

Board of Fire Trustees of the West Central Fire District
Training Room – Aboite Fire Station

11321 Aboite Center Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Minutes

Board of Fire Trustees Legislative Session
April 24, 2023

Trustees Present: Garry Teegarden, Chuck Dwyer, Chandler Branning, Lance Dafforn,
Mike Meyers
Others Present: Gale Stelzer, Chris Perez

Call to Order - 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes Meeting of March 27, 2023, all approved

Discussions follow:

- **Bank Bond** - Chris Perez informed the board that the application deadline is September of 2023
- **Arcola Fire Station use in the future** –They wanted us to make an offer and we asked them to meet with the parties in control and have a decision on WCFD use and a lease offer by the end of the week. That was agreed on by their Chief.
- **Interlocal Agreement** is being worked on by Attorney Bellamy
- **Cumulative Fund Update** No remonstrance to date, deadline is May 1, 2023
- **Lease to Buy Information** - Chuck Dwyer has researched fire trucks; delivery on new build takes 25-27 months. Terms on leases are 5, 7 or 9 years; rates are currently inverted, meaning short term rates are lower than long term rates. A lease payment can go in the budget as a line item and does not need to use the cumulative fund.
- **Additional Equipment** – A second engine, if ordered, would be delivered in 2028. Ambulance and additional trucks were discussed. Mike Meyers suggested locking in pricing and ordering additional equipment now considering the 2-3 years needed for deliveries and payment is on delivery. Chief and others are getting more info and pursue moving forward with the future needs, keeping in mind increased pricing daily and slow delivery of new equipment.
- **Budget of 2024** – Chief Stelzer and Chris Perez are fine tuning it.
- **Pay Scale and Benefits for all Districts** – Completed by county chiefs and rate sheet was handed out
- **Buildings / Reno vs New Fire Station**– Gale Stelzer – request were in paper and (5) two responded – GM development and Hagerman, and MKS and Envoy – both groups said reno would be out of the question. A 4 million dollar station would be a tax levy to residents of an estimated \$18.00 per year per household. Meeting with builders at 1600 May 3, 2023
- **Location of new stations** – Study by Homeland Security is being done and results will be out.
- **Motion to hire New Chief of WCFD** – Motion to hire Gale Stelzer made by Teegarden and 2nd C Dwyer to vote – discussions followed and vote taken.—3 yays - Teegarden, Dwyer, Meyers / 2 nays – Dafforn, Branning
- Gale Stelzer is Fire Chief of WCFD
- **Bylaws** - Attorney Bellamy is working on them and they are coming soon

Next meeting --May 25 at 1800 (6:00 PM) at the Arcola Station

Motion to Adjourn – C Dwyer -7:16 PM