



FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND FIRE
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026
9:30 a.m.

Attendees: Wanda Laste, Terri Heyrman, Duane Bann, Donna Fischer, Don Fischer, Anita Szyszkiewicz, Linda Ziegler, Dean VanderHeiden, Linda VanderHeiden, Gary Birr

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM by Chairperson Wanda Laste

2. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from December 20, 2025, membership meeting was reviewed.

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

3. Funds Requests

LED Lights for E2912. \$4900. Approved by Board

TFD Christmas Dinner \$35/person. Approved by Board

TFD Wish List: Reviewed by membership: -Positive Pressure Fan \$5572. -RIT Packs \$10,240 for 2. -Gear Washer/Extractor \$5300. -Fog Nozzles \$4200. -Trailer Tool Rack \$800. These are higher priced items that are expected to be ordered by Chief this year. Each item was explained in detail with membership. **MOTION:** Dean V made a motion to Approve the TFD Wish List, seconded by Linda Z. Motion Approved. It is suggested that the Board pre-approve this Wish List so Chief has freedom to order the items when she feels need and not have to wait for another approval of a Funds Request before ordering.

- **Discussion:** Linda V lead a discussion of members not having a say in how & where funds are spent while the Board approves expenditures without any membership input. “Members are the ones who raised the funds, they should have input in how/where these funds are being used (TFD Funds Requests, training, donations etc.).” Members appreciated reviewing the TFD Wish List and made their motion to approve its expenses. This should then be taken to the Board for Board approval AFTER the membership gives their Approval. It is understood that sometimes there may be a timing issue & unable to wait for a membership meeting for review, but this will hopefully be seldom. The rest of membership attending today's meeting felt the same that expenditures should be brought to the membership prior to Board approval, not the other way around. “The Board works for the Membership. Not... the Membership works for the Board.” Awareness & Transparency should be a main concern. Membership does not believe there are any wrong doings but knowing what has & can happen in other organizations makes this organization want to stay as open with information as possible. Linda V & Linda Z will investigate writing up an Amendment to the Bylaws for membership to have a say in approving spendings. To be reviewed again at next membership meeting.



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- **Treasurer Report:** Membership asks for a Treasurer Report at each monthly meeting. Balance, incoming, outgoing, etc.

4. Donations Received:

A donation of \$500 was received from the Morris' for when their dog fell through the ice & TFD was called to rescue. A donation was received from Shadian for their auctioning of a Christmas tree. Remember FOTF is a 501c3 making donations tax deductible for the donor. Dean V may be going to the GB Packers for a donation for July 4th

5. Grant Writing Committee:

Wanda presented the Grant Writing committee report. One grant request for Fog Nozzles was Denied. One grant request for Ice Rescue Suit was Approved by Forest County Potawatomi Tribal Council. One grant request for the Trailer Tool Storage is Pending but have not heard response from our followup. Next Grant meeting will be sometime in March as Ray is out of State for a bit.

6. Public Relation Committee: DONNA

Donna was asked what her role in the PR committee is & how the committee is standing. Donna oversees the committee as the Board liaison. Anita manages the website & calendar. Joni is overseeing Facebook & Nicolet Express. They are working on getting training within the committee, so each person to know each other's duties. If anyone wants to join this committee, the meetings are posted on the FOTF website calendar.

TFD Plaque: Anita is still trying to get accurate start & end dates for past TFD members before starting with the plaque. Linda V has offered to help.

QR Code: PR Committee will be looking into the usage of our QR code. The cost for the code was recently renewed. If we have very few hits on the code, it may not be worth it to renew again. Don F mentioned that a QR Code might be available at no cost. Anita will check into this.

Nicolet Express: Joni has been working with Nicolet Express, which is like our past local newspaper, but it is a website format with a Calendar of Events. FOTF will be using Nicolet Express in promoting our upcoming Events.

7. Can Collection Report: Last meeting it was discussed that the can truck needs new front tires. Cans were collected last week & taken to Antigo. With the funds received from the cans & the discounts Kevin was able to get at the tire shop, we still came out ahead after paying for the tires & gas! Fantastic job Kevin.



