



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

**Minutes of the Special Board of Trustees Meeting Thursday, June 11, 2026
CORRECTED**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Ed Darabscek

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

Trustees Not Present: None

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

Also Present: Clerk Heather Hanna and Matt Tuey

Public Comments:

Reports and Approvals:

Minutes:

May 14, 2026, Minutes were reviewed. Correction on page 1, second line from the bottom of the page. "Actual expenses for April" should be "Actual expenses for the fiscal year."

May 28, 2026, Special Board of Trustees Minutes were reviewed. Correction to "add the motion to re-open regular meeting." Dan Drescher made a motion to approve the minutes for May 14, 2026, and May 28, 2026, with the noted corrections. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Bank Statement and Budget Status:

Alan Hauff gave a report on fund balances: \$317,266.83 is available in the Money Market Account and \$2,472.33 is available in the Jersey State Bank Checking Account, and \$631,729.82 is available in CDs at Jerseyville Banking Center as of May 31st. The CDs will fund a future Pumper purchase.

Under Revenue, QEM received \$3,913.93 in May 2026. The revenue received in May included \$292.56 for the hospital rent; \$1,613.36 for Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax; \$25.00 under Farm Rent Income should be under Miscellaneous Income for a fire report; \$50.00 for Miscellaneous Income for fire reports; \$600.00 for fire tower rental income; \$1,250.00 for Donations from the Gary Krueger Memorial; and \$83.01 for Interest Income. Revenue is budgeted for \$470,460.72 in FY 2026-27, which started in May. To date, \$3,913.93 has been received toward the budgeted amount.

The budgeted expense target for May was 8.33% of the budget. Actual expenses for May were 1.52% of the budget.

Review of Bills:

The May checklist of bills paid totaled \$14,843.13. Notable bills included \$15.60 to Alan Hauff for the thank you notes for the donations that were received; \$897.56 to Hartman Turf & Tractor for maintenance on the Kioti.

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:

Alan Hauff advised that he received the list of needed items from our auditor, Hughes, Cameron & Company LLC.

Alan Hauff advised that we received a \$100.00 donation from David and June Pfiefer in Memory of Cyrus Bunting.

Review of Calls:

There were 34 calls in May 2026. 1 Breathing problems; 1 Cancelled; 1 Cardiac arrest; 1 Chest pain (non-trauma); 2 Convulsions/seizures; 2 Diabetic problems; 1 Electrical power line down/arching/malfunction; 1 Nausea/vomiting; 1 No appropriate choice (medical response); 1 No incident found upon arrival/location error; 1 Powered mobility device fire; 5 Sick case; Smoke investigation; 1 Standby request (medical); 1 Unconscious victim; 2 Unknown problem (medical).

Old Business:

From the Trustees:

2026 Calendar & Checklist—Ed reviewed the following from the Checklist:

- 18. Prepare Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance (50 ILCS 705/166.05)—Completed**
 - A. Gather data on actual expenditures and revenues for prior year—Completed**
 - B. Prepare Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Completed**
 - C. Post Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for 30 days prior to adoption of final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Completed**
 - D. Publish notice of posting of Tentative Budget and of public hearing on Budget 30 Days prior to hearing—Completed**
 - E. Hold public hearing on Budget—Scheduled for July 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**
 - F. Adopt Final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Scheduled for July 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**
 - G. Prepare and include estimate of revenues certification with budget or separately (35 ILCS 200/18-50)—Completed**
 - H. Publish Budget and Appropriation Ordinance—Will be completed after public hearing.**

I. File Budget and Appropriation Ordinance with County Clerk(s) (35 ILCS 205/162)
Clerk's Job Description—The Board of Trustees were provided with the original job description for the clerk's position and an updated job description for the clerk's position. Ed Darabscek would like everyone to review and bring suggestions and to the next meeting. Dan Drescher would like to discuss salary in a closed session.

From the Chief:

Tractor Hood Update—Chief Darr advised that the hood was replaced and it was covered under warranty. Chief Darr asked Heather to pick up a set of blades for a 60-inch deck.

New Business

From the Trustees:

Change of Meeting Date—Ed Darabscek advised that he will be teaching a class starting in August on Thursday nights. He would like to change the Board of Trustees' Meetings to the second Wednesday of the month.

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to move the Board of Trustees Meetings to the second Wednesday of the month starting in August 2026. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

From the Chief:

LCCC Company Fire Officer Class for Captain Damon Eich—Captain Damon Eich is wanting to take the Fire Officer's Class at LCCC this fall. The total cost for the class and book is \$1,629.00. Captain Eich needs the check before August 11th.

Dan Drescher made a motion to approve \$1,629.00 to LCCC for Captain Damon Eich to take the Fire Officer's Class. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Jersey County Parade Candy—Chief Darr would like \$300.00 to purchase candy for the Jersey County Parade.

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve \$300.00 to purchase candy for the Jersey County Parade. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Extrication Tool—Chief Darr would like to purchase an extra extrication tool for \$15,000.00 to go with the Combi tool that we will be purchasing with the Small Equipment Grant.

Dan Drescher made a motion to approve \$15,000.00 for the purchase of an extra extrication tool. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Commercial Refrigerator—Chief Darr advised that he was approved to purchase a commercial refrigerator last year but put it off due to needing to purchase an AC unit and two (2) furnaces. He advised the Board that he is moving forward with the purchase to be able to have it before the Fish Fry in September.

Brush Truck #4172—Captain Damon Eich is working with Marrow Brothers in Greenfield to get duals put on brush truck #4172. He is waiting for a quote and did not receive it before the meeting. He would like to table until July.

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve \$5,000.00 to have duals put on Brush Truck #4172. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

FOAMfrat—Chief Darr would like to table.

Pavilion—Chief Darr advised that we received the cost for the Pavilion. For a 40 x 40 all steel pavilion and concrete the cost would be \$35,292.49. Alan Hauff advised that building a pavilion would cause more issues with trespassing and due to the concrete costing over \$20,000.00 we must go out for bids. Alan is going to check with Attorney Jim Sinclair to see if we must go out for bids due to the cost is only for materials. Heather to call Brett with Riverbend Patriots to see if the cost of concrete was an error.

IgniteHER Program—Firefighter Victoria Westfall had talked last month about Sponsorships for the Ignite HER Program, but there is no line item on the budget for her to receive money. The Sponsorships are used for specific purchases. Alan advised that the Sponsorships are like Grants and she does need a line item. Victoria handed out the flyer that she got approved from Julie's Graphics. The IgniteHER Program will go live next week. The Board advised that she is good to start publishing the program.

Promotion—Chief Darr would like to promote Ryan Motley from Probationary Firefighter to Firefighter.

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve the promotion of Ryan Motley to Firefighter. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

New Hire—Chief Darr advised that he has a new hire he would like to add to the roster. Chelsey Castleberry lives in Jerseyville and is a CNA. She is interested in firefighting and would like to get experience in trauma.

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve Chelsey Castleberry to the roster as Probationary Firefighter. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

EMS Activity Reports:

None

Committee Reports:

None

Open Discussion and Preparation for Next Meeting:

Adjournment:

Dan Drescher made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried. Regular Session adjourned at 6:57 p.m. and went into Executive Session.

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

The Regular Session resumed at 8:10 p.m.

Dan Drescher made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 8:10 p.m. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.