



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

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting Thursday, March 12, 2026

The Meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Vice President Ed Darabcsek

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

Trustees Not Present: None

Firefighters Present: Chief Aaron Darr, Captain Austin Darr, Ryan Motley, Victoria Westfall, Steven Looney, and Matt Schulte

Also Present: Grafton Mayor Mike Morrow and Clerk Heather Hanna

Public Comments:

Grafton Mayor Mike Morrow spoke about the Dedication for the National Military Monument. The dedication will be on June 6th at 9:30 a.m. at the Grafton Visitors Center. He would like QEM Firefighters to participate in the Honor Guard. Mayor Morrow invited QEM to purchase a table for dinner and dance at 5:00 p.m. on June 6th and he would donate four (4) tickets. Anyone that attends the dinner and dance is encouraged to wear 1940's attire. A table seats ten (10) people and each ticket costs \$108.00.

Dan Drescher made a motion to approve the purchase of ten (10) tickets. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Reports and Approvals:

Minutes:

February 12, 2026, Minutes were reviewed. Correction on page one (1), last paragraph should read "The budgeted expense target for May to January was 74.97% of the budget." Ed Darabcsek made a motion to approve the minutes for February 12, 2026, with noted corrections that were clerical errors. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Bank Statement and Budget Status:

Alan Hauff gave a report on fund balances: \$375,941.88 is available in the Money Market Account and \$2082.77 is available in the Jersey State Bank Checking Account, and \$631,729.82 is available in CDs at Jerseyville Banking Center as of February 28th. The CDs will fund a future Pumper purchase.

Under Revenue, QEM received \$676.21 in February 2026. The revenue received in February 2026 included \$286.83 for the hospital rent; \$300.00 for Fire Tower Rental; \$89.38 in Interest

Income. Revenue is budgeted for \$452,352.00 in FY 2025-26, which started in May. To date, \$479,723.25 has been received toward the budgeted amount.

The budgeted expense target for May through February was 83.3% of the budget. Actual expenses for February were 30.48% of the budget.

Review of Bills:

The May checklist of bills paid totaled \$29,796.67. Notable bills included \$5,433.78 to Senger's Gas Company for two (2) invoices; and \$14,454.25 to Banner Fire EQT.

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

Major Correspondence:

Review of Calls:

There were 33 calls for February 2026. 2 Breathing problems; 2 Cancelled; 4 Chest pain (non-trauma); 1 Chimney Fire; 2 Convulsions/seizures; 5 Fall; 1 Hemorrhage/laceration; 2 Lift assist; 1 Medical alarm; 1 Motor vehicle collision; 1 Motor vehicle collision extrication/entrapment; 1 No appropriate choice (medical response); 1 Other alarm; 1 Other outside fire; 3 Sick case; 2 Structural involvement; 1 Vegetation/grass fire; 1 Vehicle fire-passenger; and 1 Well person check.

Per Chief Darr Principia and Chautauqua will be doing a controlled burn soon.

Old Business:

From the Trustees:

Freedom of Information Act—The Freedom of Information Act has been updated. Heather is to work on publishing it on the website and posting at the Station.

Superior, Seawalls, Docks and Dredging—Alan advised that Jim Sinclair sent a letter to Superior, Seawalls, Docks and Dredging requesting a refund for the floats and hardware that were returned. Alan has emailed and called without getting a response for the past six (6) months. Alan has now put this in the hands of Jim Sinclair. If we were to file a lawsuit it would need to be in their county and that would cost more than the refund, we requested. If they do not respond to Jim's letter, we will be out \$1,977.50.

2026 Calendar & Checklist—Ed reviewed the following:

10. File OSHA 300A Report, if required—Per Heather this has been completed.

11. Submit names for appointment or reappointment of appointed trustees whose terms expire in 2026 (70 ILCS 705/4)—Per Alan the letter is being sent as Ed Darabcssek is due for reappointment.

From the Chief:

New Drop Tank for #4161 Update—Chief Darr advised that he ordered the higher dollar drop tank and is unsure when we will receive it as everything is made to order.

New Adapter for #4161 Update—Chief Darr advised that he ordered the adapter and is unsure when we will receive it as everything is made to order.

Digital Calendar Update—Chief Darr advised that the digital calendar is in and set up in the radio room.

Pavilion for Cy Update—Chief Darr advised he is waiting for a quote from Brett at Riverbend Patriots. When he spoke with Brett it was advised that we go with a metal pavilion due to the wind.

New Business

From the Trustees:

Credit Card—Heather asked about cancelling Cy Bunting's credit card. After discussion, the Board of Trustees agreed to cancel Cy's credit card and have Heather get a credit card.

Unemployment Claim—Heather wanted to make the Board aware that QEM Fire Protection District received an unemployment claim. Heather created a response to the unemployment claim and wanted the Board to see what will be sent if we receive any more claims. This claim was a fraudulent claim.

From the Chief:

Lift Vests—Chief Darr advised that he purchased two (2) new life vests from Banner that were on sale. He paid \$230.00 for two (2) of them. These life vests are high vis and used for swift water. He would like to purchase two (2) more for \$320.00 each.

Dan Drescher made a motion to approve \$640.00 for the purchase of two (2) life vests. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Hose Testing—Chief Darr advised that hose testing will be performed on March 13th starting at 8:00 a.m. in Grafton on Water St.

Overhead Door Maintenance and Repair—Chief Darr wants to move the routine maintenance check up from April due to Bay Door eight (8) needing to be repaired.

Pumper/Tanker—Banner brought a demo pumper/tanker to the fire station for the Board of Trustees to view. The pumper/tanker that was brought costs \$440,000.00 and Chief Darr would like modifications which will increase the cost to around \$500,000.00. Banner has talked to Chief Darr and stated that we can avoid getting three (3) bids with a contract. Banner stated that Jim Sinclair has made contracts for purchases for them before. Alan stated that Jim is the one who does the programs at conferences and in his programs, he states you need three (3) bids.

Chief Darr would like to purchase the pumper/tanker this year as the def system will be changing next year and will significantly increase the cost of new fire trucks. Alan will contact Jim Sinclair about a contract.

Chief Darr would eventually like to replace #4171 with a flat bed and pull the pump unit out of #4171 and put it on the new flat bed and build the brush truck the way we want it.

EMS Activity Reports:

None

Committee Reports:

None

Open Discussion and Preparation for Next Meeting:

Chief Darr advised that Busch Refrigeration came and performed the spring maintenance and some repairs need to be made. The air conditioner units were all good.

Dan Drescher approved \$797.58 for repairs. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Alan and Ed stated everyone needs to be thinking of a name for a new trustee to replace the passing of Cy Bunting.

Adjournment:

Dan Drescher made a motion to adjourn. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.