

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT HELD 27 JANUARY 2026 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, Trustee Danielle Scarpelli. Also Present: Chief Patrick Brenn, Deputy Chief Craig Jansen, Deputy Chief Jeffery Allenspach, Attorney Shawn P. Flaherty.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of District Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2025
Trustee Mensinger made a motion to approve the December 16, 2025, meeting minutes as corrected, second by Trustee Wolski. Voice Vote: Aye, 3; No, 0. Motion passed, 3-0.
- Approval of Closed Session Minutes – December 16, 2025
Trustee Mensinger made a motion to approve the December 16, 2025, Closed Session meeting minutes with corrections, second by Trustee Wolski. Voice Vote: Aye, 3; No, 0. Motion passed, 3-0.

V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

- Approval of December 2025 Treasurer’s Report including expenses for the District.
Trustee Mensinger presented the Treasurer’s Report showing disbursement of funds for the month of December 2025 in the amount of \$1,196,424.87 and showing total deposits in the amount of \$745,573.88. 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, aye. Motion carried, 3-0.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2025 – The audit is still not completed. The auditors had some questions for the ambulance billing company about some old bills that are still outstanding. There was a lot of confusion and a lot of moving parts. It used to be Andres Billing and then EMS/MC bought them out, so for a while they were running two parallel reports, and there is a lot of confusion on the auditor’s part. They are dealing with the company EMS/MC right now, and they are hoping to have all the things they need this week or next week and then can finish up the final report. They have handled everything by the Comptroller. Mr. Flaherty said if the District is fined in any way by the Comptroller, that that amount be reduced from the amount of the Auditor’s bill. This was tabled until next month.

- Treasurer's Annual Statement of Receipts and Disbursements – This cannot be done until the Audit is complete, so this was tabled until next month.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Director of EMS – After a Closed Session discussion last month, as reflected in the December minutes, Chief Brenn was going to contact Martin Moran, who is currently employed by the District, to transition into a role in the EMS Department. Mr. Moran is trained in both EMS and Fire Prevention. Chief Brenn contacted Mr. Moran and he was hired as a part-time EMS Coordinator and Chief Brenn asked the Board to ratify that approval to hire Martin Moran in that position. He is already working with Director Gutierrez to learn the position. Director Gutierrez will probably be here until the middle of April to make sure that Mr. Moran understands everything. His hourly pay is \$46 an hour, which is comparable to the Director of Fire Prevention, but a little bit less than what Director Mulligan is paid, because he has been here longer. Trustee Mensinger made a motion to ratify the vote to hire Martin Moran as a part-time EMS Coordinator at \$46 an hour, second by Trustee Scarpelli. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Mensinger, aye; Trustee Scarpelli, aye; Trustee Wolski, aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – The Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts, NIAFPD, Conference is coming up February 6th and 7th in Lombard. And there is one for the Illinois Association of Fire Districts coming up down in O'Fallon, Illinois. Chief Brenn said if any of the Trustees are interested in attending, he will get them registered. Trustee Wolski said to put him down for the NIAFPD in Lombard. Trustee Scarpelli is interested, so Chief Brenn will register her also for Lombard.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT – The firefighters application period is currently open until February 5th. Two vacancies remain. The one candidate is in the Romeoville Fire Academy. He will be graduating the beginning of March and will be on three weeks of days and then go on shift.

X. CHIEF'S REPORT – The final inspection for the new ladder truck will be sometime in March at Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wisconsin. There is not an exact date yet.

Regarding the bond referendum, there is another mailing going out either this week or next week. There are some initial thoughts regarding an alternate site at 79th and Madison. Those have been positive, but they will wait and see if the referendum passes before continuing discussion.

XI. DIRECTOR OF EMS REPORT – The Director of EMS was not in attendance. Chief Brenn asked if the Trustees would like to change this to Deputy Chief Training Reports. Trustee Wolski said to change it to Deputy Chiefs Training Reports so they know what is going on. Chief Brenn will change that next month.

