

**LEMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Trustee Linda Bernacchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lemont Fire Protection District to order on April 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM. The meeting was conducted at 15900 New Avenue, Lemont, IL.

Trustee Bernacchi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** On call of roll Trustees Dan Tholotowsky, Mike Smollen, Linda Bernacchi, and Ray Negrete. Trustee Joseph Falese was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Fire Chief Dan Tasso, Deputy Chief Matt Peksa, Deputy Chief John Truffa, Recording Secretary Sandy Dominik, and Attorney Tom Schwartzers.

**APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** A motion was made by Trustee Tholotowsky to appoint Trustee Bernacchi as President Pro Tem to preside over the meeting in the absence of President Falese, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Trustee Smollen to approve, under consent agenda, March 19, 2026, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Trustee Negrete read the bill listing totaling \$937,869.06. 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 Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

**FINACIAL REPORT:** Via Zoom, James Howard presented to the Board a Power Point presentation and financial report with the year-to-date expenses and revenues through March 31, 2026.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD:** Trustee Tholotowsky reported the residents at Franciscan Village are visited by fire prevention staff, himself and Chief. The visits are warmly welcomed by both staff and residents, giving everyone a chance to discuss a variety of safety topics. He also reminds us to stay aware and heed weather warnings, be prepared and to never become complacent with severe weather warnings. Also, as the weather warms up and summer break approaches, more people will be out around town, please stay alert and cautious while driving.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Schwartzers gave a brief update on the AI Bot FOIA Requests; a response with legal backing has been prepared to send to such requesters.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Deputy Chief Peksa reported that, in recognition of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, Chief staff visited Orland Central to thank dispatch personnel and provided lunch and raffle prizes on behalf of the District. He also thanked Tom Murray of Will County for assisting with radio programming for Lemont. DC Peksa advised that several MABAS 19 members are interested in a group purchase of the SimsUShare software, reducing the annual cost from approximately \$3,200 to \$1,000. He reported Station Four has been cleaned, closed, and secured, thanking Steve, Fernando, and Lt. Kingman for leading the project. Lemont Police and Fire will host a two-day active threat training at the Lithuanian World Center. The new engine committee, consisting of Lt. Palcu, FF Rauch, FF Kastner, FF Gubbins, and FF Atwood, will attend FDIC to review specifications for the new engine purchase. DC Peksa reported there were 290 calls for service in March, compared to 296 during the same period last year. Year-to-date calls total 901.

Deputy Chief Truffa reported that he and FF Jager attended the ESO Wave Conference. FF Jager, who has been extensively training on the ESO reporting system, will lead the program transition following DC Truffa's retirement. DC Truffa provided an overview of the Handtevy pediatric EMS software, which uses length-based, color-coded protocols to assist EMS personnel with medication dosing and equipment sizing during pediatric emergencies. He also reported that Public Educator Cole attended her first FLSE Conference in Peoria, where she networked with other departments and discussed current trends in public safety education.

Chief Tasso recognized the following employee work anniversaries: Stacy Devitt (3 years), Brandon Davis (4 years), Jennifer Murray (6 years), Lt. Frank (24 years), and Jeff Hawthorne (25 years). Chief Tasso reported that the WESCOM Executive Board unanimously approved the dispatch application. The next steps include submission to the Will County ETSB and the State 911 Administrator for final approval, with completion anticipated in approximately nine months. In a construction update, Chief Tasso advised that homes at the new Station One site have been demolished, with tree removal and fencing nearing completion. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for May 1 at 9:00 a.m. Station Three permits are currently under review with the Village of Woodridge, and a traffic study determined that 15 trees will need to be removed. Station Four has been closed, personnel reassigned, and demolition preparations are underway. Trustee Tholotowsky acknowledged the recent passing of a WESCOM dispatcher who died while returning home from a shift. Chief Tasso stated the next WESCOM Executive Board meeting will be held June 23, and that the Board President or designee will attend future meetings. Chief Tasso will continue providing updates as they become available. Trustee Negrete inquired about the Village of Woodridge's request regarding vehicle traffic associated with the previous tenant. Chief Tasso stated he would keep the Board informed of any developments.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Trustee Negrete made a motion to appoint Jay Nickleski as Fire Commissioner to a three-year term beginning June 2026 and ending May 2029. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

Trustee Smollen made a motion to approve the annual service agreement of G2 FSAS with US Digital Designs in the amount of \$12,101.40, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve amendments to Lexipol Policy #914, Personal Protective Equipment, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

Trustee Tholotowsky made a motion to ratify the purchase of one pair of replacement boots and 25 replacement hoods from AirOne in the amount of \$3,615.00, seconded by Trustee Smollen. A \$3,000.00 grant awarded by OneOK will be used to offset the cost of the purchase. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

Trustee Smollen made a motion to ratify the cost of yearly fertilizer and weed control for five locations with Scotty's Lawn Care in the amount of \$3,780.00, seconded by Trustee Negrete. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

Trustee Smollen made a motion to ratify the cost of annual inspections of mobile vehicle lifts with SLE Technologies in the amount \$6,171.18, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

Trustee Negrete made a motion to approve the purchase of Handtevy-Pediatric Software and three-year agreement with Handtevy-Pediatric Emergency Standards in the amount of \$18,304.41, seconded by Trustee Tholotowsky. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese.

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM on a motion made by Trustee Tholotowsky, seconded by Trustee Bernacchi. Roll Call: Trustee Tholotowsky, yes. Trustee Smollen, yes. Trustee Bernacchi, yes. Trustee Negrete, yes. Motion carried. Absent from the vote; Trustee Falese

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary