

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Minutes</i></p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">WEST CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p>	<p><u>Board Attendees</u></p> <p>Chuck Dwyer-Present Mike Meyers-Present Lance Dafforn-Present Chandler Branning-Absent David Guadnola-Present</p> <p><u>Additional</u></p> <p>Gale Stelzer- Present Chris Perez- Present</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March 19, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11321 Aboite Center Road Fort Wayne IN 46814</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6PM (-5 UTC)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This meeting was recorded with Video and Audio and can be viewed https://vimeo.com/1068201811/4494fc3727</i></p>	

1. **Call to Order / Welcome / Pledge of Allegiance** [00:00.07]
 - a. 6pm Lane Dafforn called meeting to order.
2. **Review Minutes from January 16, 2025** [00:01.00]
 - a. Minutes approved unanimously.
3. **Merit Board Adoption** [00:01.16]
 - a. New Merit Board – In place by 4/1/25
 - b. Organizational Structure for vote tonight.
 - c. The only change in document presented to this board tonight from the other districts is specifically the signatory lines. (pick up at 8 minutes)
 - d. Voting on adopting the Merit. [00:08.18]
 - e. Vote Passes
4. **Regular Membership Status Adoption** [00:08.22]
 - a. Years of service discussion
 - i. Service calculation extends past west central?
 - ii. Is volunteer service included in years of service? Yes.
 - iii. Full-Time staff only.
 - iv. Vote Passes [00:12.16]
5. **Chiefs Report** [00:13.45]
 - a. **Vote on Paramedic Training Fund** [00:13.45]
 - i. Reallocate funds from PIO line item (\$15,000) to fund paramedic training.
 - ii. Run 2 staff, each year, through Paramedic school.
 - iii. 3 year contract for retention of paramedics
 1. Contract has not been developed and written yet.
 - iv. Motion to Pass [00:22.54]
 - v. Vote Passes [00:23.00]
 - b. **Fire & EMS Hiring** [00:23.05]
 - i. April 5th – Interviews are done
 - ii. 2 Board members requested to sit in on the next interviews
 - iii. Dave Guadnola asks to expand advertising locations for applicants.

1. *Note: Additional posting location options were sent to Chris Perez via Email by David Guadnola on Sunday March 23*
- iv. Civilian hire would be a 24/48 options – limited fire operation duties
- v. Budget constraints for Senate bill 1 reduction? Keep in mind the budget, so we don't have to release staff
- c. Engine Equipment Vote [00:29.40]
 - i. October Delivery
 - ii. December Delivery
 - iii. Ordering Equipment – Budget allocation already available
 - iv. Preference to purchase used equipment from FDIC seminar
 - v. New tanker won't need all new equipment – swap discussion [00:36.45]
 - vi. Motion to Purchase Hand Tool Equipment [00:45.50]
 - vii. Vote Passes [00:45.57]
- d. Hose & Nozzle Purchase vote [00:48.21]
 - i. 2 quotes for hose and nozzle options
 1. High Combat Brand
 2. Cobra Brand
 - ii. \$4000 difference between brands. High Combat is used more prevalently in this area and departments.
 - iii. Nozzles are \$5500 – per truck
 - iv. Appx \$70k total
 - v. Hold off on Nozzle purchase until Summer
 - vi. Monitor is a must have purchase.
 - vii. Motion to approve Monitor and High Combat Hose purchase. [01:01.00]
 - viii. Vote Passes [01:01.10]
- e. New Radios for 3 trucks [discussion] [01:01.18]
 - i. Preferred to buy used radios
 - ii. Radios must be TDMA compliant
 - iii. 11 total radios need to be replaced
 - iv. \$6400 new radio price at current rate
 - v. Handheld systems are up to date
 - vi. All new purchases will be owned by West Central
- f. Fiscal Report – Chris Perez [01:06.36]
 - i. Everything is on track per Chris Perez
 - ii. On track financially for the next tax draw
 - iii. 2 mil is still accruing interest
 - iv. New information should be available regarding personal reimbursements to track notes for what it is for.
 - v. Firewatch money still being collected
 1. \$25k has been collected
 2. Appx \$91k is still outstanding
- g. Volunteer Contract [01:12.28]
 - i. Contract is past due for the state. This is new for state requirements

- ii. Contract presented is the existing Northwest Fire existing contract, only changes is for WCFD name.
- iii. State Law requires \$100 for mileage and \$100 for clothing allowance - \$200 minimum pre member.
- iv. Person who calculated payment via a point system last year passed away.
 - 1. For 2024 Thad McCallister stated he reviewed all training, runs, pr events, and divided up for equal amounts for runs. Example – each person who made 20 runs got the same amount. People who got only \$200 minimum only made a few runs or trainings.
 - 2. Thad says they are working on a new pay system calculus for 2025.
- v. Lance Dafforn asks for more transparency in volunteer pay calculations and asks for a viable plan by next meeting.
- vi. Dave Guadnola asks why the disparity of pay and how the spread sheet we have was calculated
 - 1. Thad – everyone got min \$200 per state law
 - 2. Dave - Who has the paperwork to verify the run/training totals?
 - 3. Thad – “I have them”
- vii. Federal Law requires all payments \$600 and over to have a 1099 tax form filed
 - 1. Were they filed? No answer given to the board
- viii. Lance wants to sit down with Thad and develop a pay scale plan for volunteer system.
- ix. Thad agrees to present a pay plan on April 17th at the next meeting.
- x. Vote Tabled until 4/17/25 [1:23.42]
- h. New Business [1:25.19]
 - i. Lions Club Lake Township
 - 1. Would like their display case, tables and chairs out of Base 80.
 - ii. Appraisals for Base 80
 - 1. Chris Perez states they will all be available by 4/17 meeting
 - iii. Environmental Studies
 - 1. Chris Peres states they are in and look good.
 - 2. Phase II *may* not be as expensive as originally planned.
 - iv. Aboite Lease Charges
 - 1. Mike Meyers had a meeting with Trustee – we will wait to see what comes of those talks
- i. Meeting Adjourned [01:38.23]

Video Reference Link

<https://vimeo.com/1068201811/4494fc3727>