XII. DIRECTOR OF FIRE PREVENTION REPORT – The fees for the month were \$2,033.50. The fines for the month were \$2,125.00. IROL fees for the month were \$276.50. The grand total for the year was \$46,970.38. They are not looking for lawsuits through fines, but they are following up on problems and putting documentation in place so that they believe that if they don't comply,

they will be taken to one of two places, the DuPage County Court or, if they develop relations with their partners to go to their local adjudication process, they would go there. If you go to DuPage County, you can sit there for hours and then get turned away because the other one didn't show up. The local adjudication, they're judges. They are lawyers that are the adjudicator or retired judges that do it. They know better that all the information we provided has been received by the person that is supposed to appear before them, so it is less time consuming by the District. In the end, they are 89.06 percent compliant for the year, which is higher than they have had in the past. Director Mulligan said people are starting to realize that we are not going away. If they are not compliant, they are eventually going to get penalties. The fees are really related to just construction, new jobs, new businesses, maybe modified existing facilities. It just continues to grow and they are surprised how much transition they have with new businesses and improvement in the Binny's old strip mall. He appreciates the support of the Board and Chiefs. If there are any questions, he is happy to answer them. It was a good year, but they will strive to keep pushing and do better. Chief Brenn said with adjudication, one of the attorneys that works in Shawn's office, Ericka Thomas, she had it looked into maybe six months ago, and Chief Brenn's impression was that she thought there would be a lot of difficulties with it. So Chief Brenn reached out to her again to see if she could do a Zoom or Teams meeting with Kevin and the Chief to go over that again so they make sure she understands what they are looking for. She has not gotten back to him yet.

Director Mulligan said they are looking at some code amendments for the Fire Prevention Code. They created a draft and submitted it to Mr. Flaherty maybe a week or less ago. He has already started his review. Potentially, if Shawn is able to get the reviews back and they are good, then he would like to present it to the Board for consideration at the February meeting. The key concern is the inside electric vehicle charging stations in multi-family buildings. That creates the sense of urgency in fire prevention. They want to get ahead of it before there is no ability to stop it. There is some ability. It is already happening.

- XIII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Mr. Flaherty said the issue this month has to do with overtime taxability in the new federal tax law that exempts overtime tax for all Americans who work overtime, not just the exempt folks. It was actually to take effect in 2025, but the employers didn't really have any responsibility to do any of that until now in 2026. Management is going to have to track the overtime. There are pitfalls, because it is not as easy as you think. It is not, okay, they worked this many overtime, that's what appears on next year's W-2. There's a lot of special rules. 7G causes a problem; comp time causes a problem. For example, does the District's Collective Bargaining Agreement say that if you come on a callback, you get a minimum one hour's pay? You have to pay that overtime. Now, if you only come back and work for half an hour, they only get the exemption on the half hour that they worked, not the entire hour. So somebody is going to have to track that. Mr. Flaherty asked if the District has 7G. Chief Brenn said they don't currently do it, but they will be doing it under the new contract. 7G is all overtime hours. That is paying a different rate than the regular rate. You would have to take each cycle, look at how many hours they worked. If they had a vacation day that they might get paid, that constitutes hours worked. If they were off those 24 hours, that doesn't count towards the overtime. There are a lot of little pitfalls here.

Mr. Flaherty's firm sent out an alert to their clients yesterday. He said they may want to talk to their CPAs and make sure they are tracking this correctly. The good news is you don't have to worry about it until next year's W-2, but it is going to be problematic. Mr. Flaherty asked if they have comp time. Chief Brenn said that is being negotiated. Mr. Flaherty said that could count in the cycle they actually use it and not the hour that it occurred. So if they come back and use it in this work cycle, it counts as hours towards overtime on this cycle instead of the other cycle.

Mr. Flaherty said it was a good idea, the new handbooks, A Handbook for Trustees of Illinois Fire Prevention Districts, 2025 Edition. He said it is a lot of reading, but there is good stuff in it.

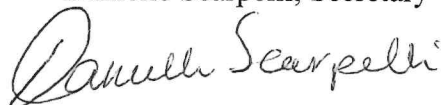
XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

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 Scarpelli. Voice Vote: Aye, 3; No, 0. Motion passed, 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 1821 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Scarpelli, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Scarpelli". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.