

Minutes of July 23, 2026
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the
West Chicago Fire Protection District
Meeting held at
200 Fremont Street, West Chicago, Illinois

Opened meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

President Mike Mashal called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., with Trustees Michael Cabrera, Perry Johnson, Ruben Campos, and Brandi Moore in attendance. Also present were Chief Jeff Keefe, Deputy Chief Ric Ciszewski, Lt Mike Buenrostro, Attorney Joe Miller, Attorney Kelli Melin, Nehal Kaur, and Accountant James Howard. *Administrative Assistant Kimberly Lezza absent.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 28, 2026. Trustee Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Trustee Campos seconded it. Roll call showed:

Trustee Mashal - Aye	Trustee Cabrera - Aye	Trustee Johnson - Aye
Trustee Campos - Aye	Trustee Moore - Aye	

Motion - 5 - 0

Approval of the minutes from the Special Meeting held on June 25, 2026. Trustee Cabrera made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Trustee Moore seconded it. Roll call showed:

Trustee Mashal - Aye	Trustee Cabrera - Aye	Trustee Johnson - Aye
Trustee Campos - Aye	Trustee Moore - Aye	

Motion - 5 - 0

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Accountant James Howard presented the financial report for the period ending July 23, 2026. Trustee Mashal announced the following:

- Account payables totaled \$326,211.77
- Payroll totaled \$519,007.29
- Total expenditure: \$845,219.06

Trustee Johnson made a motion to approve; Trustee Cabrera seconded. Roll call showed:

Trustee Mashal – Aye Trustee Cabrera – Aye Trustee Johnson – Aye

Trustee Campos – Aye Trustee Moore - Aye

Motion passed 5-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A discussion took place regarding the importance of the District's presence at community events and the value of active engagement with residents and community partners to strengthen relationships within the community.

Financial / Planning:

Chief Keefe reported:

- Received \$6,069 in State reimbursement for Illinois State Fire Marshal certification classes.
- Recovered \$4,392.30 in unclaimed property from the State of Illinois.
- Began purchasing FY2027 budgeted items.
- Continued focus on fiscal responsibility through competitive bidding, limiting sole-source purchases, and keeping expenditures within budget.

Administration:

Chief Keefe reported:

- Continued work toward strategic plan goals, including long-term operations, staffing, and future service needs.
- Continued planning for a potential spring referendum and future ambulance staffing.
- Began work with Discovery Works on the referendum process.
- Started developing a charge statement and identifying community members for an exploratory committee.

Ambulance Staffing / Referendum:

Chief Keefe reported:

- Continued preparations for a spring referendum regarding future ambulance staffing and EMS operations.

Training:

Chief Keefe reported:

- Alliance training included a mass-casualty incident drill and water-rescue skills review.
- District training included paramedic continuing education, command board review, MCI/RTF review, building tours and tactics, annual RTF training with West Chicago Police, and hoist/fall-protection SOP review.
- Continued emphasis on heat safety, hydration, shade, rehab, and appropriate training duration during summer weather.

Community Risk Reduction:

Chief Keefe reported:

- Participated in two touch-a-truck events, Railroad Days fireworks standby, a fire safety talk at Little Prince Daycare, and the West Chicago America 250 parade.
- Personnel completed pre-plan training at Timberlake and Main Park Apartment complexes.
- Continued development of public workflow information for the Municipality Permit module.
- Continued routine fire inspections, occupancy/pre-sale inspections, and plan reviews.
- Ongoing monitoring of several construction projects throughout the District.
- Continued work on the Community Risk Assessment/Hazard Risk Analysis report.
- Began using ImageTrend Continuum and coordinating with Central DuPage Hospital EMS for data collection.
- CRA report is targeted for presentation to the Board in September.

EMS:

Chief Keefe reported:

- Continued scenario-based EMS training to improve decision-making, patient care, and operational readiness.
- Central DuPage Hospital EMS Director completed a ride-along with District crews.
- New cot and ambulance have been shipped to Foster Coach for installation.
- Ambulance remains scheduled for delivery during the final quarter of the year.

Apparatus / Fleet:

Chief Keefe reported:

- Aerialscope repair work continues with Rennert's and Seagrave.

- Pump installation was scheduled for July 17, with minor body realignment to follow.
- District remains optimistic the Aerialscope may be returned by the end of August.
- Routine preventive maintenance and necessary repairs continue on the remainder of the fleet.

Buildings and Grounds:

Chief Keefe reported:

- All District generators were serviced and needed repairs completed.
- Annual sprinkler backflow testing is being scheduled.
- Kitchen hood vents at all stations were cleaned.
- Replacement rooftop unit for Station 6 will be presented under New Business next month.
- Proposal for a replacement water heater at Station 5 will also be presented.

Awards and Recognition:

Chief Keefe reported:

- District award presentations were postponed until August due to delays in receiving ribbons and pins.
- One member is expected to complete probation in August.
- Award recipients and the probationary member are tentatively planned to be recognized prior to the August Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

MISCELLANEOUS:

None

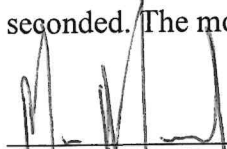
ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Attorney Joe Miller informed the Board of a class action lawsuit alleging collusion related to fire apparatus pricing.

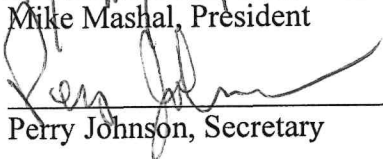
CLOSED SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Mashal made a motion to adjourn, which Trustee Cabrera seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



Mike Mashal, President



Perry Johnson, Secretary