

# NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

January 14 2026

Minutes

The Northwestern Joint Fire District Board met in Regular Session at 2:00 p.m.. The Board scheduled the Leesburg addition bid opening for this time. A representative from WDC was present and went through the bids. WDC will compile the bids and send the list along with their recommendations to the District Administrator by Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Beth Marshall, representative of Taylor Township, Mr. Jerry McClary, representative of Liberty Township, Mr. Logan Rife, representative of York Township, Mr. Bill Lowe, representative of Leesburg Township and Mrs. Allison Hamilton, Fiscal Officer were in attendance. Chief Hawkins, Asst. Chief Cook along with Mrs. Beeney, District Administrator were in attendance. FF Rausch was in attendance.

## Organizational Meeting

As this was the first regular meeting of the year, the District conducted the Organizational section of the meeting.

- I. Per the Northwestern Joint Fire District Resolution, the York Township Representative will commence a 3 year term. The term will begin January 1, 2026 and end December 31, 2028. Mr. Logan Rife was named the Taylor Township Representative.
- II. Nomination of Chairperson  
Mr. Rife nominated Mr. Bill Lowe to serve as Chairperson of the Northwestern Joint Fire District Board of Trustees, Ms. Marshall seconded the motion.  
Roll Call: Mr. Rife, yea, Ms. Marshall, yea and Mr. McClary, yea.  
Mr. Bill Lowe was named Chairperson of the District Board
- III. Nomination of Vice-Chairperson  
Mr. Rife nominated Ms. Beth Marshall to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Northwestern Joint Fire District Board of Trustees, Mr. McClary seconded the motion.  
Roll Call: Mr. Rife, yea, Mr. McClary, yea and Mr. Lowe, yea  
Ms. Beth Marshall was named Vice Chairperson of the District Board
- IV. The compensation of the Northwestern Joint Fire District Board at \$30 per meeting for a maximum of 15 meetings as cited by the ORC. The members will be paid on a quarterly basis.
- V. The Board established the second Wednesday of each month for 2026 for the Northwestern Joint Fire District Board to conduct regular meetings. The meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m.. Odd months will be held at the Northwestern Joint Fire District Office located at 21655 Main Street, Raymond, Ohio 43067. Even months, the District will hold meetings at the Leesburg Fire Station 12985 St. Rt. 347, Marysville, Ohio 43040.

## Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees acknowledged the bids have been opened by WDC; once WDC provides their report of the bids and recommendations, the Board will determine their selection.

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Mr. McClary made a motion for the Board of Trustees go into executive session to discuss Union business and personnel. Mr. Rife seconded the motion. All were in favor and the Board went into executive session at 2:49 p.m.

Mr. McClary made a motion to end executive session and resume the regular business session. Mr. Rife seconded the motion. All were in favor and the Board went back to regular session at 4:20 p.m..

The Board reviewed the December 2025 minutes.

- VI. Mr. McClary made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Marshall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. Hamilton deferred the year end financial report until February's meeting.

Ms. Beeney presented the District Administrators report. She attended mediation, updated the mobile unit lease to be extended to July (it can be extended further if the addition is not completed), the Board asked if it would be in the way of the addition's construction, it will not. The title to the medic has been transferred, the items for the BWC grants have been ordered, conditional offers have been made to potential new employees, she will follow up with Stryker on the cot and she has been completing items on the USDA closing list. Ms. Beeney was asked to write a testimonial for a second edition book written by Christie Hensler, speaker at the Sixth Bugle.

- VII. Mr. Rife made a motion that the Board approves the District Administration report. Mr. McClary seconded. All were in favor.

Chief presented his report to the Board. The District had a total of 623 runs for the year 2025. The Chief is working on EMS equipment grant and the Dept. of Public Safety Grant. The State Fire Marshall's Office grant is due by January 31<sup>st</sup>. The SCBA's are to be delivered January 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussed members eligible for Class A's. Did not recommend renewing with Integrity Energy for electric. The annual EMS billing was provided to the Board.

- VIII. Mr. McClary made a motion to approve the purchase of Class A uniforms with the exception that if any staff member is on a discipline settlement agreement; they would not be eligible for Class A's at this time. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- IX. Mr. McClary made a motion; with a second from Ms. Marshall for the Board to approve the Fire Chief's report. All were in favor.

The Board asked for a job description to be put together for Fire Safety Inspector. In addition, the Board asked for a Memorandum of Understanding to be drafted. The Board advised the Chief to move forward with filling Full Time vacancies.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the Union agreement; however, as there were items that need clarified, the contract was not signed. The Board of Trustees will call a special meeting to be held on Wednesday January 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. to further review the contract with the intentions of signing and to further conduct District business. The meeting will be held at the District Office located at 21655 Main Street, Raymond, Ohio. Ms. Beeney will notify the MJT and post accordingly.

Ms. Marshall advised the Board that Mr. Brad Bodenmiller from LUC would be speaking on 2/5/26 at the UCTOA meeting about data centers.

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- X. Mr. Rife made a motion the administrative staff receive a 5% increase for 2026. Ms. Marshall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief’s salary will be further reviewed once the contract has been signed.

The Board discussed the agreement with Invenergy. Invenergy agreed to provide the District a \$25K sign on along with funding for needed equipment for an additional \$165K. The company will issue the initial distribution once the certificate is signed. According to the agreement the remaining funds will be dependent on the completion of training.

- XI. Mr. Rife made a motion to sign the Invenergy agreement and approve the Chief to sign the Certificate. Mr. McClary seconded the motion. All were in favor.

As there was no further business; Ms. Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Mr. Rife seconding the motion. All were in favor. The Meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted By:

Allison M. Hamilton, Fiscal Officer

Northwestern Joint Fire District

Reviewed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Logan Rife

\_\_\_\_\_ Beth Marshall

\_\_\_\_\_ Jerry McClary

\_\_\_\_\_ Bill Lowe