



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

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting Thursday, June 12, 2025

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Cyrus Bunting
Trustees Present: President Cyrus Bunting, Vice President Ed Darabcsek, Secretary-Treasurer Alan Hauff, and Trustee Dan Drescher
Trustees Not Present: Trustee Dennis Blackorby
Firefighters Present: Captain Damon Eich, Ray Clothier, Matt Schulte, Steven Looney, and Victoria Westfall
Also Present: Clerk Heather Hanna

Public Comments:

Adopt Final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Alan advises there was a minor change in the calculation of the Equipment and Supplies.
Dan Drescher made a motion to Adopt the Final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for FY 2025-2026. Ed Darabcsek seconded. Motion carried.

Reports and Approvals:

Minutes:

May 8, 2025, Minutes were reviewed. Ed Darabcsek made a motion to approve the minutes for May 8, 2025, with no noted corrections. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Bank Statement and Budget Status:

Alan Hauff gave a report on fund balances: \$314,425.85 is available in the Money Market Account and \$919.21 is available in the Jersey State Bank Checking Account, and \$515,741.86 is available in CDs at Jerseyville Banking Center as of May 31st. The CDs will fund a future Pumper purchase.

Under Revenue, QEM received \$2,681.13 in May 2025. The revenue received in May included \$286.83 for the hospital rent; \$1,755.86 for the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax; \$357.33 in miscellaneous income; \$200.00 for the sale of the old generator; and \$81.11 for Interest Income. Revenue is budgeted for \$452,352.00 in FY 2025-26, which started in May. To date, \$2,681.13 has been received toward the budgeted amount.

The budgeted expense target for May was 8.33% of the budget. Actual expenses for May was 1% of the budget.

Review of Bills:

The May checklist of bills paid totaled \$54,839.19. Notable bills included \$44,600.00 to Stutz Excavating, Inc. for the dredging of the lake and placement of the docks; \$520.11 to Cook's Boats & Motors for maintenance on the boat; and \$949.99 to Life-Assist, Inc. for the drug safe for #4172.

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

Major Correspondence:

Alan received a letter from Attorney Jim Sinclair regarding the budget that was adopted.

Review of Calls:

There were 26 calls in May 2025. 13 Medical assist, assist EMS crew; 1 Motor vehicle accident with no injuries; 1 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG); 8 Dispatched & canceled en route; 2 False alarm or false call, other; and 1 Alarm system activation, no fire—unintentional.

Old Business:

From the Trustees:

Lake Update (Dredging, Docks)—The lake has been dredged. Two (2) of the docks have been installed. We received the incorrect floats for the 3rd dock. The correct floats are to arrive on Monday 6/16/25. Alan stated that QEM would be installing the floats, and he would need someone to lift the dock with the tractor. Alan asked the firefighters where they would like the 3rd dock to be placed. The decision was made to place the dock a couple of feet from the ramp.

2025 Calendar & Checklist—Ed reviewed the following items on the checklist:

22. Prepare Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Completed
 - A. Gather data on actual expenditures and revenues for prior year—Completed May 2025
 - B. Prepare Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Completed May 2025
 - C. Post Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for 30 days prior to adoption of final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Completed in May 2025
 - D. Publish notice of posting of Tentative Budget and of public hearing on Budget 30 days prior to hearing—Completed May 2025
 - E. Hold public hearing on Budget—Completed June 2025
 - F. Adopt Final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Completed June 2025
 - G. Prepare and include estimate of revenues certification with budget or separately—Attorney Jim Sinclair will do.
 - H. Publish Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Will be completed June 2025

I. File Budget and Appropriation Ordinance with County Clerk—Will be completed June 2025.

Audit Update—Alan is working with the Auditor and has everything together. Alan will be taking the documentation to the auditor on 6/13/25.

From the Chief:

Electric Eyes at Station 2—After discussion the Board would like Captain Eich to get a quote for the commercial eyes at Station 2 and for 2 bays at Station 1.

