LEMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF JULY 16, 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 July 16, 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. Trustee Linda Bernacchi. Trustee Raymond Negrete was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Dan Tasso, Deputy Chief John Truffa, Administrative Assistant Sandy Dominik, Attorney John Motylinski, Ms. Jasleen Kaur of Lauterbach & Amen. Mr. James Howard via zoom

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FY025 AUDIT PRESENTATION: On behalf of Lauterbach & Amen, Jasleen Kaur presented the revised audited financial statements and related the corrections for the Board's review and approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 audit report. A motion was made by Trustee Falese to approve the FY025 Audit as presented, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Trustee Smollen made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of:

i. Approved Station 1 Invoice No 23-3857.02-11 in the amount of $19,869.21
ii. Approved Station 1 Invoice No 23-3857.02-12 in the amount of $25,184.32
iii. Approved Station 1 Pay Application #4 in the amount of $331,841.69
iv. Approved Station 2 Invoice 23-3857.03-1 in the amount of $87,187.50
v. Approved Station 3 Pay Application #5 in the amount of $256,548.83
vi. Approved Station 4 Pay Application #3 in the amount of $181,225.37
vii. Approved purchase of furniture for Station Four in the amount of $33,306.95
viii. Approved Plan Review & Services for Station 1 in the amount of $10,258.75

Total Consent Agenda Approval: $945,422.62. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the June 18, 2026, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, abstained. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Trustee Falese read the bill listing totaling $1,975,947.36. Trustee Smollen made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, as presented, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Via Zoom, James Howard presented the financial report with year-to-date expenses and revenues through June 30, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD: Trustee Tholotowsky reported that the first annual Police vs. Fire softball game, benefiting Ellie Strong, was a great success. He thanked everyone who participated, volunteered, organized, and supported the event, expressing appreciation for the community's support. Trustee Tholotowsky and Trustee Smollen attended an open house meeting at Village Hall, where the proposed realignment of the intersections of Main, Talcott, and Illinois Streets, anticipated within the next ten years, was discussed. Trustee Falese expressed appreciation to Samantha for her effort spent to make the softball game a success.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Motylinski reminded the Board to remain vigilant regarding the recent increase in Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. He advised that requests may not always be submitted through the appropriate channels and to continue to monitor email inboxes, including spam and junk folders, for any incoming requests. He noted that some entities submitting FOIA requests are for-profit organizations. Board members were instructed to forward any FOIA requests they receive to the appropriate staff or legal counsel for timely review and response in accordance with established procedures.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Deputy Chief Truffa reported one member is still off on extended injury with anticipation of returning mid fall. In the month of June, companies responded to 377 calls, a slight increase from 344 calls in June 2025. At the time of this report, personnel responded to 1907 calls for service in 2026. D.C. Truffa reiterated appreciation for all who contributed to the success of the charity softball game. He thanked crews, and fire prevention staff for another successful and safe July 3rd at the Park District's Independence Day Celebration. He, DC Peksa and FM Murray remained on site until the unused fireworks were detonated. In an update, D.C. Truffa explained that recent changes to Medicare and Medicaid ambulance billing are expected to have an impact on the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program. He explained the new federal mandates will change how ambulance services are billed and reimbursed under Medicare and Medicaid. Because changes are expected to affect GEMT reimbursement he, along with other districts & department administration, will be working with Attorney Motylinski to draft a letter in opposition to the mandate.

Chief Tasso recognized work anniversaries this month; FF/PM Cody Post and Brenden Bandyk (9), FF/PM Michael Costa and Tom Hopkins (11), Lt. Chris Ganz and BC David Spivak (29). Chief Tasso reported during his time spent at the Firehouse Chief's Summit, he networked with 62 Chiefs, and he was the only Chief representing Illinois. He received positive feedback from vendors; Lemont was commended for being at the forefront of innovation and considered a model department at the national level. Chief credits Deputy Chief Peksa, Deputy Chief Truffa and Fire Marshal Murray for their professionalism and character. Chief Tasso reported the District will be moving forward with the Village to initiate discussion to formally create an agreement to encourage the upgrade of commercial fire suppression systems in the downtown area. 2026 Budget appropriations have been made to supplement the Village's grant for this program. Chief reminded the Board that the 2027 Budget workshop will be held in October, with the final budget hearing submitted for approval in November. Chief Tasso informed the Board the current eligibility list is due to expire in August, at this time there is one vacancy. Chief staff have discussed when to hire, stating the hiring timeline will be dependent on the construction completion timeline. In a construction update; weekly Owner, Architect, Construction (OAC) meetings are held to keep communication current. There has been a lot of activity at the future station one site. At all 3 locations, crews are working on underground utilities and infostructure. Trustee Tholotowsky commended NIFSAB for coming out to train our members on suppression systems. He also reported that districts and departments statewide have begun adapting our referendum and construction models.

NEW BUSINESS: Trustee Tholotowsky made a motion to approve to move forward with the purchase of a new Battalion Chief vehicle in an amount not to exceed $100,000.00, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to approve the purchase of an electric fireplace for station four from Fireplace & Chimney Authority in the amount of $11,231.00, the cost will be split with the Foreign Fire Board resulting in the District cost of $5,615.50, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. This is a budgeted item.
Roll call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, no. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to approve the update to Lexipol Policy 900-Illness & Injury Prevention, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to approve the purchase of VolP phone systems for all stations from Rival 5 in the amount of $13,354.32, seconded by Trustee Smollen. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to approve the purchase of Station Four IT network infrastructure updates from Virtek in the amount of $25,000.00, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bernacchi to approve the purchase of 10 sets of replacement bunker gear with MES in the amount of $56, 150.00, seconded by Trustee Smollen. This is part of the annual replacement plan and is part of the capital equipment plan. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM on a motion made by Trustee Smollen, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Falese, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, abstained. Trustee Negrete, absent. Motion carried.

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

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Joseph Falese, President

ATTEST:

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Linda Bernacchi, Secretary