

WCFD Board Meeting

Date : December 3rd

**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

Chuck Dwyer

Lance Dafforn

Mike Meyers

Chandler Branning

Other- Chief Gale Stelzer, Chris Perez

1. Call to Order/Welcome/ Pledge of Allegiance 6:05pm

2. Save Award presentation- Barb Stelzer, EMS Chief

Summary of cardiac arrest save on Oct 30th, 2024. Special guest Julia Heck and family members including husband (patient) who has no impairments and is alive due to WCFD 6 min on scene response. There is a 7% survival rate for this type of incident. Recognized for their service : 911 dispatcher Rita Hughes

WCFD personnel: Nicki Pazder, Robert Barr, Tyler Fix, Chad Foos, Josh Pyle, Evan Moring, Steve Thurber, Zaire Anderson, Kyle Zerfas, Chris Forbing, Jared Burke

3. Approval of minutes from WCFD board meeting date

Motion to approve by: L. Dafforn 2nd: C Dwyer

4. Merit Board – C Perez

- Resolution available upon request to the WCFD office administrator

New 2023 law incorporates fire districts into merit board law. As a district, it is our choice to adopt a merit board system. This would be a commission of 5 people. 3 from the WCFD board and 2 voted on by the active full-time crew. This board handles hiring, promotions, discipline, suspensions and termination. The way the law reads, if you do not vote to reject the merit board it will automatically be implemented. If the vote is to reject it means the command staff, who does initial discipline and investigation when required and passes recommendations to the board to vote on, will remain the status quo. Tonight is the 1st step in the process of a Merit Board, the board accepting or rejecting a merit (board.) Active full-time members get to have a vote to accept or reject system by Dec 31. The Resolution of the Board of Fire Trustees of WCFD rejecting a Merit System is read aloud.

Discussion includes: The merit board can be adopted later though it has to wait a year and both groups have to vote to reject or accept; have until March 1 to select members. The Board has until April 1- July 1 to decide hiring and firing. Handling the implementation of the union and merit board would be difficult, other districts are adopting one and have been arguing for months.

Motion to approve by: L. Dafforn 2nd: M Meyers

All signed the resolution to reject the Merit Board

5. Scope Report Review

The report can be found on WCFD website- wcfld.org

Background: WCFD is in its infancy though tasked with serving the county's most rapidly expanding area, shared with NWFD. Per County Council in August 2024, prior to authorizing approvals for additional station(s) for the WCFD- a scoping study of both stations the WCFD is currently comprised of must be completed.

Presentation of Scope Report: 106pgs

Adam Kallick – BW Construction

Pete Peterson- RQAW

Jay Trauring- BW Construction and Development

Report Highlights: \$14 million (high end estimate) to bring the station to par. Indiana numbers were used for the square foot estimates, a blend of numbers for various fixtures. A tour of the buildings was conducted to look at what upgrades could be done and discussed with members of WCFD about their thoughts. Cancer is higher in firefighters due to the encounters on the job. These can be mitigated by modern fixes such as systems to

separate contaminates from living quarters. Gear needs to be separated. B80 has room for add ons but have special considerations as would the Aboite station – property lines, gas lines, easements, what needs brought up to code. The district is below capacity compared to much of IN and districts everywhere are experiencing growing pain. Knowing what would or wouldn't be grandfathered in is not able to be known yet. The way this process works, based on basic information provided a preliminary draft is done, discussed and improved/modified. This study considered which location would serve the most percentage of people. Impediments will always exist and can change. Out of 6 known locations, which makes the most sense. This is phase 1 of scoping. The board must decide which fork in the road to take- not taking either is not recommended by the presenters.

WCFD chief is looking to anticipate for the future, be a good steward of taxpayer money and provide great service.

5.1 Public Comment – Chandler Branning

Please stand and state your name

Sandy Trimmer- for renovating but how without owning? Needs not wants wishlist.

Mark Butts – Foundation of scope is flawed, inaccuracies, Bass Rd Location not good.

Charlie Seifert- exact location of N of 30, is it known? Access points state will not give. What about the building and land committee?

C. Dwyer- we did have a meeting with a 6-0 vote

M. Butts/ C. Seifert – we retracted it.

Chief Stelzer- please go look for land, bring solutions to help.

G. Teegarden- For the building and land committee, everything N of 30 being unknown stopped further discussions . N of 30 won't work.

M. Meyers – we are at mercy of County Council regardless. I don't blame folks for being mad .

Brandon Seifert- the engineering group didn't speak with Bernie Beyer (HHS) , he would be helping implement all of this. Commissioners go to County Council is the process.

Pete Peterson- The study was done to evaluate current conditions of the stations; it was done according to what was given from downtown.

John Banet – Air pacs from Arcola. How many of WCFD administration are from Lake Township and how chosen?

Chief Stelzer- restrictions of selling, they are still here.

Board- we were appointed, C. Forbing is Asst. Ems chief- Natalie Forbing interviewed for board and volunteered for secretary.

Drew Edmenson- we want to be good stewards of money; concern about cancer rates and crew safety.

6. Vote on Scope Options

Scenario 1 or Scenario 2. After discussion the board agrees to set a time and what they expect in terms of information: C. Branning, L. Dafforn and Chief Stelzer asked Charlie Seifert, John Bannet, Mark Butts, Steve Thurber to look for land south of 30. L. Dafforn will have conferred with his contact who is currently out of town. C.Branning verify B80 IS still available (for purchase.)

Vote to table until Dec 19th and have a special meeting at B80@6p.

Motion to approve by: C. Branning 2nd: L. Dafforn

7. Adjourn approx. 7:40p No motion, no 2nd