

**LEMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2026
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

CALL TO ORDER: Trustee Joseph Falese called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lemont Fire Protection District to order on February 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM. The meeting was conducted at 15900 New Avenue, Lemont, IL.

Trustee Falese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: On call of roll Trustees Dan Tholotowsky, Michael Smollen, Joseph Falese, Raymond Negrete, Linda Bernacchi.

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Dan Tasso, Deputy Chief Matt Peksa, Administrative Assistant Sandy Dominik, Attorney John Motylinski and Stenstrom VP Joel Foss.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to approve, under consent agenda, February 19, 2026, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, abstained. Motion carried.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Stenstrom Construction Group, Vice President Joel Foss presented construction bidding results with guaranteed maximum price based on FGMA drawings and addendums of Stations 1, 3 and 4. Mr. Foss explained the bidding, alternate bidding and the purchasing process in detail. Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the guaranteed maximum price of construction, as presented, including alternates, in the amount of \$34, 816, 238.00, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, no. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Trustee Negrete read the bill listing totaling \$1,801,867.23. Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Chief Tasso presented an up-to-date financial report for FY2026, which is 8 percent through the budget. Chief Tasso mentioned the audit field work is being conducted and finalized and is expected to be presented at the June meeting. Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD: Trustee Tholotowsky expressed sympathies to the O'Donnell family on the passing of retired Lemont Fire Chief Andrew O'Donnell and commended the district and honor guard on their presence demonstrated when he attended the service. Trustee Tholotowsky reported positive feedback of the NIAFPD conference, attended by the Board and Chief Staff. Trustee Smollen expressed sympathies to the O'Donnell family and attended the service with the department walk through.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Motylinski reported on bills in legislation that may impact operations, aimed at recruitment and retention and a bill in regard to Trustee compensation, which has not been revised since the 80s. Attorney Motylinski will update the board of any developments.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Deputy Chief Peksa updated the Board on the WESCOM Dispatch proposal that will be brought to their Chief's operations meeting, as the next step in the process. We have two members returning from injury, with two more remaining on worker's comp with expected returns within 2 months. DC Peksa informed the Board of a meeting held with Interior for Business for office furnishings. We responded to 331 calls in January.

Deputy Chief Truffa congratulated EMS Director Tyler Yost on being asked to speak at the next EMS WORLD EXPO to present at the national level. He congratulated Silver Cross, EMS System Director Dr. Mikolajczak, on his 25+year career, stating Dr. McCormick will be stepping into his place. Deputy Chief Truffa welcomed part-time inspector Brendan Conner to the District.

Fire Chief Tasso highlighted the career and mentorship of Chief Andrew O'Donnel, badge #48 and thanked DC Peksa and the honor guard for coordinating services. Chief congratulated probationary FF Joe Coulter and his wife Kaylee on the birth of their first son. Chief welcomed part time fire inspector, Brendan Conner, who started 2/4/2026, congratulated BC Evers on his 28-year work anniversary on 2/10/2026 and highlighted it as the same day as the 140th anniversary of the Lemont Fire Protection District. In a construction update, Chief stated the final approval will be slated on the agenda of the zoning and annexation meeting in the next week. All soft costs of station construction, i.e., security systems, office furniture are being calculated and will update the board as received. Construction plans and updates will be shared on website and social media sites as projects develop. Chief and BC Evers attended the MABAS conference in Bloomington this past week.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the IGA with the Village of Romeoville, as presented for donation of surplus fire engine, in exchange for \$15,000.00 in tuition credits at Romeoville Fire Academy, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve FGMA Invoice 23-3857.02-7, in the amount of \$155,116.05, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to approve the annual renewal cost with Lexipol, in the amount of \$13,426.02, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to approve the cost of USDD Station Alerting for stations 1, 3 & 4, with Digi Com, in the amount of \$214,546.71, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Falese to approve, as presented, Lexipol Policy #904 High-Visibility Safety Vests, #309 Staging: Amending #301 Emergency Response, #329 NERIS, #803 Patient Medical Record Security and Privacy, #1046 Anti-Retaliation, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Negrete to ratify the annual renewal cost with HealthJoy, in the amount of \$6,713.65, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to ratify the cost of annual subscription and licensing for GIS Program with ESRI, in the amount of \$3,837.00, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to ratify the cost of the NIAFPD conference registration, in the amount of \$3,750.00, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to ratify the annual renewal cost with Sims U Share, in the amount of \$3,275.00, purchased with IPRF grant funds, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to ratify the annual subscription of preplan software with ImageTrend, in the amount of \$3,807.06, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to adopt Ordinance, 26-01, Establishing reasonable fees for excessive lift assists, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM on a motion made by Trustee Negrete, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Motion carried.

Approved as is / amended by the Board of Trustees on the _____ day of _____, 2026.

Joseph Falese, President

ATTEST:

Linda Bernacchi, Secretary