

NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

February 11, 2026

Minutes

The Northwestern Joint Fire District Board met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m.. The Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Logan Rife, representative of York Township, Ms. Beth Marshall, representative of Taylor Township, Mr. Jerry McClary, representative of Liberty Township, Mr. Bill Lowe, representative of Leesburg Township and Ms. Allison Hamilton, Fiscal Officer were in attendance. Ms. Amy Beeney, District Administrator, Chief Hawkins and Asst. Chief Cook along with FF Tyler Furry were also in attendance. Mr. Shawn Bailey, Mr. Kevin Dotson and Mr. Ken Reiff were in attendance.

Mr. Bailey introduced himself and advised that he was running for County Commissioner and discussed his background. The Board thanked him for stopping by the meeting.

Mr. Jerry McClary made a motion to enter into executive session for the Board to discuss sensitive business matters and to protect the interests of applicable party. Mr. Rife seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Board entered into executive session at 6:18 p.m..

Mr. Lowe made a motion the Board exit executive session and resume the regular meeting. Mr. McClary seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Board resumed the regular meeting at 6:56 p.m.

The Board reviewed the January 14, 2026 and January 21, 2026 meeting minutes.

- I. Mr. Rife made a motion to accept the minutes; Ms. Marshall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. Hamilton provided the Board with the 2025 December Bank Reconciliation. Payroll, accounts payable were presented in the Board's packet. Ms. Hamilton will meet with the District Admin., Chief & Asst. Chief to go over the 2026 final appropriations. The final appropriations will be presented at the March meeting.

Ms. Hamilton presented the Board with the Group Health Insurance renewal. The Administrator of the current plan, 90 Degree Benefits did not submit a renewal of the policy. The Board was provided the quotes put together by Mr. Paplaczky, Broker. She pointed out the 2 most suitable quotes; one was a 33% increase and the other was 52%. The other quotes were significantly more up to 112% increase and not keeping the same quality of benefits. Ms. Hamilton provided the recommendation of selecting the One Health level funded product with a \$7350 deductible and continuing a GAP alternative(new company) to cover the deductible up to \$7000. The HRA would be funded at \$2500 to assist members in the event the insurance and the GAP were not operating as expected. The Delta Dental will increase 5% and the Delta Vision (VSP) will not see an increase.

Ms. Hamilton advised the Fire Fund balance at the end of 2025 was \$4,038,073.40 and the EMS fund was \$356,788.04 for a total of \$4,394,861.44 carry over into 2026. District expenditures for 2025 was \$4,375,406.13 with an estimate of \$2,531,956.67 of the costs being associated with personnel and benefits an increase of just under \$400,000 from the previous year.

Ms. Hamilton advised the first draw from the USDA loan would be a reimbursement of pre-paid expenditure related to the Leesburg addition project. She recommended the monies being reimbursed be earmarked for furnishing the addition. The amount of the first draw would be \$262,742.19.

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Ms. Hamilton is beginning to work with the Auditor from Perry & Associates for the upcoming audit.

- II. Mr. Rife made a motion to accept the Fiscal Officer's Financial Report; including the Purchase Orders/Blanket Certificates, payments and payroll. Ms. Marshall seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- III. Mr. Rife made a motion that the District elect the One Health level funded plan with the Cigna network with the \$7350 deductible; including the enrollment into the GAP program and providing fire personnel with an HRA of \$2500. Ms. Marshall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. Beeney will schedule Mr. Paplaczyk to meet with the members and go over the new network. FF Furry asked for an updated members cost to pass along. Ms. Hamilton will update the members costs and forward to Ms. Beeney.

Ms. Beeney provided her report. She has requested IT quotes for the addition to include secured doors. An update was provided on the USDA process. Mr. Ryan Springer was named the USDA Inspector for the construction, monthly meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.. Contractor meetings will be held weekly on Wednesdays. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled soon.

The power load system has been installed, recently secured with a BWC grant. The BWC representative will be on station to take a picture. Erin Saal, Invenergy, will be sending a lump sum check. Acciona advised that Abdullah Fnu is the site leader for the Union Solar project. Ms. Beeney will continue to work with him and advise the Board of any updates.

- IV. Mr. Rife made a motion to accept the District Administrator's report. Mr. McClary seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- V. Mr. Lowe made a motion to authorize the District Administrator to make decision and sign contracts on behalf of the District during the construction process. The Administrator advised she would keep the Board apprised of any situation needing their attention. Ms. Marshall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Board reviewed Chief Hawkins letter of resignation for retirement. The Chief's last day with the District will be May 3, 2026.

- VI. Mr. McClary made a motion to accept the letter of resignation; Mr. Rife seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Chief Hawkins presented his report to the Board. The District logged 59 runs for the month of January, noting the runs were mostly in the 347 corridor area. The EMS grant was submitted 12/29/25. Fit testing for the SCBA is to be completed this month, the State Fire Marshall Grant is capped at \$15,000.

The Chief is working on transferring critical accounts (DEA, Ohio Pharmacy Board, EMS, State Fire Marshalls Office, etc)

Cot batteries need replaced and the units need to carry 2 batteries for back up purposes for the Cots. A quote was received for 4 batteries and 1 charger in the amount of \$2540.07. This will assist in changing batteries on a scene.

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- VII. Mr. Rife made a motion to approve the Chief's report. Mr. McClary seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- VIII. Mr. Lowe made a motion to move forward with the battery and charger quote for the cots. Mr. Rife seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Lowe stated that he attended a meeting concerning data centers. He encouraged all of the Board members to speak with their respective Boards about reviewing and adopting updated Data Center language in their zoning resolutions.

Asst. Chief Cook advised the Board, that members of the District went above and beyond on a recent run. He wished to recognize them and provide them a letter of Merit for their Personnel files. The following were recognized: FF Austin Mullett, FF Sabrina Mizer and FF Colton Powers. The Board was pleased to hear of the member's efforts and agreed recognition was warranted.

At 7:48 p.m., Mr. Lowe made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel; it is noted that there will be no further District business to follow. Mr. Rife seconded the motion. All were in favor.

At 8:10 p.m., Mr. McClary made a motion to exit Executive Session and Ms. Marshall, seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rife seconded. All were in favor.

The Board adjourned at 8:10 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted By:

Allison M. Hamilton, Fiscal Officer

Northwestern Joint Fire District

Reviewed:

_____ Logan Rife

_____ Beth Marshall

_____ Jerry McClary

_____ Bill Lowe