

**OZAUKEE CENTRAL FIRE DEPARTMENT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

Board President Dickmann called the Board meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Board Members Present: Barb Dickmann, Barry Jondahl, Jim Nowlen, Zachary Kranz, Andrew Schwartz, Steven Solymossy and Marcia Nosko

Board Members Excused: Topher Adams

Staff/Officials Present: Saukville Finance Director Jacob Verhelst, Fire Chief William Rice, Assistant Fire Chief Matthew Karpinski, Deputy Fire Chief Bobby Kaslick, OCFD Treasurer Dan Galginaitis and Fire Department Business Manager/Secretary Diana Degnitz

Others Present: Village of Grafton Trustee Lisa Harbeck, Village of Grafton Trustee Kevin Curtis, Village of Grafton Trustee Sarah Scarpace, Village of Grafton Police and Fire Commissioner Paul Moroder, and other members of the public

Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer led by President Dickmann

Secretary Degnitz noted that the notice had been distributed to the village and town clerks.

**Persons Requesting to be Heard** – none

**Approval of December 17, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Nowlen, second by Schwartz to approve the December 17, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Business Presented by the Board President**

President Dickmann stated that a meeting of the OCFD Funding Communities was held at the Grafton Fire Station on Thursday January 15, 2026. Extensive discussion was held.

No action taken, for information only.

**Approval of Wisconsin Task Force One (WI-TF1) Program**

Deputy Chief Kaslick reviewed the program information provided and the opportunity OCFD has in adding one member to Wisconsin's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force.

Motion by Kranz second by Nosko and Pursuant to the OCFD Inter-Municipal Agreement, Article V Sec. D Part 3 a(3); Approve a motion for the Fire Board President and Secretary to execute an Agreement with the State of Wisconsin for Urban Search and Rescue Emergency Response Services.

Questions regarding potential encumbrance of equipment and insurance coverage were asked and answered.

Motion carried.

**Review and Approval of Updated OCFD Capital Asset Policy**

Treasurer Galginaitis stated that the update to the previously approved policy is an increase in the capitalization threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000 after reviewing current taxing guidelines and consulting with OCFD auditor.

Motion by Solymossy, second by Nowlen to approve the Updated OCFD Capital Asset Policy as presented.

**OCFD Business Software Update** – Business Manager/Secretary Degnitz stated that effective January 1, 2026 all financial transactions and reporting are being processed through BS&A software and recommended that this item be removed from the regular agenda. Degnitz was directed to remove the item from the regular OCFD Board agenda.

No action taken, information only.

### **Monthly Benchmark Update**

Deputy Chief Kaslick reviewed Grafton Fire Department benchmark statistics from December 2025 and presented the 2025 OCFD Annual Report.

No action taken, information only.

### **Fire Station Safety Plan Update**

Asst. Chief Karpinski stated that after several delays, the new alarm system is currently being installed at the Grafton station with completion expected mid-February. Asst. Chief Karpinski added that the alarm installation will improve the station safety at the Grafton location, however improvements are still needed at the Saukville station and are planned as part of the overall station remodel.

No action taken, information only.

### **Fire Chief Update**

Chief Rice provided updates as follows:

- Chief Rice asked Asst. Chief Karpinski to provide an update regarding the In Field Blood Program. That update included a planned April 15, 2026 go live date kicked off with a highly publicized blood drive at the Grafton station in partnership with Aurora. Asst. Chief Karpinski added that more information will be available as dates and additional details are confirmed.
- Chief Rice added that he had concerns with the Funding Communities Meeting held on January 15, 2026.

Nosko asked President Dickmann about the process of hiring a new Fire Chief with Chief Rice's recent retirement announcement. President Dickmann indicated that as Village of Grafton employees, her understanding was that the hiring of a new Fire Chief would be handled through the Grafton Police and Fire Commission. President Dickmann added that concerns over the legality of that process were raised at the Funding Communities meeting on January 15, 2026 and her understanding is that legal opinions were being pursued.

No action taken, information only.

**Review and Possible Action on Village of Grafton 2024 Operating Fund Balance** *(tabled at the 11.19.2025 meeting)*

Treasurer Galginaitis reviewed the packet materials regarding the Village of Grafton 2025 Financial Items Summary of Items Being Charged, Not Paid for and Now Being Requested. Questions for clarification were asked and answered.

Motion by Solymossy, second by Nowlen to authorize Treasurer Galginaitis to contact the Village of Grafton proposing Option 1 as the solution to the Operating Fund issue only when the 2026 OCFD Budget issues are resolved. Motion carried.

**Review and Possible Action on Village of Grafton Request Regarding 2024 ARPA Funds Audit** *(tabled at the 11.19.2025 meeting)*

President Dickmann noted that this topic was addressed in the previously discussed “Review and Possible Action on Village of Grafton 2024 Operating Fund Balance” with action taken and can therefore be removed from the OCFD Board agenda going forward.

**Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Galginaitis reviewed the December 2025 financial reports provided highlighting:

- Financial statements are now being prepared using new OCFD financial software and can be modified at the Board’s request
- Review of potential 2025 OCFD Operating balance factors and total
- The 2025 OCFD Budget met minimum referendum requirements with additional staffing position still unfilled
- Fixed assets information will be provided once the 2025 financials have been finalized

Motion by Nowlen, second by Schwartz to accept the December 2025 financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

**Schedule Next Meeting Date/Time/Location**

Next meeting will be Wednesday February 18, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Grafton Fire Station Training Room.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Kranz, second by Nosko to adjourn at 8:52 pm. Motion carried.