Meeting Minutes: Friends of Townsend Fire
Membership Meeting
Date: Saturday September 19, 2026, 9:30AM

In Attendance: Duane Bann, Dean Vander Heiden, Linda Vander Heiden, Anita Szyszkiewicz, Terri Heyrman, Joe Heyrman, Donna Fischer, Wanda Laste

Donna Fischer is serving as the interim secretary until the FOTF board appoints a new board member for the recently resigned John Zeller.

1**. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Chairperson Wanda Laste

2. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from August 15, 2026, Membership Meeting were reviewed.

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dean Vander Heiden, seconded by Terri Heyrman. The motion was approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

There is no report this month due to the board meeting date change.

4. Donation's Report

There is no report this month due to the board meeting date change.

5. Grant Writing Committee Report:

Grants: Gary reported that FOTF was denied by Milwaukee Tools for batteries. A request may be coming to FOTF from TFD Chief Dawn regarding the purchase of such items. Gary continued by stating that on July 17th he applied for grants in an attempt to obtain thermal imagining cameras. Grants were written to Motor Capitol Castings Keil, and the Charles Family Foundation. He will work with Dawn in the upcoming days to apply for a grant from the Bond

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Family Foundation. Gary also has a contact person with the Crest Foundation and the Lust Family Foundation.

6. Public Relations Committee:

- **Website & Social Media:** Website and Facebook traffic continue to be strong.
- **Patches:** Linda Vander Heiden will begin to work on the patches shadowbox.
- No PR meeting was scheduled this month due to the change in the board meeting date.

7. Can Collection Report:

- ✓ $400 was collected in the September can run.
- ✓ Team reports trying to remove bottles before delivery. Joni Bande made a new sign for the recycle bin at the Townsend dump. Joe will add hooks to the sign and will hang it. Anita will attempt to add a FOTF logo to the sign as well.

8. Fire Department Report:

- 34 calls have been received by the Fire Department this year
- Reflective strips still need to be completed.
- The storage unit needs to be cleaned. The complex has been sold to a new owner. Our unit is rented by the town, and costs are shared with the FOTF. No one is sure whose name is attached to the unit.
- Another burn will be occurring in Lakewood. Townsend Fire will share in the drilling on this building. The tentative date for the burn is the weekend of October 10,2026.
- Traffic control, and a rehab tent will be necessary. Wanda will contact Lakewood Fire Department to determine if FOTF help is needed in these areas.

9. Scholarship Committee:

- ➢ No report at this time, although school has started.
- ➢ Discussion regarding possible changes to the criteria and the scholarship included the possibility of raising the GPA requirement and possibly changing the amount offered.
- ➢ The scholarship committee will be meeting to discuss possible changes.

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10. Old Business:

- **Olive Pit Corn Roast:** The corn roast was made possible due to the generosity of Pintsch's Olive Pit and Marvin's Gardens. The turnout was good on a very rainy day and the profit was just under $5000.00. Per Wanda, there was $800.00 in the boot, $3000.00 made on the basket raffle, and $1100.00 profit on the 50/50 raffle. FOTF would like to do this again next year.

- **No Rib Cookoff this year.**

- **Trunk or Treat:** On Halloween the community will have the annual trunk or treat in the parking lot of the Town Hall. The Lions Club is in charge of the event, however FOFT has always participated and will continue to do so this year. Sparky will attend. The suggested time for the event will be 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

- **Goals for FOTF:** Discussion occurred on what goals should be in place for FOTF. A committee may be convened to work on this project. Some ideas discussed included ways to recruit and retain firefighters. Discussion of ways to support the LOSAP or 2% fund by FOTF occurred, although much more research and possible legal assistance would be necessary before anything could occur with this fund. **Looking for more goal ideas!**

11. New Business:

- **Open Board Position:** New candidates are required to submit a bio to Wanda by noon today, September 19, 2026.

- **Open House:** Open House will be on Saturday October 10, 2026. There will be a follow-up meeting today after the membership meeting to discuss the open house.

- **Craft Fair:** The craft fair is Saturday November 21, 2026, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Their next meeting will be in October.

12. Up-Coming Committee Meeting Dates:

- **Membership:** October 17, 2026
- **Grant Writing:** TBD
- **Public Relations:** TBD
- **Board of Directors:** September 21, 2026 @ 9:00 AM
- **Scholarship Committee:** TBD

13. Other Business:

- Festi-Fall is occurring today in Lakewood.

14. Motion to Adjourn:

Linda Vander Heiden made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Anita Szyszkiewicz.

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