

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
TRI-STATE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT HELD 24 FEBRUARY 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 Danielle Scarpelli. Also Present: Chief Patrick Brenn, Deputy Chief Jeffery Allenspach, Attorney Shawn P. Flaherty. Absent: Trustee Michael Mensinger.

Trustee Wolski made a motion to appoint Trustee Scarpelli as Treasurer Pro Tem, second by Trustee Scarpelli. Roll Call Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0. Motion passed, 2-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of District Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2026  
Trustee Wolski made a motion to approve the January 27, 2026, meeting minutes as corrected, second by Trustee Scarpelli. Voice Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0. Motion passed, 2-0.

V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

- Approval of January 2026 Treasurer's Report including expenses for the District.  
Trustee Scarpelli presented the Treasurer's Report showing disbursement of funds for the month of January 2026 in the amount of \$1,307,988.08 and showing total deposits in the amount of \$520,900.63 for a grand total in the account of \$7,358,401.38. Trustee Scarpelli made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented and to pay all invoices, second by Trustee Wolski. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Scarpelli, aye; Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, absent. Motion carried, 2-0.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2025 – Chief Brenn said he should receive all the drafts this week for the audit and for the treasurer's annual statement of receipts and disbursements. He has an exit meeting with the auditors on Friday. In discussion with Mr. Flaherty, he would like to sign off on the audit and the annual statement of receipts and disbursements so they can get filed with the Comptroller's office. They will be put on the agenda next month so the Board can formally approve them. Trustee Wolski made a motion to authorize Chief Brenn to file the audit and related reports, second by Trustee Scarpelli. Vote Vote: Aye, 2; No, 0. Motion carried, 2-0.
- Treasurer's Annual Statement of Receipts and Disbursements – The report will be signed and filed with the Comptroller's office and formally approved at the March meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution to Lease a 2025 Pierce Ascendent ladder truck with PNC Bank, National Association. Chief Brenn said this is a PNC requirement. The District has to sign off on it and send it to them. The final inspection will be in March. Chief Brenn will get all the lease paperwork completed for them. Trustee Wolski made a motion to allow the District to lease a 2025 Pierce Ascendent ladder truck with PNC Bank, National Association, second by Trustee Scarpelli. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Scarpelli, aye; Trustee Wolski, aye; Trustee Mensinger, absent. Motion passed, 2-0.
- Ordinance 2026-O-001 Adopting the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code, Regulating and Governing the Safeguarding of Life and Property from Fire and Explosion Hazards Arising from the Storage, Handling and Use of Hazardous Substances, Materials and Devices, and from Conditions Hazardous to Life or Property in the Occupancy of Buildings and Premises in the Tri-State Fire Protection District; Providing for the Issuance of Permits for Hazardous Uses or Operations; Repealing Ordinance 2024-O-005 of the Tri-State Fire Protection District and All Other Ordinances and Parts of the Ordinances in Conflict Herewith

Chief Brenn said Director Mulligan worked with Attorney Flaherty to put forward this Ordinance. Director Mulligan said Mr. Flaherty's guidance has been very helpful and it is much appreciated. When the Board adopted the 2024 Code, it helped the District with their ISO rating. To what degree is unknown at this point. The District has not received the final report. It gave Fire Prevention the opportunity to utilize the new codes that have been in the model code. They knew when it was adopted that there would be a point when some amendments would be necessary. One of the concerns that was important was the electric vehicle chargers and electric vehicles in multi-family buildings inside the garages that are below the building. That is probably the biggest change in this amended ordinance. That will give the Bureau the opportunity to restrict those chargers unless the building is completely compliant with all of the codes that have been identified, which will protect the occupants of the building. That is the biggest change.

