

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

**11321 Aboite Center Road Fort Wayne IN 46814
6PM (-5 UTC)**

*This meeting was recorded with Video and Audio
and can be viewed*

<https://vimeo.com/1102533219/144fc34f84?share=copy>

Board Attendees

Chuck Dwyer-^{Present}

Mike Meyers-^{Present}

Lance Dafforn-^{Present}

Chandler Branning-^{Present}

David Guadnola-^{Present}

Additional

Gale Stelzer- ^{Present}

Chris Perez- ^{Present}

1. Call to Order / Welcome / Pledge of Allegiance [00:00.00]
2. Review Minutes from April 17, 2025 [00:00.41]
 - a. Approved
3. Chiefs Report [00:01.45]
 - a. Achievements and Certifications
 - b. Training recap from trip to Indianapolis
 - c. Water Rescue
 - d. EVOC Course completion
 - i. Insurance discounts?
 - e. Incident Safety Officer class upcoming
 - f. Sept 6th High Impact Fire Training
 - g. Community Risk Reduction & Outreach Program
 - i. Over one hundred people attended these courses.
 - h. Hiring Updates
 - i. James Sheet
 - ii. Connor Gallmeier
 - iii. Kyler Poling
 - iv. Jake Sowles
 - v. Ben Parra
 - i. Upcoming Recruitment Plans
 - j. Run Data Recap
 - k. Equipment Update
 - i. New tanker arrival
 - ii. Push in ceremony at base 80
 - iii. Engine 181 listed for sale.
 - iv. Potentially selling Tank 183
 - v. Evaluation of Engine 281
 - vi. New Engine 181 anticipated delivery in September
 - l. Fire Engine Purchase Contract [00:37.59]
 - i. \$944k from Aboite
 - ii. \$235k from WCFD
 - iii. Board made it clear that WCFD will have documented ownership of 20%.
 - m. Budget Changes [00:40.50]
 - i. Personnel Expansion \$386k
 - ii. Dedicated Training Officer \$138k
 - iii. Cost of Living Adjustment \$198k [00:45:55]
 - iv. Healthcare cost increase to \$184k [00:46:20]
 - v. NFPA Annual Physicals \$30k [00:47:24]
 - vi. EMS Supply Increase \$30k [00:49:02]
 - vii. Training & Certification \$20k
 - viii. Engine purchase removed from budget -\$275k [00:50:52]
 - ix. Station Renovation Budget removed from budget -\$400k [00:51:26]
 - x. Projected EMS Revenue increase \$150k [00:52:01]
 - xi. NET OPERATING INCREASE \$160K

- n. 2026 Capital Investment Plan [00:52:35]
 - i. Lifepak 35 Cardiac Monitors \$207k
 - ii. Radio Replacements [00:54:00]
 - 1. Used Radios \$25.6k
 - 2. New APX 4500 Enhanced \$38.3k
 - 3. New APX 6500 Enhanced \$45.1k
 - iii. Motion made for purchase of APX 4500 warranty and serviceable length.
 - 1. David Guadnola made motion for 4500 and software upgrade.
 - 2. Second by Mike Meyers
 - 3. All in Favor
- o. New Ambulance \$420k from reserve
- p. Predicted cash reserve \$2,000,000.
- q. Motion to ask county council to approve 1.2M out of reserve for Engine and Ambulance purchase in 2026 [01:10:02]
 - i. Motion by Mike Meyers
 - ii. Second by Chuck Dwyer
 - iii. Approved
- 4. Fiscal Officer Report [01:11:52]
 - a. Review Gateway form line items.
 - i. Page 3 will change – for Cume fund and the new ambulance for 2026.
 - ii. Update radio line items. Removed.
 - b. Tax bill estimated to be .2379 for 2026 from 2025 @ .2374
 - c. Expenses [01:21:43]
 - d. Receipts
 - i. Firewatch paid in full [01:23:40]
 - e. Review Allen County Timeline
- 5. Volunteer Association Contract [01:25:01]
 - a. Chris goes over spelling and grammatical errors.
 - b. Dave asks about points system. No dollar value assigned to points from the last meeting.
 - i. \$25k lump sum is still in contract.
 - ii. Bylaws presented to board.
 - iii. Do we have midyear point calculations?
 - 1. Thad on vacation
 - iv. Dave does not like the \$25k block amount allocated and would rather have a flexible amount to spend.
 - 1. Mike Meyers agreed.
 - c. Lance Dafforn asks about budget adjustments to anticipate budget increases for volunteers.
 - d. Chris Forbing reviews points [01:23:01]
 - e. Points system not explained in VF Bylaws.
- 1. Submit contract for DGLF budget approval.
 - f. Gary Teegarden states Volunteers have approved point system.
 - g. Contract tentatively approved.

6. Arcola Station Purchase [01:37:42]
- a. Confirmation Arcola is willing to sell station.
 - b. Consider and move forward with purchase price negotiation.
 - c. Two appraisals have been turned in.
 - d. Chandler and Dave would sign documents declaring no financial interest in Arcola station purchase.
 - e. Chucks concern is county wide study has not been complete and would prefer not moving forward with purchase but does not discourage negotiations.
 - f. Arcola has board meeting in the first week of August.
 - i. Chandler makes motion for Lance to attend Arcola meeting and negotiate price and terms and to report back to WCFD board.
 - ii. Mike Meyers seconds
 - iii. Passes.
 - g. Chandler confirms \$700k renovation budget.
 - h. Recap money regarding scoping costs from previous new stations bid and evaluation [01:47:06]
 - i. Chris Perez explains that the contractor could do renovations, and we have \$100,000 as credit.
7. New Business [01:48:09]
- a. Union Recap
 - i. Merit Board
 - ii. Interlocal recap
 - iii. Collective Bargaining Agreement hopes to be in place by end of year.
 - b. Purdue Fort Wayne Study
 - i. Completed first step for Allen County wide fire district.
 - ii. County Wide Fire Executive (Commissioner) is in the hiring process.
 - iii. Lance is asking for a soft approval that WCFD Board is giving tentative approval for the County Commissioners to hire Fire Commissioner hired by October 2025.
 - iv. No interlocal agreement to vote on.
 - v. Lance asks for green light to move forward and approve the county to hire a fire commissioner which will be hired from outside the county. No vote but green light agreed.
 - vi. Dave Guadnola dissents on this timeline and holds reservations about process.
 - vii. Board agrees to cautiously move forward with Fire Executive/Commissioner hire for county wide fire.
 - c. Dispatching update [02:05:01]
 - i. TRAA wants \$400,000 from each district to continue dispatching.
 - 1. Board says no.
8. Old Business [02:06:09]
- a. None
9. Questions from Public [02:06:15]

- a. A question from unnamed individual that was hard to hear in the meeting video regarding the county wide fire combining with Fort Wayne
- 10. Adjourn [02:08:54]
 - a. Chuck D. motion to adjourn.
 - b. Mike Meyers second
 - i. Adjourned.