



**QEM Fire Protection District
P O Box 183
Elsah, IL 62028**

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting Thursday, April 10, 2025

The Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President Cyrus Bunting

Trustees Present: President Cyrus Bunting, Vice President Ed Darabcsek, Secretary-Treasurer Alan Hauff, Trustee Dennis Blackorby, and Trustee Dan Drescher

Trustees Not Present: None

Firefighters Present: Chief Aaron Darr, Matt Schulte, Victoria Westfall, Bradley Isringhausen, and Captain Damon Eich

Also Present: Clerk-Auxiliary Heather Hanna

Public Comments:

Heather Hanna, Auxiliary President, reports that the fish fry on March 28th went well. Heather advised the Board that she would be resigning from the Auxiliary as of April 30th. Heather stated they have a meeting on April 18th, and it would be discussed then if someone else would be taking over the Auxiliary or if it would be disbanding. Heather is working on the website with Riverbender.

Reports and Approvals:

Minutes:

March 13, 2025, Minutes were reviewed. Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve the minutes for March 13, 2025, with no noted corrections. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Bank Statement and Budget Status:

Alan Hauff gave a report on fund balances: \$306,288.09 is available in the Money Market Account and \$130.63 is available in the Jersey State Bank Checking Account, and \$515,741.86 is available in CDs at Jerseyville Banking Center as of March 31st. The CDs will fund a future Pumper/Tanker purchase.

Under Revenue, QEM received \$1,036.91 in March 2025. The revenue received in March included \$281.20 for the hospital rent; \$483.76 for the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax; \$191.02 for Reimbursements; and \$80.93 for Interest Income. Revenue is budgeted for \$422,824.40 in FY 2024-25, which started in May 2024. To date, \$425,564.28 has been received toward the budgeted amount.

The budgeted expense target for the last eleven (11) months was 91.67% of the budget. Actual expenses for these last eleven (11) months were 33% of the budget. These lower-than-expected expenses are primarily attributable to the money budgeted for trucks that has not been spent.

Review of Bills:

The March checklist of bills paid totaled \$12,738.49. Notable bills included \$2,300.00 to Superior Seawalls, Docks & Dredging for the 2nd half of the Silt Mapping Survey; \$3.15 to Alan Hauff for mailing training logs to the Attorney; and \$83.21 to River County News for the publication of the audit and request for bids for the dredging of the lake.

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and the payment of the bills as presented. Ed Darabcsek seconded. Motion carried.

Major Correspondence:

Alan advised that the Jersey County Board has not sent the reappointment letters for Trustee Dan Drescher and Secretary/Treasurer Alan Hauff. He will call the County Board's office to check on the letters.

Review of Calls:

There were 45 calls in March 2025. 2 Natural vegetation fire, other; 3 Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire; 1 Grass fire; 25 Medical assist, assist EMS crew; 1 Motor vehicle accident with injuries; 1 Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other; 1 Power line down; 1 Assist invalid; 8 Dispatched & canceled en route; 1 Authorized controlled burning; and 1 Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO.

Alan asked Chief Darr if the firefighters needed any special training with a solar farm being installed on Route 3. Chief Darr stated that they should not need special training, but they would tour the facility once complete.

Old Business:

From the Trustees:

Lake Improvements-Docks/Dredging—The Board previously approved up to \$30,000.00 for dredging, but prevailing wage requirements required bidding the project. Alan has four companies interested in submitting bids. Superior Seawalls, Docks, & Dredging, Stutz Excavating, Inc., Brucekiss Marine Construction, and American Shoreline. Southern Illinois Builders Association is going to post about QEM accepting bids. Alan advised that bids will be opened at the May meeting. Superior Seawalls, Docks, & Dredging alerted Alan to the prevailing wage requirement and QEM will abide by the law. Alan stated that QEM would need to decide what to do with the 1,000 cubic yards of material that will be dredged from the lake. It will be placed on QEM property.

Update on 3rd Property Tax Distribution for 2023—Alan advised that QEM has received the third and final Property Tax Distribution for 2023 in the amount of \$24,774.51. Total amount collected for the year was \$362,664.05.

2025 Calendar & Checklist-Ed—

- ❖ #15. Appointed trustee(s) to be reappointed by appointing authority. —The letter was mailed to the Jersey County Board on 3/3/2025 and Alan has not received the appointment letters back.
- ❖ #16. File states of Economic Interest with County Clerk. —Done

From the Chief:

FDIC Conference—Chief Darr advised that the hotel and conference tickets cost more than originally thought they would. Chief Darr would like to have \$1,000.00 to cover food and fuel costs. Captain Austin Darr and Jonathan Prosser are leaving on 4/10 to attend the conference and are going to get information on trucks, extrication equipment, etc. Dan Drescher made a motion to approve \$1,000.00 additional to the FDIC conference. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

From the Trustees:

Lake Fish—Cy ordered 125 catfish and shiners from Farm & Home Supply, and they will need to be picked up on Saturday, April 13th. Alan and Dennis will pick up the fish and put them in the lake.

Fire Department Inquiries-Gerald New—Cy has had 2 fire departments call about Gerald New and why he was no longer with QEM Fire Protection District. Cy stated that he spoke honestly and truthfully, and he wanted to make the Board aware.

Adopt Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for FY 2025-2026—Alan stated that he received the tentative budget from Attorney Jim Sinclair, and it must be posted for 30 days. Alan stated everyone needs to review the budget and look at what they would like to see on the budget. The budget will be approved at the May 2025 meeting. Dan Drescher made a motion to Adopt the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for FY 2025-2026. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

From the Chief:

Narcotic Box for #4172—Chief Darr would like to purchase and install an actual safe on #4172 for the narcotics. The safe mounts and bolts into the truck. The cost for one narcotic box is \$1,250.00. Chief Darr is the only Paramedic in the department and is the only one who can give narcotics. Dan Drescher made a motion to approve \$1,500.00 for the purchase of a narcotic box. Ed Darabcsek seconded. Motion carried.

Bradley Isringhausen Probationary Status—Chief Darr advised that Bradley Isringhausen has completed his probationary status, and he would like to make him a firefighter. Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve Bradley Isringhausen for firefighter status. Ed Darabcssek seconded. Motion carried.

Vector Solutions—Chief Darr wants to table until May.

EMS Activity Reports:

None

Committee Reports:

None

Open Discussion and Preparation for Next Meeting:

Cy stated that he had heard that the firefighters would like a Blackstone Grill. Cy asked them to bring what they wanted to the May meeting.

Cy would like everyone to know that they have done a fantastic job this past year cleaning up the mess that was found.

Chief Darr advised that Overhead Door is getting him an estimate for new eyes for the doors at Station 2. He also had them disable the outdoor access to the bay doors at Station 2.

Heather stated that the hot water heater was not working at Station 2. Dan will call Desherlia Mechanical to look at it.

Adjournment:

Dan Drescher made a motion to adjourn. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.