



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

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting Thursday, May 14, 2026—
CORRECTED**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Vice President Ed Darabcssek and immediately adjourned to Executive Session with attorney Jason Johnson. The regular session resumed at 7:15 p.m.

Trustees Present: 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, Ryan Motley, and Victoria Westfall

Also Present: Clerk Heather Hanna and Attorney Jason Johnson

Public Comments:

Reports and Approvals:

Minutes:

April 9, 2026, Minutes were reviewed. Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve the minutes for April 9, 2026, with no noted corrections. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Bank Statement and Budget Status:

Alan Hauff gave a report on fund balances: \$328,829.62 is available in the Money Market Account and \$2,781.95 is available in the Jersey State Bank Checking Account, and \$631,729.82 is available in CDs at Jerseyville Banking Center as of April 30th. The CDs will fund a future Pumper purchase.

Under Revenue, QEM received \$3,532.00 in April 2026. The revenue received in April included \$292.56+ for the hospital rent; \$655.79 for the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax; \$2,200.00 for Farm Rent; \$300.00 for Fire Tower Rental; and \$83.65 for Interest Income. Revenue is budgeted for \$452,352.00 in FY 2025-26, which started in May. To date, \$485,554.04 has been received toward the budgeted amount.

The budgeted expense target for April was 100% of the budget. April is the end of the fiscal year. Actual expenses for **the fiscal year** were 35.62% of the budget. The FY 24-25 budget included a fire truck that was not purchased.

Review of Bills:

The May checklist of bills paid totaled \$12,706.65. Notable bills included \$1,553.03 to Mike's Inc. for work on #4115.

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:

None

Review of Calls:

There were 30 calls for April 2026. 2 Abdominal pain/problems; 1 Altered mental status; 1 cancelled; 3 Chest pain (non-trauma); 1 Diabetic problems; 1 Dumpster/other outdoor container fire; 9 Fall; 1 Lift Assist; 1 Motor vehicle collision; 1 Motor vehicle collision extrication/entrapment; 1 Other traumatic injury; 2 Sick case; 1 Stab/penetrating trauma; 1 Structural involvement; 3 Unconscious victim; and 1 Unknown problem (medical)

Old Business:

From the Trustees:

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

12. Appointed trustee(s) to be reappointed by appointing authority (70 ILCS 705/4). — Completed

13. File statements of Economic Interest with County Clerk (5 ILCS 420/4A-105). — Completed

14. Newly appointed and reappointed trustees take office (70 ILCS 705/4). —Completed

16. Reorganize Board of Trustees following appointment or election of trustee(s) by electing officers (70 ILCS 705/6). —Completed.

From the Chief:

Tractor Hood Update—The tractor will be going to Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners on Tuesday, May 19th, to have the hood replaced. We will not know if the hood is covered under warranty until the work is completed.

New Business

From the Trustees:

Reorganization of Board of Trustees—Reorganization as follows:

Ed Darabcsek—President

Dennis Blackorby—Vice President

Alan Hauff—Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Drescher—Trustee

Matt Tuey Interview—Matt Tuey presented to the Board of Trustees for an interview to become a Trustee to replace Cy Bunting. Matt lives in Quarry Township and he is the Quarry

Township Road Commissioner. Alan explained the process of getting approval from the Jersey County Board and we would not receive approval letter from the Jersey County Board before the June meeting. The first official meeting for Matt would be July.

Dan Drescher made a motion to approve Matt Tuey as Trustee of the QEM Fire Protection District Board of Trustees. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Adopt IFAPD Proxy Resolution for Annual Meeting of the Membership—Alan Hauff presented the Board with a resolution authorizing a Proxy for the election of officers at the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts 2026 Annual Membership Meeting. Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing a Proxy with all Board members signing it. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Establish FY 2026-2027 Budget—Alan Hauff distributed a budget worksheet containing the last three (3) years of revenue and expenditures for the Board's consideration in preparing the FY2026-27 Annual Budget. The Board reviewed each line item of the FY2026-27 budget. The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for July 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Approve Hughes, Cameron & Company, Inc., as auditors for FY25-26—Alan Hauff advised that Hughes, Cameron & Co. require a signed engagement letter for our next audit. Ed Darabcsek signed the engagement letter for FY25-26. Dan Drescher made a motion to approve Hughes, Cameron & Company, Inc as auditors for FY25-26. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

New Computer for Board Office—Heather Hanna, Clerk, asked the Board for \$1,000.00 to purchase a new computer for the Board Office as she has been having issues with the current computer.

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to approve \$1,000.00 for the purchase of a new computer for the Board's Office. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk's Job Description—Ed would like to decide what Heather is doing in the clerk position and have it on file. Heather did give Ed some description examples and they will be sent to Board members for review.

From the Chief:

New Low Water Strainer—Chief Darr advised that the low water strainer broke on a fire call and he needs to replace it. The new low water strainer costs \$2,000.00 and it will be placed on #4112.

Dan Drescher made a motion to approve \$2,000.00 for a new low water strainer. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

Engine #4115—Chief Darr advised that #4115 went to Mike's to look at the motor to see if it could be fixed. Mikes advised that they would not work on #4115. Everything is rusted and they believe they would break more than they could fix, even if they could get parts for it. The idler pulley needed to be replaced, but Mikes could not find a replacement. They were able to

replace the bearings. The injection pump on the top of the motor has a leak and the fuel drains out cause it not to start. You must reprime with ether, and it will start.

Brush Truck #4173—Chief Darr advised #4173 is at Mikes for preventative maintenance. Chief Darr asked Mikes to go through #4173 and see if anything else needs to be done. Mikes called and the brakes had to be replaced, and the fuel tank is bad, but Mikes found a replacement on eBay.

Engine #4111—Chief Darr sent #4111 in for the AC not working, fix whatever is leaking from the ceiling, antifreeze leak, generator not starting, the air leak in the charging system for the air brakes, and preventative maintenance.

New Pumper/Tanker—Chief Darr provided a sample Sales Contract from Banner. Banner has a demo coming in June and Chief Darr would like to get this one when they get it in but wants to look at it before he makes a final decision.

Ignite HER Program—Alan Hauff advised that the insurance company is fine with the Sexual Abuse Policy that we have. Firefighter Victoria Westfall wants to get sponsors for the Ignite HER Program. There will be different levels of sponsorship. All the money from sponsorship will go to lunches and gear. Banner is looking to donate boots that they can no longer sell.

EMS Activity Reports:

None

Committee Reports:

None

Open Discussion and Preparation for Next Meeting:

Ed Darabcsek had a lady from the Cy Bunting Celebration of Life want to donate \$5,000.00 for the scholarship that is being created in Cy Bunting's memory.

Adjournment:

Dennis Blackorby made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Dan Drescher seconded. Motion carried. Regular Session adjourned at 6:06 p.m. and went into Executive Session with attorney Jason Johnson.

Dan Drescher made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.

The Regular Session resumed at 7:15 p.m.

Dan Drescher made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 9:00 p.m. Dennis Blackorby seconded. Motion carried.