also Present: Chief Patrick Brenn, Deputy Chief Craig Jansen, Deputy Chief Jeffery Allenspach, Attorney Shawn P. Flaherty.

Absent: Trustee Danielle Scarpelli.

Trustee Wolski made a motion to appoint Trustee Mensinger Secretary Pro Tem, second by Trustee Mensinger. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0; Absent, 1. Motion passed, 2-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of District Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2025  
Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve the July 28, 2025, meeting minutes as amended, second by Trustee Mensinger. Voice vote: Aye, 2; No, 0; Absent, 1. Motion passed, 2-0.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

- Public Hearing on Ordinance 2025-O-001 providing for the Budget and Appropriations for the Tri-State Fire Protection District, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2025 and Ending May 31, 2026.  
The public hearing on the proposed budget and appropriations ordinance, Ordinance 2025-O-001 was opened at 6:03 p.m.  
Seeing no one wishing to speak on the proposed ordinance, Trustee Wolski made a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2025-O-001, second by Trustee Mensinger. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0; Absent, 1. Motion passed, 2-0. The public hearing was closed at 6:04 p.m.

VI. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

- Approval of July 2025 Treasurer's Report including expenses for the District.  
Trustee Mensinger presented the Treasurer's Report showing disbursement of funds for the month of July 2025 in the amount of \$1,447,972.86 and showing total deposits in the amount of \$404,720.37. Trustee Mensinger made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented and to pay all invoices, second by Trustee Wolski. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, absent. Motion carried, 2-0.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance 2025-O-001 An Ordinance providing for the Budget and Appropriations of the Tri-State Fire Protection District, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2025 and Ending May 31, 2026.

Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-O-001, second by Trustee Mensinger. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, absent. Motion passed, 2-0. Mr. Flaherty said the Counties will publish it in the paper within the next 3 days.

#### IX. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

- X. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT – The job posting on National Testing Network closed on August 15<sup>th</sup> for the next round of firefighter hires. Twenty-five people submitted interest. Nineteen of those applicants have been invited to the Board of Fire Commissioners for oral interviews, which will take place on the evening of September 11<sup>th</sup>. A new Lieutenant will be sworn in on September 9<sup>th</sup> due to a recent demotion. Firefighter Michael Paruolo will be promoted as Lieutenant. The Final List for Battalion Chief is posted. Dustin Bukowski is the only one on the Final List.

- XI. CHIEF'S REPORT – On Sunday a body was recovered in the Des Plaines River in Willow Springs. Westmont Fire Department had quite a few structure fires and Tri-State gave help. Three new firefighters finished their three days on the day shift as of last Friday and are now on shift. The fourth firefighter will graduate from Romeoville Fire Academy on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and he will do three weeks of days and will then go on shift. There are still three openings, which will then be taken off the new List. The Fire District has a new Chaplain, Father Michael Baker from Our Lady of Peace. He came over to the District this week and received his ID and business cards and his Order is in uniform. He reached out to the District and asked if they needed a chaplain. He will be brought around in September to meet all the shifts. He met one shift on the day he came over. A COD intern, Lauren Quinn, started on Monday, so there are currently two COD interns.

The District is working with the MacQueen rep on specs for a possible squad unit in the future, so there will be more information forthcoming. Chief Brenn thanked Westmont Fire Department for lending their engine last week for a couple days when the District had two apparatuses down. All the District's vehicles are operational now.

Last Friday, Chief Brenn did a site walkthrough with Verizon at Station 122's tower for them to put future equipment on. The Verizon engineers will review the site and tower plan. It is a slow process and may take six months to a year before they have equipment on that tower. They have to go through all the zoning with the City of Darien

Accreditations, Chief Brenn, Deputy Chief Allenspach and Deputy Chief Jansen met with Mr. Randy Reeder and Flashpoint Strategies last week. They have officially started working on the Community Risk Assessment and the Standards of Cover. The next step will be a strategic

plan if the Board approves of it. If the District goes through all those steps, the goal is to go for Accreditation in March of 2027.

A report was received from Deputy Chief Allenspach with the previous month's statistics, and they will be sent monthly with the statistics from the previous month. The report will evolve as the District gets deeper into this process and it will be more robust and more specific on certain items. It is a work in progress.

Beyond Your Base is currently working on mailers, et cetera, for the bond referendum. There are three dates to hold open houses. One will be here at Station 3, and probably one at Station 122 and either one at Station 124 or Station 121. That has not been determined yet. There will be a video shoot in September. Chief Brenn did a video and there will be some video of the crews working, some drone footage. There will be a specific page on the website with all the information on the bond. That should be coming around October or November. There is one more taskforce meeting in November. They are looking at the week before Thanksgiving. It will then come to the Board of Trustees in December to make the decision whether to proceed or not. The District is looking at March of 2026 at this point for the bond referendum.

Trustee Mensinger complimented the staff. His wife called for a neighbor, and while she was still on the phone with the dispatch, they arrived. The intern was on also, and he said they did a great job. Mr. Reeder had suggested doing surveys after a call and sending them out. He has had experience with other departments and they have gotten good feedback from surveys. That currently is a work in progress.

XII. DIRECTOR OF EMS REPORT – No report.

XIII. DIRECTOR OF FIRE PREVENTION REPORT – The monthly report was sent. Revenues for the plan reviews is down a little bit. Some of the invoices haven't been paid yet. The fees collected for July were \$535, and there were no fines for the month of July. There are electronic platforms, as well, that were not included. So there will be a change report. The electronic platform is called Inspection Reports Online, IROL. Director Larry Link started this process before he retired. They are giving all the money for the review process to the District and Director Mulligan apologized for not listing it on the report. For 2025, the District is at \$2600.50. He and Jason are resolving their own problems. IROL is a good platform and is working well for the District. The District has been using it for a little over seven, close to eight years. Hopefully there will be more compliance.

September 13<sup>th</sup> they will be partnering with the Willowbrook Police Department for their open house from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at their police station. Tri-State will be a part of it. Director Mulligan said it is a good step to building a stronger relationship with one of the District's community partners. City of Darien has launched an electronic platform for their permits. They are currently doing that in Willowbrook. It helps the District recover permit fees that are lost because the District didn't know about it.

XIV. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – The General Assembly and Congress are not in session until November. Mr. Flaherty will be bringing for the September board meeting a draft for the lift-

assist fee ordinance. The Governor did sign that bill. Trustee Mensinger asked Mr. Flaherty if there is any further information on the GEMT. Mr. Flaherty said there is nothing specific other than what was discussed last month. There is still kind of a black cloud over the program. The current federal administration likes to cut things and bring them back. GEMT was not mentioned in the Big Beautiful Bill by name. Mr. Flaherty said they have a lot of clients that come to rely on those monies and they are keeping an eye on it.

- XV. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.
- XVI. CLOSED SESSION – No Closed Session.
- XVII. ADJOURNMENT - With no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Wolski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Trustee Mensinger. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0; Absent 1. Motion passed, 2-0. The meeting adjourned at 1820 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Mensinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Mensinger, Secretary Pro Tem