

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT HELD 16 DECEMBER 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 – November 25, 2025
Trustee Mensinger made a motion to approve the November 25, 2025, meeting minutes as corrected, second by Trustee Wolski. Voice vote: Aye, 2; No, 0. Motion passed, 2-0.

V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

- Approval of November 2025 Treasurer's Report including expenses for the District.
Trustee Mensinger presented the Treasurer's Report showing disbursement of funds for the month of November 2025 in the amount of \$1,434,508.40 and showing total deposits in the amount of \$311,285.42. 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

- Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2025 – The audit is not yet completed. An extension has already been requested. This is tabled until next month.
- Treasurer's Annual Statement of Receipts and Disbursements – Since the audit is not yet completed, this is tabled until next month.
- Revision of Trustee's Policy Manual – Trustee Mensinger said it is no longer referred to as the Material Safety Data Sheet, MSDS. That is old language. It is now called the Safety Data Sheet, SDS. Trustee Mensinger made a motion to approve the Trustee's Policy Manual as revised, second by Trustee Wolski. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0. Motion passed, 2-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion and Possible Action on an Employment Contract for Fire Chief – Discussion was held in Closed Session.

The Board of Trustees accepted the contract as is. Congratulations to Chief Brenn.

Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve the three-year contract for Chief Patrick Brenn, second by Trustee Mensinger. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, absent. Motion passed, 2-0.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – No communications.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT – One firefighter candidate is set to start on January 5th. A second candidate is being processed. He will make the January 5th deadline but will be attending the Romeoville Fire Academy. They will start shift sometime in March. The current Firefighter List is now exhausted. Another test is needed to fill the third opening. National Testing Network is working out well. There have been more candidates for the last two tests.

X. CHIEF'S REPORT – The work continues with Verizon to get their equipment on the communication tower at Station 122. Verizon and Wight Architect civil engineers met via Teams meeting last Friday, December 12th. They are discussing easements for utilities and making sure it doesn't interfere with a possible future station re-build at that site. So work continues on that. The referendum ordinance has been submitted to both County Election Divisions this week as well as the levy for next year.

Deputy Chief Jansen, Deputy Chief Allenspach and Chief Brenn began negotiations with the Union on a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. The current CBA will expire May 31, 2026.

XI. DIRECTOR OF EMS REPORT – Director Gutierrez said EMS is operating like a fine oiled machine and firing on all cylinders. Everything is going well.

XII. DIRECTOR OF FIRE PREVENTION REPORT – Director Mulligan apologized for getting the report out so late. He was waiting on monthly submittals. The fees for the month were \$385. Fines for the month were \$1,000. The year finished strong and getting ready for the start of the next year.

XIII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – There is a unique circumstance that happened in the State of Illinois in the last 30 days. A jury in Whiteside County got a \$30.5 million judgment against the fire department in Rock Falls. It stemmed from a bad call that happened a few years ago where there was a mutual aid call where a gentleman from Sterling lost his life. When one of the firefighters fell through the floor of a house, he called Mayday twice. Mayday was disregarded and not followed up with properly, allegedly. The jury agreed, and he ran out of air and perished in the basement, leaving a wife and child behind. It was the largest verdict against a fire department from a fire call that anyone can remember. There was one in 2005, 2006 out of Homewood when a firefighter passed away at a fire. There have been some EMS verdicts that have come to that level, but not fire. Because he was a Sterling firefighter, he could not sue his own employer. He sued the other department. It was a Rock Falls fire and Sterling came as mutual aid. Rock Falls was running the scene, and allegedly messed up the scene accountability at the scene to the

family's detriment. The Illinois OSHA report was scathing. That verdict came out a while back. And the town is only insured for \$15 million and he got double that verdict. It is being appealed. It is a reminder to review umbrella coverage. It was a farming community that received a verdict that high, not the city of Chicago. That case is used as a teaching point.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

XV. CLOSED SESSION – Trustee Wolski made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session at 1814 hours pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/ 2(c)(1), second by Trustee Mensinger. Roll Call Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0. Motion passed, 2-0.

XVI. RE-CONVENE TO OPEN MEETING - The meeting reconvened in open meeting at 1844 hours. Mr. Flaherty said there are two action items. The minutes should reflect that the currently employed Marty Moran will be contacted by Chief Brenn to transition into a role in the EMS Department. Mr. Moran is trained in both positions, EMS and Fire Prevention, and is a good asset for the District.

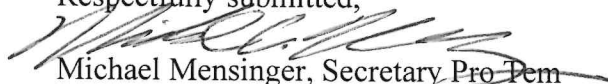
Trustee Wolski made a motion to accept Chief Brenn's contract as stated, second by Trustee Mensinger. Chief Brenn is appreciated. It is a three-year contract. Deputy Chief's contracts are for two years. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, absent. Motion passed, 2-0.

Trustee Wolski asked if Chief Brenn can produce the math for the sick leave payout, those numbers. Trustee Wolski said just so there is something in writing that can be attached, this is the current number. Mr. Flaherty indicated just so there is no surprise when one of the chiefs retires, there is this check. They would like to see what that would look like. Then when the Deputy Chiefs contracts come up, they will have that information for them also.

Trustee Mensinger asked how many FOIA requests are received. Chief Brenn said there are probably three to five a week. A lot of it is for fire prevention. They are asking for records for buildings that new occupancies are going in. There are a lot for medical billing. The FOIA people for the District are Chief Brenn, Deputy Chief Jansen, Deputy Chief Allenspach, Terri Radek, Jim Gutierrez, Kevin Mulligan and Howard Hoffman. Trustee Wolski said they were offered at one time to take a FOIA class. He asked if that is still available. Mr. Flaherty said they are only required to take it the one time, but it is available online.

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. Motion passed, 2-0. The meeting adjourned at 1850 hours.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael Mensinger, Secretary Pro Tem