

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
DARIEN-WOODRIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District was held at the Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District Station 89, 7550 Lyman Ave., Darien, Illinois on February 18, 2026.

Board Members:

Mr. James Palatine, President	Fire Chief Jimmy Lahanis
Ms. Kathy Trapp, Treasurer	Deputy Fire Chief Jamie Tunk
Ms. Mary Elizabeth Brownson, Secretary	Attorney Joe Nichele
Mr. Timothy Waz, Trustee	Christine Hardy, Recording Secretary
Ms. Krystal Roberts, Trustee	

Visitors:

Fire Commissioner Ed Cryer; James Howard, Governmental Accounting and Recording Secretary Christine Hardy.

At 6:30 p.m. Trustee Palatine called the regular meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Roll call: Trustee James Palatine present, Trustee Kathy Trapp present, Trustee Mary Brownson present, Trustee Timothy Waz present and Trustee Krystal Roberts present. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Reading of Minutes:

Regular Meeting held January 21, 2026

Trustee Palatine requested a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 21, 2026 regular meeting and approve and release them as written. Trustee Brownson so moved. Trustee Waz seconded. Roll call vote: Trustee Palatine, aye; Trustee Trapp, aye; Trustee Brownson, aye; Trustee Roberts, abstain; Trustee Waz, aye. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain. Approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. James Howard, Governmental Accounting, Inc. read the Treasurer's Financial Report for the 8 Month(s) Ended January 31, 2026 – Fiscal Year 26 which included vendors paid report and payroll. Trustee Palatine requested a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as written. Trustee Waz so moved. Trustee Brownson seconded. Roll call vote: Trustee Palatine, aye; Trustee Trapp, aye; Trustee Brownson, aye; Trustee Roberts, aye; Trustee Waz, aye. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain. Approved.

Trustee Palatine requested a motion to approve disbursements for a total of \$1,127,212.73. Trustee Waz so moved. Trustee Brownson seconded. Roll call vote: Trustee Palatine, aye; Trustee Trapp, aye; Trustee Brownson, aye; Trustee Roberts, aye; Trustee Waz, aye. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain. Approved.

Attorney Report:

Attorney Nichele provided an update regarding the district's, along with several other governmental agencies, involvement in a pending lawsuit related to FOIA responses. To date, the district has not yet been officially served. He added that he is monitoring the situation and will provide any updates as received.

Attorney Nichele further advised staff has proposed modifying the current fiscal year budget of June 1st through May 31st to a calendar year budget cycle. With the Board of Trustees' approval an ordinance would be drafted and presented at the April meeting.

Attorney Nichele suggested modifying the Board of Trustees agenda order to include the Chiefs report prior to business items. He indicated this would allow for a better discussion flow. The updated format will be implemented on the March meeting agenda.

Old Business:

No old business for discussion.

New Business:

No new business for discussion.

Correspondence:

No correspondence was received.

Chief Administrator's Report:

Chief Lahanis provided an overview of department activities.

- The status of employee leaves was provided, in addition Chief Lahanis said current probationary members continue to excel.
- An update was provided on the planned Village of Woodridge TIF district. The Village has not agreed to exclude the pension levy from the TIF district. The Joint Review Board met on February 5th at that time a vote was taken resulting in three yes votes and seven members abstained. It was then approved by the full board later the same evening. The original intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Woodridge has yet to be approved. Attorney Nichele will review once received.
- Ladder 89's turbo system was damaged with oil throughout the entire exhaust system. The Lisle-Woodridge mechanics are unable to complete the necessary repairs, so it was towed to Interstate for repairs. The repair estimate is approximately \$30,000.
- A quote was received for Stations 89 and 90 security upgrades. After discussion, Trustee Palatine requested the security system upgrades be added as an agenda item on the March 2026 Board of Trustees meeting agenda.
- An issue was encountered with the GEMT payment check to the State of Illinois. It appears that someone intercepted the mailed check and attempted to fraudulently deposit it. Additional safety measures are being put in place with the banking institution to avoid any future fraudulent activity attempts.

- EMS MC advised of a billing error in which residents were mistakenly balance billed for charges remaining after insurance payments in January/February 2026. It is district practice not to balance bill any residents within the district boundaries. EMS MC will be issuing resident refunds and invoicing the district for the refunds.
- Staff is working on the June 1st insurance renewals and will provide updates as received.

Deputy Chief's Report:

In Deputy Chief Tunk's absence Chief Lahanis provided an overview of department responses and activities.

Board of Fire Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Cryer advised the Board of Fire Commissioners would be meeting on Thursday, February 19th at 2:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Closed Session:

No closed session was held.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Palatine requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Brownson so moved. Trustee Waz seconded. Roll call vote: Trustee Palatine, aye; Trustee Trapp, aye; Trustee Brownson, aye; Trustee Roberts, aye; Trustee Waz, aye. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Mary Elizabeth Brownson
Mary Elizabeth Brownson, Secretary