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8. Fire Department Report: TFD was paged out 50 times in 2025. This is compared to thirty times in 2024 and 40 times in 2023. TFD was able to practice with the new Extrication Equipment. If you happen to notice chopped up cars at Wilsons Auto on Hwy 32, that is what our new extrication equipment can do. It was a great practice. Deb F was contacted by Oconto County Reporter regarding TFD receiving the new extrication equipment. They might run a short article in the Oconto County Reporter newspaper. If anyone happens to notice it, please let Wanda know! Wanda presented some TFD/FOTF Joint Project Ideas for 2026: Spring Clean Up day, Reflective Chevron Day, Firefighter Memorial Cleanup Day. No dates are set yet but looking for ways to collaborate WITH the members of TFD on these & other projects.

9. Old Business:

Spring Cash Raffle: Thank you Terri for creating the letters & posters. Envelope, letter & raffle ticket orders have been placed with Clermont Printing & will be available by the last week of January. We tentatively have a date set for **THURSDAY JAN 29 1pm** at the Fire Station to oversee the tickets & letters. A reminder will be sent out as we get closer. That day/time we will also be asking for more ideas for the Raffle Event to be held Saturday March 7 3-4:30pm. (Thank you Bruce & Pam V for getting a head start!)

SuperValu Round Up: The application for the Round Up has been submitted. We have not yet heard if we were chosen for this year or what month we might get.

Scholarship Committee: Gary & Dave S will be heading a FOTF Scholarship committee. At this point the committee will be making many initial decisions & present their plans to the Board. They hope to have this scholarship ready for the upcoming 2026 senior graduating class. Linda V has offered to be on this committee. Once the first meeting date is set, it will be opened to all FOTF members. Contact Gary B if interested in joining.

10. New Business:

FOTF at SkiHill: Kevin is working with the SkiHill to have a FOTF event or FOTF to sponsor ski passes for youth. This will be more of a Community Event as opposed to a Fundraiser. More info to come as Kevin works out details.

Paul Bunyan Riders Giving Back Program: Gary B has offered to apply for the PBR program. FOTF will be requesting funds to purchase TFD items that can be used during a snowmobile rescue, such as heated blankets or headlamps for responders.



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July 4 Committee: Will be calling a meeting in Feb/March to start working on the 2026 July 4 Celebration. This year the Event will be held SATURDAY JULY 4 meaning we may be seeing crowds even bigger than past years (which has been estimated to be about 10,000 people!). We are also looking for innovative ideas to freshen up the Event, as well as creating Lead people to manage various areas like Bar, Food, Raffle Tickets, etc. Keep an eye out for committee meeting coming in the next month or so. And be ready to brainstorm innovative ideas!

11. Up-Coming Meetings:

Grant Writing Committee TBD

Membership Meeting February 21, 9:30 AM, Fire Station

Public Relations Committee: Feb 26, 10 AM at Joni Bande's residence.

12. Other Business:

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

(2) Thank you, cards were received from, NCAC for our donation towards the Thanksgiving meal and from the Food Pantry in Lakewood for our donation over Christmas.

Linda V lead a discussion on The Board Appointing a New Board Member when the current Board member leaves mid-term. Should there be certain criteria regarding the appointment...such as having been a FOTF member for at least one year? Involved with the organization, etc.? Linda V & Linda Z will review the FOTF Bylaws and investigate creating an Amendment on How to Appoint a new Board member when a Board member leaves mid-term. To be discussed again at next membership meeting.

GET INVOLVED: Wanda closed the meeting with ways FOTF members can get more involved -TFD Recognition Plaque: See Anita to help. TFD Joint Projects: Various, watch for emails. -Spring Cash Raffle Committee: Next meeting Jan 29 1pm. -Scholarship Committee: See Gary. Meeting coming up in January. -July 4 Committee: Meetings to start in Feb/March.

13. Adjournment:

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Linda V, second by Anita S. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:13am.

Minutes submitted by Chair Wanda Laste due to the absence of Secretary John Zeller. 1/19/26