

WCFD Board Meeting minutes

Date : Aug 8, 2024

**Location: Community Room – Base 80
11329 Railroad Street Arcola, IN 46704**

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.

Attendees

Garry Teeguarden -absent, family medical emergency

Chuck Dwyer

Lance Dafforn

Mike Meyers -absent

Chandler Branning

Other- Chief Gale Stelzer, Chris Perez

public in attendance- standing room only

1. Call to Order/Welcome/ Pledge of Allegiance 6p – Chuck Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer acknowledges 2 absences, 1 for a family medical emergency.

2. 1977 Fund Certification of Salary – Chris Perez

Nearly everyone's report has been submitted to INPRS – Indiana Public Retirement System

Explanation: Cert salary. Need to submit the following information : lowest paid, non promoted person , plus longevity . \$80,000 has been establish as the certified salary. I.e. If someone retires this year: take the yrs service (20 yrs)/ 52% of their salary; if more than the 20 years(but not more than 3 additional) get up to 76% of their salary. Trying to get the base salary as high as possible to be competitive with FWFD. Standard is FF/EMT- future is FF/Medic. All districts have the same base pay plus longevity. FF do not pay into social security. 19 signed up for 77 (aged based), must have 20 years met by age of 60 . A member would pay the difference up front if they cannot meet the 20 years. ie hire on age is 42, they pay 2 years difference.

Mr. Dafforn- this pension is my retirement from my livelihood.

Mr. Dwyer- if someone leaves after 5-10 years, they don't get anything?

Answer- no, is a 20-yr plan.

2.1 1977 Fund Authorized Agent Appointment - Chris Perez

This allows Chris Perez (office administrator) as the authorized agent to handle the 77 program account. A pension board has not been established yet. The chief and board president , along with the office administrator as the authorized agent, are able to continue to work on the paperwork process for the 77 , applications are 23 pages. Signatures needed (not a voting issue, informational .)

Mr. Dafforn- does Each district have its own pension board?

Chief- Yes, to my knowledge , we have to because we are each our own entity.

Ms. Perez- Initially, there may not be much for a pension board to do, approve hires, disability claims, 4 elected members, eventually 1 retiree. It will be some time before we can have an elected retiree.

Mr. Dafforn-Gale and Chris dot I's and cross t's but final approval (including disability) comes from the state.

Ms. Perez- correct

3. Chief's Report – Gale Stelzer

Necessary equipment repair found during maintenance check. (Arcola) Cutter broken in several places. The estimate is \$7,000 with no warranty, district won't own it. Quote for new: McQueen \$10,400. Hurst (brand currently at both stations) E- trolley, \$11,000, F99/E-2 (the newest they have) ,double strength of others, 10-year warranty. (battery tool). District will have ownership.

Mr. Dafforn- as much as it will get used, especially at Arcola station, it is important not to be without it.

Chief – we use it a lot on 30

Motion to approve by: Lance Dafforn 2nd Chuck Dwyer

EMS would like to buy additional training equipment for \$3,600. Adult airway management , lv arm, tourniquet manikin, Fred the head manikin. It is an unnecessary hassle to take between stations. This is not the \$10,000 limit needing board approval, but I wanted you to know and give blessing.

Mr. Dafforn- we need it.

Mr. Dwyer- you've got the funds

Mr. Branning- you've budgeted it in?

Chief- we have the funds; all manufactures are approximately the same price.

Small board discussion on the cost and importance of quality training equipment.

Motion to approve by: Chandler Branning 2nd Lance Dafforn all in favor

Run data. Chief does not have all of the usual run data due to the months' schedule. Turnout time is 1 minute. Enroute to scene is 6.6 minutes. Last month was 6.5.

Mr. Dafforn : Turnout time 1.5- 2 minutes is the national average; we are half that. National average for enroute to scene is 8.5, Good.

Grant. It has been switched over. Tanker search ceased, resuming soon. The goal is spending under \$400,000, spend as little as possible. We are getting \$357,000 from the government .

The previous tanker sold for \$17,500 and can be used to help satisfy the grant. The budget impact is low.

4.Emails for Trustees

We are looking for an email for the board. The cost for WCFD email address is \$6/ mo per email. \$72/ mo for each board member.

Mr. Dafforn: can we look at 1 email that pushes out to each individual email?

Ms. Perez : we can look into that.

Agree to decide when all board members are present.

5. 2025 Budget Review- Chris Perez

Overview of packet given to the board:

1st page- 2025 budget

2nd page- 2024 compared to 2025

3rd page estimates of revenue and tax rate impact

Financials for June/ July .

Mr. Dafforn- vehicle/health insurance came in less, work comp was higher.

Ms. Perez- I estimated a bit higher on that for next year. Increased training budget approx. \$4,000

Mr. Dafforn- I and I think Gale and the firefighters will appreciate that.

Chief: One thing included is FDIC- we did not this year b/c it's the 1st year. Raises will reflect .3% raise across the districts. Allen Co is trying for a 4% but we decided to do the minimum to save some money for taxpayers as have some space to move up in the future. Average inflation is 3.2%. The estimated LIT from the auditor is \$1million. The numbers today are estimates. DGLF sends out their number around Aug 16th, 2024. Estimated revenues EMS, excise, LIT, property tax , what is needed for the general fund is \$4.5 million, CUM fund is the same as this year. 2025 NAV not available yet. Net Assessed value will likely be higher, the tax rate will drop lower because there are more people to share. The estimate without the new station will (hopefully) be .27, with the new station .31. These rates depend on

actual LIT money and AV which will be known in several weeks. Sept 19th is the budget hearing with County Council , October 9th is the adoption.

September 1 is the due date for budget submission

Mr. Dafforn: Who is the medical director?

A: Medical director for WCFD is Matthew Sutter of IU Health

Mr. Dwyer : Is there anything you see needing a 2nd look ?

Ms. Perez : No, I have it detailed out and am comfortable, barring any surprises, with the information I have.

Chief: Our goal was 1 million and not to use more than 85% of the budget, the same is true going forward but will still be a few years to settle in and build up.

Mr. Dwyer : rather have all 5 before voting on the budget

Mr. Dafforn: we can have an emergency meeting

Short discussion of moving forward with a vote.

Motion to approve by: Chuck Dwyer 2nd Lance Dafforn

County Councilman Robert Armstrong asked if a county wide insurance plan is being worked on? Has anyone approached the county to get linked into the counties' insurance?

Chief- yes, it is being worked toward. Will not happen this year, pushing for 2026. Have to have a minimum of 150 employees- it would be a cost savings of approx. 15%. It was a no go for county insurance .

6. Adjourn 6:36

Motion to approve by: Lance Dafforn 2nd Chuck Dwyer

Natalie Forbing
secretary