

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT HELD 25 NOVEMBER 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.

Motion by Trustee Wolski to appoint Trustee Mensinger as Secretary Pro Tem, second by Trustee Mensinger. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0. Motion passed, 2-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

- Approval of October 2025 Treasurer’s Report including expenses for the District.
Trustee Mensinger presented the Treasurer’s Report showing disbursement of funds for the month of October 2025 in the amount of \$1,410,100.24 and showing total deposits in the amount of \$688,077.43. 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.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Review of Public Opinion Survey Results by Beyond Your Base – Bond Referendum Proposal – Skylar White and Paul Hanley have been working on the District’s public engagement and public research related to the bond proposal. Mr. White gave a presentation on voter data related to potential election cycles coming up, a recap of the public engagement efforts to-date and, ultimately, the results coming back so far from the surveys. More than 90 percent are in. The results are not expected to change. The number

of votes that would be needed to pass the referendum in March would probably be in the neighborhood of 3,216 versus in November it would be more than double that because the turnout is higher in the general election. A Citizen Task Force was convened of leaders throughout the communities served by the District. On April 23rd, the Task Force met at Station 3 to review the needs of the District. On May 6th they reviewed the solutions that are proposed to address the facility challenges and asked that group of leaders in the community to recommend and vet whether those solutions would address those facility needs and whether they would be appealing to the community at large. Last week Paul Hanley was at the District to review the research that is being presented by Mr. White. The Task Force made its final recommendations to Chief Brenn. There is a Bond Proposal tab on the District's website for people to learn more. There are social media posts as well. Text messages were sent out to approximately 60 percent of registered voters to inform them and invite them to the four community public information meetings hosted by Chief Brenn with Patrick Moore and Danielle Appello. There was an average of 20 to 25 people who attended each meeting. A 16-question survey was mailed to every registered voter household and a text message was sent with a link to the survey. By the end of last week, there were 1,033 surveys returned. November 17th at the last Task Force meeting the group recommended that the District proceed on the March ballot. In Mr. Flaherty's experience, he agreed that the primary election in March is the best time to put it on the ballot.

- Tax Levy Request from the Tri-State Firefighters Pension Fund – Chief Brenn stated at the October meeting, the Pension Board approved a funding level of \$2,592,133 to be funded on the 2025 levy. This was based on an actuarial funding report from Lauterbach & Amen. The statutory minimum for Illinois would have been \$1,597,020. Illinois Statute requires the District to be 90 percent funded by 2040. The District is under a more aggressive plan with Lauterbach & Amen, so by 2040 the District will be 100 percent funded. There is no action required.
- Ordinance 2025-O-002 Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Tri-State Fire Protection District DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois for 2025 – Mr. Flaherty reviewed the numbers and they were submitted to Lauterbach & Amen for their review. They suggested some changes in some of the auxiliary funds, which were made. Reallocations were made and that comes up to \$15,752,175. Mr. Flaherty said this is a 4.99 percent hike. Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-O-002, second by Trustee Mensinger. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, absent. Motion passed, 2-0.
- Ordinance 2025-O-003 Lift Assist Fee – Mr. Flaherty reviewed the lift assist fee with the Board last month. After the sixth lift assist at any of the senior living facilities, a fee can be charged. The fee will be equal to 50 percent of the prevailing ambulance fee. This becomes effective January 1, 2026. A motion was made by Trustee Wolski to approve Ordinance 2025-O-003, second by Trustee Mensinger. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, absent. Motion passed, 2-0.
- Discussion/Possible action on Ordinance 2025-O-004 providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing general obligation bonds to the voters of the Tri-State Fire Protection District, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois, at the general primary election to be held on the 17th day of March, 2026. Mr. Flaherty said this is a little different than ordinances you usually see. It was reviewed by bond counsel, Chapman and Cutler. They are a firm that specializes in bonds and this meets with their approval. Once

the blanks are filled it, it would be filed in the two counties. A Spanish language translation will be required. Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-O-004 as submitted, second by Trustee Mensinger. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, absent. Motion passed, 2-0.

