

SOUTH ELGIN AND COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICIAL RECORD

DATE: January 13, 2026

The regular monthly meeting for the South Elgin and Countryside Fire Protection District was called to order on January 13, 2026 at 19:00. The meeting was conducted at Station 22, 2055 McDonald Road, South Elgin, IL, 60177.

PRESENT:

President Diana Cornelissen
Secretary Rick Bohlman
Treasurer Jeffrey Speyers
Trustee Jeff Theriault
Trustee Kathy Hazelwood

ABSENT:

None

TREASURERS REPORT

James Howard attended the meeting via Zoom to review the District's December 2025 financial report, which had been provided to the Board in advance. James reported that the District received 100% of our tax money. He discussed the District's financial position at the end of the 2025 fiscal year. He further reported that ambulance revenue ended up slightly less than the budgeted amount, he noted that it was most likely because of deposit/payment timing. James noted that the District ended 2025 in a strong financial position.

Trustee Theriault thanked James Howard and his firm for the valuable services they have provided to the District over the past couple of years.

Acceptance and Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of December 16, 2025 Special Meeting minutes
- b. Approval of December 16, 2025 Meeting minutes
- c. Approval of Treasurer's Report for December 2025
- d. Approval January 13, 2026 bills in the amount of \$161,979.79
Ratify December 17, 2025-January 12, 2026 bills in the amount of \$210,470.24

Trustee Theriault made a motion to accept items A through D from the consent agenda as presented. Treasurer Speyers seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Shawn Flaherty reminded the Board of online trustee training opportunities available through the IAFFPD on January 17, 2026; Shawn will be the instructor at this seminar. Attorney Flaherty also reported that, pursuant to the "Big Beautiful Bill," the District is not responsible for reporting employee overtime on W-2 forms for this year; however, such reporting will be mandatory beginning next year (2026 W2s).

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Luchsinger updated the Board on an employee who is off with a work injury.

Chief Luchsinger informed the Board that FF/PM Ivan Gomez successfully completed his probationary period as of today. Chief Luchsinger also reported that FF/PM Gomez will receive his badge at a ceremony next month.

Chief Luchsinger reported that the Fire Prevention Bureau's new construction permit process is now fully implemented and that the Bureau is continuing to address and resolve any remaining issues. Chief stated that he believes this process will make a positive impact on the Bureau and the District.

Full-Time Hiring Update- FF/PRN Paige Belzer began full time employment on January 5, 2026. The Commission will meet on January 21, 2025, to review the next eligible candidate on the list. The Chief reminded the Board that while the District continues down the eligibility list, there may be difficulty identifying candidates who meet the District's full-time criteria.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cornelissen welcomed the Board to the commencement of the new year of District business.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Swearing-In new full-time firefighter Paige Belzer – The swearing in of FF/PRN Paige Belzer will be rescheduled next month.

Discussion and possible approval to engage FGM Architects for architectural services related to the Station 22 remodel, with fees not to exceed \$115,000, subject to final contractual terms- Mike Elliott was present at the meeting to provide the Board with additional information regarding FGM Architects and the proposed project. Mr. Elliott and Chief Luchsinger reviewed the scope of the proposed work and responded to all questions from the Board. Secretary Bohlman made a motion to engage FGM Architects for architectural services related to the Station 22 remodel, with fees not to exceed \$115,000, subject to final contractual terms. Treasurer Speyers seconded and the motion passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

Discussion and Review of Bi-Annual Closed Session Minutes- President Cornelissen made a motion to keep all of the Closed Session Minutes closed at this time and to destroy Closed Session recording tapes older than July 13, 2024. Secretary Bohlman seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS-

Nothing at this time.

GOOD OF THE DISTRICT- Battalion Chief Starr relayed that the new battalion chief vehicle is now in service. The Board briefly discussed the most optimal time to begin the Station 22 project.

PUBLIC COMMENT–

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT-

There being no further business to come before the Board on a motion duly made by Trustee Theriault and seconded by Trustee Hazelwood the meeting was adjourned at 20:00 hours; the motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary Bohlman