

Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District
200 East Route 38
Elburn, IL. 60119
Office: 630-365-6855 Fax: 630-448-1254

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DISTRICT TRUSTEE MEETING
04/14/2026

DATE: April 14th, 2026 **TIME:** 4:30 PM

TO: President & Trustees

FROM: Pamela Hall, HR Operations Manager

Trustee T. Reynolds called the Trustee Meeting to order at 4:30 pm with the following persons in attendance:

T. Reynolds	L. Engberg	M. Anderson	A. Lee	M. Huneke	M. Hanson
P. Hall	T. Hall	E. Daffron	L. Schopp	W. Strom	L. Strom
J. Armesy (Arrival at 4:35 pm)		S. Flaherty (Arrival at 4:36 pm)			

Battalion Chief T. Hall led the Board of Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

1) Headwaters Academy

- Mr. Warren E. Strom & Mr. Lucas W. Strom addressed the Board of Trustees to request a modification of fire code requirement. They would like to eliminate the sprinkler system for a home, 7N411 Route 47, Elburn, IL, to be used as a Montessori-style school named Headwaters Academy.
- Mr. W. Strom noted that the home has been in the family for 110 years, is currently vacant, and is planned to be preserved through educational use. He also stated that Headwaters Academy currently enrolls 18 students and operates from 8 AM to 4 PM, minimizing noise concerns for neighbors.
- A formal appeal letter from the school is included in the board packet for consideration at the next meeting scheduled for May 12th, 2026.

President's Report:

- No report

Attorney Report:

- Attorney S. Flaherty provided a legislative report to the Board of Trustees. He reviewed several House and Senate bills.
- House Bill 2851 concerns fireworks regulation and introduces potential risks due to state involvement in sales fees.
- House Bill 4292 would permit fire districts to transfer funds from the ambulance fund to other funds once annually.
- House Bill 4601 addresses road access issues for fire stations, proposing OSFM as a tiebreaker in disputes.
- Senate Bill 2931 aims to exempt fire districts from the decennial committee process, which is generally unpopular.
- Senate Bill 3288 addresses ambulance billing and mutual aid billing concerns, but is currently stalled in the legislative process.

Chief M. Huneke Comments:

a) Personnel Matters

- Chief M. Huneke informed the Board of Trustees that Jeremiah O'Brien has accepted a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic position starting May 1st, 2026 to fill vacancies in the fire department.

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- Chief M. Huneke presented a draft budget and total compensation report to the Board of Trustees for review. Copies have been placed on file.
- Chief M. Huneke informed the Board of Trustees that there are ongoing legal proceedings for the Mulvihill case with updates expected by the end of May or June 2026.
- Tom Freeman introduced himself as the incoming Fire Marshal, replacing Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp, and expressed enthusiasm for working with the team. The Chiefs acknowledged the importance of Tom's experience and the potential for mentorship and development within the organization.

Deputy Chief M. Hanson Comments:

a) Incident Reporting

- Deputy Chief M. Hanson reviewed the incident report with the Board of Trustees. A copy has been placed on file.
- Deputy Chief M. Hanson also informed the Board of Trustees that the department's call response numbers remain steady, with 26% of the time handling multiple calls simultaneously.
- Deputy Chief Hanson noted that training is ongoing with the new tower ladder, and the previous tower has been taken out of service. The tender has been relocated from Station 2, improving operational efficiency.

b) Employee Recognition

- Deputy Chief M. Hanson stated that the honor guard will be recognized at next month's meeting due to scheduling conflicts with Lieutenant Ferguson. He noted that district and personnel provided significant support to the DeKalb Fire Department due to the death of one of their Firefighter/Paramedic, including sending an engine for coverage and assisting with the funeral.

Battalion Chiefs Comments:

a) Support Services

b) Training & Operations

c) EMS & Safety updates

- Battalion Chief T. Hall informed the Board of Trustees that crews are participating in training for the tower ladder truck. He also noted that the BOF Academy is going well.

Fire Marshal Comments:

a) Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Bureau

i. Project Status (Plan Reviews, Inspections, Etc.)

ii. Public Education (Classes, Special Events, Etc.)

- Fire Marshal L. Schopp reviewed the CRR Bureau report with the Board of Trustees. A copy has been placed on file.
- Fire Marshal L. Schopp informed the Board of Trustees that First Aid & Stop the Bleed training was conducted at Kaneland High School in collaboration with Kaneville Fire Department.
- Fire Marshal L. Schopp also noted that the department accepted another fire buddy through Project Fire Buddies.
- Fire Marshal L. Schopp provided project status updates on open projects noting that Scooby's Hot Dog project has been scrapped due to permit issues. The Dunkin' Donuts project remains on hold. New solar farms are being proposed in the area, with one planned for the corner of Fabian and Main Street Road.
- Fire Marshal L. Schopp stated that the village has expedited the replacement of the water main on North Street to the next fiscal year, marking a significant improvement from previous timelines.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Consider any motions to remove any item from the consent agenda and place that item under the new business or old business portion of the meeting as appropriate.

Motion to approve consent agenda items #1 through #4

- 1) Approve District Trustee Minutes for March 10th, 2026
- 2) Approve Treasurers Report for March 2026
- 3) Approve the March bills in the amount of \$409,551.32
- 4) Approve Payroll Report for March 2026

M. Anderson made a motion to approve consent agenda items #1 through #4. A. Lee seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved with a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote

5 Ayes
0 Nays
0 Absent

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) Foreign Fire Insurance Board Report
 - No report
- 2) Pension Board Report
 - Chief M. Huneke informed that Board of Trustees that pension board meeting and G. Algrim divestiture hearing to refund his pension contributions are scheduled for April 20th, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Sugar Grove Annexation
 - No update
- 2) LaFox Development
 - a) Attorney IGA Update and discussion
 - i. Motion to approve intergovernmental agreement
 - Chief M. Huneke stated that a letter was sent to the developer in regards to the property donation.
 - Chief M. Huneke stated that Deputy Chief M. Hanson and Trustee T. Reynolds attending the TIF Hearing.

Any old business matters

- Chief M. Huneke informed the Board of Trustees that the district is considering terminating its relationship with EMS|MC due to ongoing billing issues. Options with PSI Billing are being explored, as PSI Billing has demonstrated a better understanding of departmental needs and has a plan to improve customer service and billing strategies.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Any other new business matters or consideration of items removed from the consent agenda
 - The tower push-in ceremony is scheduled for May 8th, 2026 with the new truck starting service on May 9th, 2026.

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- The state of the department presentation will occur on May 20th, 2026 outlining the budget and future plans for the organization.

Good of the Organization:

- No comment

At 5:20 pm, M. Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Armesy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela C. Hall, HR Operations Manager
Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District

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