- Intergovernmental Agreement with DuPage County for GIS Services – There is an IGA memo from DuPage County, GIS, which is their mapping division. This goes along with the District’s accreditation process. GIS helps create the maps, the call volume maps. They work with Randy Reeder of Flashpoint Strategies. They are estimating a cost of \$5,021.40. Trustee Mensinger made a motion to accept the Intergovernmental Agreement with DuPage County for GIS services, second by Trustee Wolski. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, absent. Motion passed, 2-0.
- Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2025 – The audit for this fiscal year is not yet completed. The auditors will ask for an extension from the Illinois Comptroller. It will hopefully be ready for the December meeting.
- Treasurer’s Annual Statement of Receipts and Disbursements – This needs to be done once the audit is completed, so this was tabled due to the extension of the audit.
- Approval of 2026 Meeting Dates – The 2026 meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month, unless indicated by *, at Station #3, 10 S. 110 Madison Street, Burr Ridge, Illinois: 27 January 2026, 24 February 2026, 24 March 2026, *21 April 2026, 26 May 2026, 23 June 2026, 28 July 2026, *18 August 2026, 22 September 2026, 27 October 2026, *17 November 2026, *15 December 2026. Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2026, second by Trustee Mensinger. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0. Motion passed, 2-0.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – A letter was received from Our Lady of Peace Parish thanking the District for attending their Faith in Blue event in October. They also added a handwritten note with a special thank you to Jim Gutierrez for training their priests, staff and volunteers for their new AED program.

IX. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORT – Two candidates are currently being processed. A position was offered to one candidate who came in for an interview. The next day he called and took a pass, as he is going to another fire department. A third is still needed. They are on candidate number 10 of 10. A couple candidates took passes and there are three candidates that are EMTs. Two will be graduating paramedic school in December. The List is not yet exhausted.

X. CHIEF’S REPORT – There were a couple calls. There was a significant call on November 4th, a structure fire in the 6800 block of Clarendon Hills Road. There was a flash report sent to the Trustees and a copy of the press release that was sent out the next morning. There was a fatality at that fire and the fire is under investigation. On November 16th there was another possible structure fire in the 7800 block of Cherry Tree Lane. It came in as an attached garage fire, but it was garbage and leaves burning in bags behind the garage. November 10th and 11th the group went for the final inspection for the ambulance remount. The apparatus is now up on the apparatus floor. Deputy Chief Craig Jansen attended the inspection and he stated they did a fantastic job. It looks like a brand new ambulance. It may be the way to go in the future. Chief Brenn stated it is almost half the cost of a brand new one. The new ladder truck started its build in the last two weeks. Chief anticipates the final inspection will be around February or March.

Mr. Flaherty reviewed the lease agreement with Verizon for the communication tower at 122. Verizon had some revisions. Those were agreed to, so the lease agreement is done. The architects, Wight & Co., have some questions on the site plan. A Zoom or Teams meeting is going to be set up with the architects, Verizon and Chief Brenn and try to work through those questions.

- XI. DIRECTOR OF EMS REPORT – He could not attend.
- XII. DIRECTOR OF FIRE PREVENTION REPORT - Director Mulligan did not have much to report this month. Fees this month were \$7,576.75. Fines were up a little this month to \$1,325.00. He is working to bring properties into compliance by limiting visits but making sure they understand what they need to do to bring themselves into compliance.
- XIII. ATTORNEY’S REPORT – Mr. Flaherty reported that the Northern Alliance seminar will be held February 7-8, 2026, and the program has been finalized. It has a good program. Mr. Flaherty will be presenting. It will be held at the Westin in Lombard.

There is a new law taking effect January 1, 2026, that changes the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act. No public meeting can be held on Election Day. Folks with military service and military responsibilities can now participate remotely in the meetings.

If a FOIA request is received with a link, the answer is no. They are required now to put their FOIA request in the body of the text. People were getting spammed and infiltrated by clicking on the link and being held for ransome. AI bots were peppering a school district in Indiana or Iowa daily or weekly with FOIA requests on different things. So responses to FOIA requests can be held until they are sure it is a human on the other end. Maybe using a CAPTCHA, like maybe click on the fire hydrant, to prove it is not a bot.

- XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.
- XV. CLOSED SESSION – No Closed Session.
- XVI. 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. Motion passed, 2-0. The meeting adjourned at 1859 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Mensinger, Secretary Pro Tem