

Minutes

WEST CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT

This meeting is a meeting of the West Central Fire District in public for the purpose of conducting the fire district's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting.

April 17, 2025

11329 Railroad Street, Arcola, Indiana 46818

6PM (-5 UTC)

*This meeting was recorded with Video and Audio
and can be viewed <https://vimeo.com/wcfd>*

Board Attendees

Chuck Dwyer-Present

Mike Meyers-Absent

Lance Dafforn-Present

Chandler Branning-Present

David Guadnola-Present

Additional

Gale Stelzer- Absent

Chris Perez- Present

1. Call to Order / Welcome / Pledge of Allegiance [00:00.00]
2. Review March 19, 2025 meeting minutes [00:00.34]
 - a. Chandler had questions about the merit board appointments and time of service calculations
 - b. Minutes Approved
3. Chiefs Report [00:03.20]
 - a. Chief was absent, Lance Dafforn shared with board
 - i. Trench rescue review
 - ii. Construction concerns in Arcola. Good coordination with construction crew
 - iii. Meetings moved to base 180 until construction in Arcola is completed
4. Fiscal Report [00:06.40]
 - a. Chris Perez reports all good and on track for 2025
 - i. Questions regarding budget report
 1. Questions asked
 - a. Fire watch payments
 - i. 22k over cost of labor has been paid back to WCFD, Payments continue to come in
 - b. Computer supplies expense increase
 - i. New copier purchased and materials to run it
 - c. Travel Expenses Increased
 - i. FDIC event in Indianapolis
 - ii. Barb Stelzer states there is an EMS event in Indianapolis, the board looks for a proposal to override budget for EMS personnel if needed
 - d. February Utility 2 payments explanation
 - i. depending on when Aboite Twp provided the bill to Chris, the payment may show up 2 times in one month. 74% of the utility is paid by WCFD
 - ii. Barb Stelzer wanted to fund EMS week for the EMS Crews
 1. May 18 through 24
 2. Dave makes a motion to approve \$3500
 3. Budget approved for \$3500 for EMS week
 - iii. New equipment request – Steve Thurber [00:17.02]
 1. Aerofit Respirator Fit Testing equipment request
 - a. Current fit testing is antiquated and shared between departments
 - b. Warranty offered is cost effective over the 5-year period
 - c. Purchase could come from Firewatch money and would not affect the current budget
 - d. This is OSHA, NFPA and ISO certified
 - e. **This equipment will not be shared between departments and will remain at West Central for our use.** If another department needs to utilize this equipment, WCFD would charge for the test to recoup our cost on this gear

- f. Dave makes a motion to acquire the Aerofit Kit, with the stipulation by Chuck it stays with WCFD
 - i. Chuck Dwyer seconds
 - ii. Purchase amount \$20,429.00 to come out of the Firewatch recoup money
 - 2. Identification / ID / Rehab tag maker
 - a. Used for rehab tags for fireground baseline medical stats on staff
 - b. Not just used for Med tags, but can also make on demand I.D.
 - c. \$3,200.00 is the estimated expense for the machine sans PVC cards, which is a minimal expense
 - d. This we re-align the safety protocols on fire ground scene
 - e. Lifetime support will be included with this unit
 - i. Shall get that quote in writing
 - f. These fireground card will contain needed information on fireground for emergency contact, baseline med stats, etc.
 - g. Staff would be re-assessed every year for new rehab tags.
 - h. The cost taken from Firewatch money, so the current budget remains unaffected
 - i. Chandler makes a motion for \$3300 to cover expense of equipment
 - i. Chuck Dwyer seconds
 - ii. Passes
- 5. Arcola Station Purchase [00:39.56]
 - a. Lance Dafforn wants to attend the next Arcola meeting on May 7, 2025 to discuss options.
 - b. We will need a resolution for purchase
 - c. 2 appraisals for the building have been received
 - d. Countywide Fire study report will be done in May
 - e. Only 2 board members can be at the Arcola meeting.
- 6. Union Update [00:46.26]
 - a. No updates for WCFD
 - b. Union will be included on board meeting agenda moving forward
- 7. New Business [00:47.36]
 - a. Chandler Branning
 - i. Air Compressor at base 80
 - 1. triggering breaker and looking for a wiring fault
 - 2. Steve Thurber will look into this issue as a licensed electrician
 - a. Pro-Air will not be authorized to troubleshoot electrical.
 - 3. Thurber and Harmeyer will handle electrical troubleshooting
 - a. Thurber states electrical systems in the base 80 building is up to standards
- 8. Old Business [00:51.43]

- a. Lions Club Tables
 - i. Lions Club removed their tables from base 80 facility
 - b. Lions Club Display
 - i. Will be moved to the church when the church floor is complete
 - c. Merit Board Appointments
 - i. Waiting for final review
 - d. Volunteer Contract
 - i. Point system presented to the board for payment to volunteers
 - ii. No dollar value assigned to a point since the system is new, calculations for point value will be made later in the year to accommodate budget
 - iii. Thad has all points calculated from November 2024
 - iv. Dave Guadnola would like a point tally for the July meeting to see how the system is coming together and what a point would be (estimated) worth
 - v. Lance Dafforn wants fair compensation and a good projection in writing
 - vi. Chuck Dwyer admits there have been longstanding questions about pay scale questions, this will alleviate this issue
 - vii. Bylaws are being reviewed by the Attorney to bring them into compliance
 - viii. Chandler Branning would like a copy of the Volunteer bylaws prior to the July meeting for review
 - ix. David Guadnola asks for a breakdown of points assessed for personnel for budget projections
 - x. Volunteer group lawyer is the same lawyer as WCFD, however, billing is separate
 - xi. Bylaw adjustments have not been reviewed by the volunteer staff yet
 - 1. Chandler asks if there is an adoption procedure for the bylaws
 - 2. Volunteer group will vote on bylaws
9. Public comments / Questions [01:05.15]
- a. Kevin – took the opportunity to thank the fire department response time for calls to his residence regarding his wife. At 4:55am, the response time was 4 minutes. He was very appreciative.
 - b. Natalie Forbing – thanked the department for a response to a family emergency.
10. Adjourn [01:07.44]
- a. Motion by Dave Guadnola
 - b. Second by- Chandler Branning
 - i. Passed.