



Friends of Townsend Fire Membership Meeting

February 21, 2026

9:30 AM

Attendees: Wanda Laste, Duane Bann, John Zeller, Dave Seeber, Dave Kusnierek, Linda Kusnierek, Linda VanderHeiden, Gary Birr, Don Fischer, Donna Fischer, Anita Szyszkiewicz, Michelle Grobe, Dean VanderHeiden, Kevin Osadjan, Dacon Franzen

Guests: Wynter Johnson, Andrea Morris, Bryan Arnold

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by Laste

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 17, 2026, membership meeting was reviewed.

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes was made by D VanderHeiden, seconded by Szyszkiewicz. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Treasures Report

- The 2025 budget was presented. The postage line was reviewed as the expense was over budget due to the purchase of forever stamps prior to the postage increase. The Board believes all expenses have been accounted for in the budget and now are final and complete. The 2026 budget was reviewed with only January expenses to date. The line-item scholarship was discussed as it reflects a zero budget. The budget was approved prior to creating the scholarship and the board did not want to alter the approved budget. In addition, the board feels the expense for any 2026 scholarships will occur in 2027 as payment will occur at the end of the semester in December 2026.
- The Board approved a \$300 funds request via email vote for 3 firefighters to attend training. The funds request was received after the board meeting, and needed prior to our next board meeting, thus the need to approve via email vote.
- The funds request for \$1000 which was approved in 2025 for the house burning training is being rolled forward onto the 2026 funds request, as the expenses will not occur until April 2026,

4. Donations Received

Seeber reported that a \$300 donation from Shadian Landscape has been received since the last meeting.



5. Grant Writing Report

- Laste reported that a \$25 grant from Fleet Farm was received for the Spring Raffle. The gift card grant will be used to purchase smoke alarm batteries for the Spring Raffle.

6. Public Relations Report

- Szyszkiewicz gave a report on Website and Facebook activity.
- TFD Plaque is being updated. Szyszkiewicz met with the Wabeno Fab Lab and they will be working on the plaque. Szyszkiewicz will get the draft to Donna Fischer to present to the Board prior to the final approvals.

7. Can Collection Report

- Osadjan reported that new front tires have been installed on the truck. Thank you to Don Fischer for assisting.
- The next can run will be in approximately two weeks. Look for an email for the exact date.

8. Fire Department Report

- Laste reported that the TFD has been paged out five times in 2026. The two ice rescue suits have arrived and are in service. These were purchased through donations and a grant.
- Franzen gave an update on the fire district. At this time, the fire district concept will not be moving forward. TFD will continue with the mutual aid agreement with Lakewood, and the other departments in northern Oconto County.
- The live fire training on a house on Bass Lake is continuing. Current training is breaching and inside search and rescue. The actual live burn is subject to final WDNR approval (weather dependent) but is anticipated to be in early April. TFD is inviting FOTF Members to observe the training. In addition, FOTF is looking for 5-6 members who would be available to assist in the Rehabilitation Area. This would be handing out water and providing snacks to the fire fighters.
- The reflective stickers have arrived. A workday on March 9 at 1:00 PM was scheduled to install the stickers on the four vehicles.
- TFD and FOTF are looking to participate in the Wabeno Honor Parade on June 13, 2026, at 10:00 AM, downtown Wabeno. This is honoring our active duty and retired military veterans, and first responders.
- FOTF is looking to hold a storage unit clean out day in the spring. More information to follow.



9. Old Business

- Laste gave a follow up on issues raised at the January membership meeting. Two bylaw amendments were submitted to the Board. They will be discussing these at the next board meeting. Laste talked with one of the two co-authors, explaining the process and they were comfortable with the timing.
- Laste gave an update on the FOTF Day at the ski hill. Membership voiced several concerns at the last meeting, and via email after the meeting. The Board with input from membership decided not to move forward with this community event. Overall membership still believes that community involvement is important.
- Spring Raffle Committee held its first meeting. Seeber reported that to date \$19,950 has been deposited. The budget was \$16,000 therefore we have covered our expenses. Thank you to everyone who donated time and efforts to stuff envelopes and prepare the raffle ticket packets. Remember the Spring Raffle is March 7 at the TFD. Plan to attend in person, giveaways, and treats will be provided as well as the live streaming of the drawings.
- Birr reported that the Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club Grant was received for \$250. TFD is looking to purchase snowmobile rescue items. Chief Herlache will direct the priority of items.
- 4th of July is our largest fund-raising event. Look for the first planning meeting in March. Sub-committees are being formed to assist in the planning. Anyone who wishes to assist, please contact Laste or Seeber.
- A scholarship program is proceeding. The Board approved the subcommittee's recommendation. Seeber and Birr are leading the subcommittee. Seeber has met with Wabeno School Counselors, and they will be providing a list of candidates who meet our criteria. Next meeting will be once they receive applications.

10. New Business

- The Board set the Membership Annual Meeting Date for April 18, 2026, at 9:30 AM. The Town Hall is already reserved for this day; therefore, the meeting will be held at the TFD Garage.
- The Board approved the Board of Election Subcommittee at their meeting. Anyone interested should contact J. Heyrman.



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11. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Several upcoming meetings are scheduled. Please contact Laste, one of the Board Members, if you are interested in more information about one of the committees or getting involved.
 - Membership Meeting, March 21, 2026, 9:30 AM at the fire station meeting room.
 - Grant Writing TBD • Public Relations Meeting, March 4, 2026, 1:00 PM at Bandi's home.
 - Board of Directors Meeting, March 9, 9:30 AM at the fire station meeting room.
 - 4th of July Committee will be scheduled in March
 - Scholarship Committee will be scheduled once applications are received
 - Spring Raffle Committee, February 26, 1:00 PM at the fire station

12. Other Business

- Laste received ideas for community events. They included a picnic, Fire Service Games, Pickleball with a firefighter, or other types of events with firefighters and youth of the community.
- Laste reminded the membership group that the on-line store is still open and available for ordering FOTF Merchandise.

13. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Szyszkiewicz, seconded by Zeller. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.