The other is fire sprinkler installation, to be sure that the pipes are installed correctly and with all cutouts when they drill the pipe to attach another pipe that branches off, that the metal disks are accounted for and not just somewhere in the pipe that nobody knows where. Director Mulligan said they would be in a good place if adopted and can check all the buildings in the District now that exist and those that will come potentially down the road. Mr. Flaherty said there were a lot more changes when they did the ordinance in 2024 than now, but what spearheaded this was the issue with the batteries in the dwellings. A motion would be needed and a regular vote and then pages 2 through 4 of the ordinance will need to be published and then it will be effective thereafter.

Motion by Trustee Wolski to adopt Ordinance 2026-O-001 to adopt the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code, Regulating and Governing the Safeguarding of Life and Property from Fire and Explosion Hazards Arising from the Storage, Handling and Use of Hazardous Substances, Materials and Devices, and from Conditions Hazardous to Life or Property in the Occupancy of Buildings and Premises in the Tri-State Fire Protection District; Providing for the Issuance of Permits for Hazardous Uses or Operations; Repealing Ordinance 2024-O-005 of the Tri-State Fire Protection District and All Other

Ordinances and Parts of the Ordinances in Conflict Herewith, second by Trustee Scarpelli.  
Roll Call Vote: Trustee Scarpelli, aye; Trustee Wolski, aye. Motion passed, 2-0.

Trustee Scarpelli asked about the electric bikes. Director Mulligan said that is part of the ordinance. To that point, there was a four-story building who contacted Fire Prevention regarding an electric bike being stored in a unit to charge it. Only the parking garage has sprinklers. Now the Fire Prevention Bureau will be able to tell the individual they cannot charge the bike inside the unit. He is putting everyone at risk. The ordinance defines scooters and bicycles and cars. It is pretty definitive. They have the ability now to help people who call and say they are concerned, whereas before, the generic 2024 version was a little bit ambiguous. They didn't have the authority that they have now with this ordinance.

- VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – A letter was received from the Burr Ridge Police Chief, Chief Marc Loftus, thanking firefighter/paramedics Katy Hoffman, Patrick Campbell and Alger Johnson for a stabbing call they responded to back in December. Chief Brenn will make copies and distribute it to those three individuals.
- IX. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT – The firefighter application period is over. There were 31 applicants. After vetting them out, there are 19 eligible to move on to the Board of Fire Commissioner interviews, which will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. After that, a preliminary List will be established. They will have ten days to do preference points and/or military points after that. There should hopefully be a final List by the beginning of April.
- X. CHIEF'S REPORT - The final inspection on the new ladder truck is March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at Pierce in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Accreditation: Deputy Chief Allenspach and Chief Brenn will attend the CPSE Excellence Conference March 10-13. CPSE is Center for Public Safety Excellence. They are the ones that kind of oversee the accreditation process. They will attend to learn more about the process. What Chief Brenn really wants to see is, departments that are going for accreditation have to present before the accreditation board, and those are live hearings. Chief Brenn wants to see what it's like. The District is shooting for March of 2027. They may have to wait for the one in the fall of 2027 because of all the data that is being collected to get everything done.

The bond referendum is here now. It will be March 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be one final mailing going out at the end of this week and beginning of next week.

- XI. DEPUTY CHIEF REPORTS – Deputy Chief Allenspach sends out the stat reports every month on the calls. The District switched from the NFIRS, which is the National Fire Incident Reporting System) to the NERIS, which is the National Emergency Response Information System). That is a national system that the District records their data in. The old system was 50 years old and they wanted to update it. So they had another company come in and completely change everything. A lot of the codes for the District's calls are different. The most significant change involves the call coding classifications, such as the fire alarms and false alarms used to be a call of false alarm or a fire alarm call. And now it is just called a "No Emergency." So if they go into a call and it's not

an emergency, it just classifies it as a “No Emergency” call. And lift assist used to be classified under a medical lift assist, and now it’s just classified under a “Public Service” call. A smoke investigation, it used to be called “smoke investigation,” or gas leak, it was called “gas leak.” Both of those are just categorized under the “Hazardous Situation” call. So the result of this is the monthly statistics reports going forward are going to be a lot different than the previous years. When you look at the calls, you will see so far this year we responded to 1,027 emergency calls. There were 9 fires, 43 hazardous situations, 667 medical calls (443 illness-related and 212 were trauma-related), and 134 were classified as no emergency calls. And those are like the false fire alarms, false alarms, like when they get there, it is determined it wasn’t an emergency. There were no “No Emergency” calls last year. There were maybe 10 or 11, and there are already 134 this year. There were 152 public service calls and 7 rescues.