Emergency Phone Update—Heather advised that Grafton Technologies came and hooked the line up for the emergency phone and it is now working.

Blackstone Grill Update—Heather advised that the Blackstone Grill had been delivered and Chief Darr had put it together.

#4172 Drug Safe Update—Heather advised that the drug safe is in but has not been installed in #4172.

Vector Solutions Update—Heather advised that the issue with Vector Solutions not receiving payment had been resolved and Chief Darr advises they have access.

New Business

From the Trustees:

Lake Landscaping & Grass Seeding—Dan would like to take to closed session.

From the Chief:

Property Environmental Study—Heather advised that she received a request for records pertaining to a property at Barlett Rd. and Dow Rd. August Mack Environmental is conducting an environmental study and is requesting any information regarding any environmental spills/incidents at the property. After discussion Cy advised Heather to email August Mack Environmental back and state that we are unaware of any incidents on the property.

Website—Heather advised the Board that the website is almost completed. Heather reviewed the website with the Board and the following changes need to be made:

1. On the About section, under the picture—after annexation “of the Mississippi Township” into its district
2. On the About section—Need to add line that in “2023 the resource hospital changed to St. Anthony’s Hospital”
3. About section, 4th paragraph under picture—Change “Quarry Township” to “Quarry Township”
4. About section, last paragraph—Add “Multiple volunteer firefighters”
5. I need to add sections for Minutes, Agendas, and Budget Ordinance.

6. The Board would like to see more training pictures on the site.

Air Conditioner Station 2—Heather advised that we had discussed last year putting a window unit in at Station 2. The firefighters have moved their workout equipment to Station 2 and are utilizing the office area. Heather provided the Board with 3 choices. Cy stated he was going to go see if he could get the central air to work before purchasing. We also need to check if there is a 220 outlet in the office.

Alan Hauff made a motion to approve \$650.00 for the purchase of an air conditioner for Station 2. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Boat Maintenance—Firefighter Matt Schulte took the boat to Cook's Boat & Motors for maintenance. They performed the maintenance and stated that they did not find anything wrong with the boat. They did advise that the wire for the battery disconnect should be bigger than the wire going to the starter. Cook's Boat & Motors recommended routine maintenance to be performed every three (3) years.

Rope and Rigging—Captain Eich advised that he originally had a quote to purchase rope and rigging for \$12,500.00, but he is going to get a new quote.

Jersey County Parade Candy—Heather advised that the Jersey County Parade is coming up on July 6th and she would like \$250.00 to purchase candy for the parade.

Dan Drescher made a motion to approve \$250.00 for the purchase of Parade candy. Alan Hauff seconded. Motion carried.

Classroom Rental—Firefighter Victoria Westfall asked if we could open the classroom up for public rental. Cy stated no, it is a bad precedence. Dan stated that we really can't control access to the bays and then it becomes a liability.

EMS Activity Reports:

None

Committee Reports:

None

Open Discussion and Preparation for Next Meeting:

Captain Eich advised that he took #4115 to a structure fire on 6/4/25 and the brakes did not work when he was going down Clifton Terrace. There was no traffic, and he was able to safely slow down. After that incident the brakes seemed to work fine when he drove back to the station. The Board would like Captain Eich to get the brakes checked out.

Firefighter Victoria Westfall is working on Fire Camp. She has several female firefighters helping and she wants to purchase shirts for instructors. She has reached out to FLUID and they are willing to supply water and sponsor the camp. Fire Camp will be Friday afternoon, Saturday

and Sunday. Victoria needs to look at food for the camp. Victoria would like to have a meeting with Chief Keith Norman and Shawn Bloemker to see if anyone from their departments would like to help with Fire Camp.

Adjournment:

Ed Darabcsek made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Dan Drescher made a motion to adjourn. Ed Darabcsek seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.