



Meeting Minutes: Friends of Townsend Fire

Membership Meeting Date: Saturday March 21, 2026 9:30am

Attendees:: Wanda Laste, Joe Heyrman, Duane Bann, Donna Fischer, Don Fischer, Dean VanderHeiden, Linda VanderHeiden, Gary Birr, Joni Bande, Chuck DeMoulin. **Guest:** Wynter Johnson.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32AM by Chairperson Wanda Laste

2. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from February 21, 2026 Membership meeting were reviewed.

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dean V seconded by Linda V. The motion was approved.

3. Treasurer Report

-2026 Budget was briefly reviewed. Note that the figures are not up to date at this time. Figures will be reviewed in detail at the Annual Meeting next month.

-Funds Requests Approved by Board: * #2026-003 \$100 for 1 additional TFD Firefighter to attend the WI State FF Convention. * #2026-004 \$250 for snowmobile rescue equipment. (This is the Grant Funds FOTF received from PBR. This Funds Request is just to identify these funds to be used for this specific purpose.) NOTE: #2026-003 is being redeposited as the check was not sent due to the snow storm on the day of the convention. Also #2026-002 will be partially returned due to the snow storm & participants unable to attend the full convention.

2025 FOTF Income taxes are being completed by Fischer Financial Crivitz.

4. Donations Received:

-Donations were received from The Harrison's, The Brockman's, Ms Staszak and Paul Bunyan Riders. / Remember FOTF is a 501c3 making donations tax deductible for the donor.

5. Grant Writing Crew Report:

Ray Scheifen has decided to step down from leading the Grant Writing Crew due to health reasons. It was asked if anyone was interested in taking over this committee. Gary Birr offered to

become the Grant Lead. Gary will be meeting with Ray to discuss the transition. Watch for emails for the next Grant Writing Crew meeting coming next month. Thank you Ray for all your hard work on getting the FOTF Grant Crew going. And thank you Gary for taking over where Ray left off.

6. Public Relation Committee Report: DONNA

Website & FB has seen an increase in activity likely due to the recent Spring Raffle drawing. PR Committee created a checklist of duties for Events to help assure no tasks are missed. Joni will be working on a Fire Dept patches display to be placed in the TFD meeting room. Next PR meeting April 30 at Donna's house. If interested in joining, contact Donna F.

-TFD Plaque: Anita & Linda V are working with the Wabeno FabLab on finalizing the TFD plaque.

-Nicolet Express: FOTF received notice from Nicolet Express that they will be sending out print publications in April, May, June, July & August for a fee. This print publication will be sent to residence & businesses in Lakewood, Mountain & Townsend. Joni will check to verify pricing. The PR committee will review to see if this is worthwhile for FOTF to advertise our organization &/or the July 4 Celebration. // Nicolet Express has been posting FOTF notices on their website & FB page. This is a great resource!

7. Can Collection Report:

The last Can Haul was a FOTF record of \$602!!! Every can helps put money towards equipment & training for our TFD! Thanks Kevin & The Can Crew! Remember.. No cat food cans, no foil, no soup cans. Only beer/soda cans.

8. Scholarship Committee Report: GARY

Waiting for applications to be received from Wabeno High School. Hope to have applications in by the next FOTF membership meeting. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Gary B.

9. Fire Department Report:

-TFD was paged out 8 times so far in 2026.

-It may not look like it right now but Wildland Fire season is quickly approaching. Please make sure you have your Burn Permits & review the current Fire Danger Risk levels before burning.

-The Bass Lake House Burn that was scheduled for March 21 is once again being rescheduled due to DNR permitting issues. TFD is still able to use this house for training but unable to 'burn' at this time. Once the new date is set Chief Dawn will notify FOTF so that we can assist with the ReHab area, parking cars and serving lunch to the Firefighters. Thank you Joe & Thrivent for funds to help purchase the lunch!!

Thank you Bruce, Tom, Chuck, Anita, Terri & Wanda for doing the Reflective Chevron dots on 2 of the fire trucks needing this. The 3rd truck has been started and the 4th truck still needs to be done. Wanda will work on setting the next work date to complete this project. Watch for emails.

Other TFD/FOTF Joint Project Ideas: *Storage Clean Out day, *Career Fair at Town Hall specializing in 'trades' and Firefighting, *TFD Picnic at Oughton Park inviting the community, with Firefighter theme games. / No dates set for these & will be looking for Leads/Volunteers if we plan to proceed with any of these project ideas. Chuck suggested that Wanda mention the Picnic & Career Fair ideas at the next Townsend Town meeting to see if there is a public interest in these ideas.

10. Old Business:

Spring Cash Raffle: Thank you to everyone who Volunteered, bought or sold tickets, helped with stuffing, or any other way you helped. We don't have the final numbers on this Event yet but it is expected we profited approx \$10,000. (Final numbers will be available at the April membership meeting.) All winners have been notified & checks sent out. Winner list is posted on FOTF FB & website. / Asked for suggestions on how or if we should change anything with this raffle for next year: Do the same as this year as it seemed to work very well. There were coloring books on the table for kids but was suggested to maybe have a few games or other activities for kids to do.

July 4 Celebration: Our first July 4 meeting was March 11. Had great discussion points with suggestions for a few changes. Minutes of this meeting were sent to all members. We still need lots of help & a number of opportunities to Lead or Volunteer. Next meeting will be early April, watch for emails.

SuperValu Round Up: Joe announced that FOTF will be the Round Up recipient in July 2026!!! This is a great month as there is a lot of traffic in our area in July.

Election Committee / Candidates: Chuck offered to assist Joe & Terri on the Election Committee for the FOTF Annual Elections during the April 2026 meeting. Candidates are still being sought for the 2 BOARD positions. Elections are for a position on the BOARD, then the Board will meet and decide on the various roles per Board Member. If interested in running for a Board position, please email fotf@friendsoftownsendfire.org of your intent to run. Emails must be received by 1 week prior to the Elections to be placed on the Ballot. Only valid FOTF members are allowed to vote. In person voting is only available. No absentee or proxy voting.

Amendments: FOTF Board received 2 Amendment suggestions. These will be discussed with the membership at the April Annual meeting since we are expecting more members to be attending at that time. If an Amendment is to be Passed forward, there will be a Vote by the members with a show of hands at the Annual meeting. Please plan to attend the meeting on April 18!

11. New Business: None

12. Other Business/Announcements:

Remember the FOTF Online Store is available on the FOTF website. Order gear, dishware, hats, etc.

TFD has been notified by the National Weather Service that they will be offering free, virtual Severe SkyWarn Spotter Training with talks scheduled in April. If you are a Weather-Guru let Wanda know and she can forward the email with links & dates.

GET INVOLVED: Wanda closed the meeting with various ways FOTF members can Get More Involved, if they want to. -PR Committee. See Donna -Grant Writing Crew. See Gary B -Reflective Chevron Day #2, Watch for emails. -Bass Lake House Burn Reschedule Date. Watch for emails. -July 4 meeting. Next meeting in early April. Watch for emails. -Scholarship Committee. See Gary B. -TFD Joint Projects: TFD Picnic & Games. Career Fair. Any questions, see Wanda.

Joe announced he will be holding a Brat Fry at Mikes in May, with funding assistance from Thrivent. The funds raised from the brat fry are donated back to the Community.

13. Adjournment:

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Linda V, second by Dean V. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:54am.

BE SURE TO ATTEND THE FOTF ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY APRIL 18.

Minutes submitted by Chair Wanda Laste due to the absence of Secretary John Zeller. 3/22/26