All of the District’s vehicles are equipped with a HAAS Alert system. That system sends emergency alerts to cell phones on a mapping system, so you might have seen it when you are driving along and you see an alert on your phone that says emergency vehicle ahead. That system is on all of the vehicles and then that system also sends alerts between the two fire rigs, so if I’m coming from one direction and another rig is coming from another direction, it sends it between the two vehicles to let them know that you guys may be intercepting. The statistics for January alone, we alerted 7,232 drivers approaching emergency vehicles and we sent 522 alerts between our emergency vehicles alerting each other. The Department averaged 5.1 minutes of response time to the scene and logged a total of 7,539 minutes responding to the calls, which is equivalent to more than 125 hours driving with their lights and sirens on. So even though we are only taking 5 minutes to get to a call, we have a thousand calls and there’s multiple vehicles going there, the time that we are on the road and driving emergency adds up.

The District currently has three interns that we have a partnership with through College of DuPage. They work one 12-hour shift per week. There is one that works Monday, one that works a Tuesday and one that works a Friday. One of them is in their first semester, one of them is in their second semester and we have on intern who is in their third semester. The intern that’s in her third semester actually tested for Tri-State and hopefully will be on the List.

We are also collaborating with the graphic design class at College of DuPage to develop flyers and brochures for the internship program.

Regarding accreditation, we are working with Randy Reeder from Flashpoint Strategies to gather and organize the necessary data required for the standards of coverage report. There are several firefighters that are on light duty that are also assisting with the data collection. The process involves a substantial amount of information and a lot of data that source from outside agencies, so sometimes they have to wait to get that information and sometimes they don’t send all of it. They are close to having that completed. Daily they send him data.

Trustee Wolski asked if anyone has hit the lift assist billing yet. Deputy Allenspach said not yet. Chief Brenn said Deputy Chief Jansen is tracking the lift assists.

- XII. DIRECTOR OF FIRE PREVENTION REPORT – Director Mulligan thanked Attorney Flaherty for his help on the ordinance and thanked the Chief for his support in the passage of that ordinance.

It will be a great tool for the Bureau. Also in answer to Trustee Scarpelli's earlier question, Director Mulligan said that they are really focused on the multi-family buildings. None of the ordinances are intended for single family because the laws require, the Building Code requires and the State and Federal law requires single family homes to put the electric in their attached garages for those chargers for that purpose. They have to be piped. Whether they use them or not is up to them, but they have to be piped with electric for it. So the Bureau is not focused on that, but the multi-family buildings, they absolutely are, because the concern is that one or two people want a charger and three or four stories of people have no say-so and don't even know they are there and are at risk. He said it was a great question. He just wanted to clarify. Trustee Scarpelli thanked him for that clarification.

The fees collected for the month of January were \$6,927.60. The fines collected were \$2,125. A check was received from the platform provider for Fire Prevention, IROL, in the amount of \$241.50. For the year, revenue for Fire Prevention is at \$9,294.10.

- XIII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – It has been a quiet season legislatively. A lot of bills were introduced, but we don't know what is important yet. He has been busy with the day-to-day things, the referendum coming up in a couple weeks, garnishments, some labor stuff, so he is keeping pretty busy. He is hoping everyone is in a good mood in March.
- 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, 2; No, 0. Motion passed, 2-0. The meeting adjourned at 1821 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Scarpelli, Secretary

