

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

DATE: March 10, 2026

The regular monthly meeting for the South Elgin and Countryside Fire Protection District was called to order on March 10, 2026 at 19:01. 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 Kathy Hazelwood
Trustee Jeff Theriault

ABSENT:

None

Swearing in of FF/PM Benjamin Koloczaski -

President Cornelissen swore in the District's newest full-time FF/PM, Benjamin Koloczaski, in front of family, friends, and fellow firefighters. Ben began his fire service career with the Oglesby Fire Protection District as a paid-on-call firefighter. He earned his paramedic license from Illinois Valley Community College and later worked as a paramedic for an ambulance service in the LaSalle/Peru area. The District is fortunate to have Ben join the team as a firefighter/paramedic. Congratulations Ben!

TREASURERS REPORT

James Howard was unable to attend the meeting. The financial report he provided was included in the Trustees' meeting packet.

Acceptance and Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Annual Maintenance Agreement from MK Industries for Station 21, 22, 23 in the collective amount of \$14,416
- b. Approval of proposal from Seasonal Landscapes for property landscape maintenance (excluding mowing) for Station 21, 22, 23, and the Annex in the amount of \$10,000
- c. Approval of February 10, 2026 meeting minutes,
- d. Approval of Treasurer's Report for February 2026
- e. Approval March 10, 2026 bills in the amount of \$45,285.57
Ratify February 11, 2026 - March 9, 2026, bills in the amount of \$259,611.84

Trustee Hazelwood made a motion to accept items A through E from the consent agenda as presented. Secretary Bohlman seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Shawn Flaherty reported that several bills impacting fire districts are expected to move into committee hearings soon, including legislation related to firefighters carrying firearms, GEMT amendments, and various pension measures. He will continue to monitor their progress and keep the Board informed.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Elgin O'Hare Building- The Elgin O'Hare building has begun its first phase of improvements with an upgrade to the sprinkler system. The owners requested to abandon a leaking underground water main and install a wall-mounted system, which they believed would reduce false alarms. The District maintained that any significant system changes must comply with current fire codes and did not allow

modifications below code standards. The owners have since agreed and authorized installation of a fully compliant wall-mounted system. The next phase will involve evaluating the building's occupancy and fire load, with options to reduce hazards or further upgrade the sprinkler system. The District will continue to enforce fire codes to ensure a safe environment for all occupants.

Fire Prevention Fee Ordinance- The Fire District serves a small industrial and residential area within the Village of Bartlett. The Village has raised concerns that the District may lack authority to issue permits, citing Fire Protection District Law stating that if a municipality has adopted a fire code, the District may not enforce it. If accurate, this could limit the District's fire prevention role and shift enforcement responsibility to the Village. This may also apply to the Village of South Elgin. The District is working with Bartlett to address the issue, is awaiting a response from their attorney, and has requested a meeting to discuss an agreement.

Engine 22 Update- Emergency pump repairs on E-22 have been completed. During a test drive, the mechanic identified an additional engine issue that has occurred intermittently over the past year. This issue is currently being addressed, and the engine is expected to return to service within the week.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible approval for a 5-year engagement with Aladtec – The Board engaged in a discussion regarding the potential approval of a five-year contract with Aladtec. A/C Cox led the discussion and presented the anticipated cost savings associated with the extended agreement. After consideration, the Board expressed concerns about committing to a contract of that length. They requested that A/C Cox explore alternative options to present next month, including the possibility of a three-year agreement.

ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS-

President Cornelissen asked BC Eckles for an update on the new operations within the Fire Prevention Bureau. BC Eckles informed the Board that Liz and Gail have been effectively covering responsibilities within the FPB and provided a brief overview of how operations are currently being managed.

GOOD OF THE DISTRICT-

Trustee Theriault commented that he observed one of the District's members driving in response to a call. He noted that another vehicle failed to see the District's truck pulling the boat and veered into its path. Trustee Theriault stated that the driver responded excellently to avoid a potential incident. The driver, Chris Elliott, was present at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT–

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT-

There being no further business to come before the Board on a motion duly made by Trustee Hazelwood and seconded by Trustee Theriault the meeting was adjourned at 19:40 hours; the motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary Bohlman