



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

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting Thursday, October 9, 2025-
CORRECTED**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Cyrus Bunting
Trustees Present: President Cyrus Bunting, Vice President Ed Darabcssek, Secretary-Treasurer Alan Hauff, Trustee Dennis Blackorby, and Trustee Dan Drescher
Trustees Not Present: None
Firefighters Present: Chief Aaron Darr, Matt Schulte, and Jayden Miller
Also Present: Clerk Heather Hanna, Attorney Jason Johnson, and Auditor Greg Bamert

Public Comments:

Greg Bamert, Auditor for Hughes, Cameron & Co., LLC., reviewed the 2024 audit results. Greg does not have any concerns with the audit. Revenue and expenses looked good and are comparable to 2023, cash and CD balances have had a 21% increase. Greg stated there is enough revenue to operate for about 32 months without any income. Alan commented that he was pleased with the auditor's comments about a good audit. Cy ran across a YouTube video from Josh Hawley on apparatus. The bigger companies are buying the small companies, and the costs have quadrupled along with time. Alan advised the CDs are collecting \$15,000.00 a year in interest.

Reports and Approvals:

Minutes:

September 11, 2025, Minutes were reviewed. Dan Drescher made a motion to approve the minutes for September 11, 2025, with no noted corrections. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Bank Statement and Budget Status:

Alan Hauff gave a report on fund balances: \$458,344.80 is available in the Money Market Account and \$2,099.04 is available in the Jersey State Bank Checking Account, and \$515,741.86 is available in CDs at Jerseyville Banking Center as of September 30th. The CDs will fund a future Pumper purchase.

Under Revenue, QEM received \$7,520.94 in September 2025. The revenue received in September included \$286.83 for the hospital rent; \$50.00 in Miscellaneous Income for Fire Report Requests; \$7,042.00 in Fundraising Income from the Fish Fry; \$27.00 in Donation and Reimbursement Income; and \$115.11 for Interest Income. Revenue is budgeted for \$452,352.00

in FY 2025-26, which started in May. To date, \$245,236.04 has been received toward the budgeted amount.

The budgeted expense target for September was 41.65% of the budget. Actual expenses for September were 10.71% of the budget.

Review of Bills:

The September checklist of bills paid totaled \$32,897.77. Notable bills included \$16,764.53 to Roco Rescue, Inc. for the rope and rigging equipment; \$2,160.00 to Grafton Materials for leveling the dirt, from the lake dredging project; and \$805.00 to Jersey Community Hospital for physicals.

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

Major Correspondence:

Alan advised that the Worker's Compensation Policy has been renewed and reminded Chief Darr that all injuries need to be reported to the Insurance Company, Liberty Mutual, immediately.

Review of Calls:

There were 35 calls in September 2025. 1 Building Fire; 1 Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire; 1 Rescue, EMS incident, other; 22 Medical assist, assist EMS crew; 1 Emergency medical service incident, other; 2 Motor vehicle accident with injuries; 1 Motor vehicle accident with no injuries; 5 Dispatched & canceled en route; 1 CO detector activation due to malfunction. Chief Darr advised that the building fire was a house fire on Springfield St. in Grafton. They were able to save a couple of bedrooms. The fire was deemed electrical. The brush fire was a pile that a construction company left burning. The CO detector was a bad detector.

Old Business:

From the Trustees:

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

36. Verify annual review of and compliance with IDOL mandated policies:
 - A. Fire Dept. Training/HazMat Training (29 C.F.R. 1910.156 & 1910.120)—Completed.
 - E. Facilities (29 C.F.R. 1910)—This means exit plans and emergency plans.
37. Review District and Department Policies with Fire Officers—Working to complete.
38. Verify that all firefighters have completed line of duty death beneficiary designation documents—Working to complete.
39. If applicable as a secondary employer of a career firefighter, submit 40 ILCS 5/4-110.2 (SB37) report to primary employers of injury or exposure—Working to complete.

Drone—Ed advised that Karl has his own business and is wanting to do a class. Ed will also investigate purchasing a drone.

From the Chief:

Grass Seeding Update—Grass seed has been purchased but has not been put out.

Fish Fry Update—Chief Darr turned in the last donation check that was received. The firefighters are talking about new ideas.

Water Line Repair Update—Chief Darr advised that he has been unable to locate the leak as it has stopped leaking. He thinks it might be the valve seeping.

Gasoline Ventilation Update—Chief Darr advised that Banner has ordered the fan but is unsure of the time frame for delivery.

New Business

From the Trustees:

None

From the Chief:

New Hires—Andrew Clark-Table until November. Jayden Miller lives in district and is a project manager for an HVAC company.

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve Jayden Miller for the roster. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Pre-K Drinks and Cookies—Chief Darr advised that we need to purchase cookies and drinks for the Pre-K visit to the fire station.

Ed Darabcsek made a motion to approve \$150.00 for the purchase of cookies and drinks. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Halloween Candy Purchase—Chief Darr advised that the firefighters are going to a trunk or treat at the Grafton School this year and need to purchase candy. Chief Darr is going to donate \$100.00 for candy.

Ed Darabcsek made a motion to approve \$200.00 for the purchase of candy. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Commercial Refrigerator—Chief Darr wants to purchase a commercial refrigerator and wants a Tru Manufacturing refrigerator.

Dan Drescher made a motion to approve \$6,000.00 for the purchase of a commercial refrigerator. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Backstoppers Trivia Fundraiser—Chief Darr advised that Backstoppers cancelled their steak dinner fundraiser. They are now going to do a Trivia Fundraiser on December 13th, and they are asking all departments to sponsor a table for \$125.00. They will also be doing the raffle they

were going to have at the steak dinner fundraiser. QEM has purchased a fire pit, and Ed donated a couple of bottles of alcohol.

Ed Darabcsek made a motion to approve \$125.00 to sponsor a table. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Firefighter Helmet Purchase—Chief Darr would like to order 5 new helmets as our need to be replaced. He can get 5 new helmets from Banner for \$2000.00.

Ed Darabcsek made a motion approve \$2,000.00 for the purchase of 5 helmets. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

EMS Activity Reports:

None

Committee Reports:

None

Open Discussion and Preparation for Next Meeting:

Chief Darr advised that he ordered new turnout gear for Art Roemer and Cameron Mank. It will take three (3) months for the gear to come in.

Alan has gotten 3 phone calls for the fire alarms going off at the fire house. Heather to check with Tech Electronics to see who they have contacts for and to see about checking the alarm system if they continue to activate.

Chief Darr advised that he wants to give checks out before Black Friday. Heather to see if we can move the Christmas Dinner to December 13th so that Chief Darr will be able to attend.

Adjournment:

Ed Darabcsek made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Dan Drescher made a motion to adjourn. Ed Darabcsek seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.