

MEETING MINUTES: West Central Allen Co. Fire District Board

Date: January 6, 2026

Location: West Central Fire District Station

Call to Order: Board Meeting commenced at approximately 6:00 PM.

1. Administrative & Board Reorganization

- **Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the October 16th meeting minutes was tabled pending receipt of a finalized copy.
 - **Election of 2026 Board Officers:**
 - **Chairman:** Mike Meyers was nominated and elected as Board Chair .
 - **Vice Chairman:** Lance Dafforn was nominated and elected as Vice Chair.
 - **Secretary:** Dave Guadnola was nominated and elected as Board Secretary .
 - **Fiscal Officer:** Christina Perez was officially nominated and affirmed as the Fiscal Officer for 2026 .
 - **Board Note:** The Board agreed to move toward using AI-assisted transcription for future meeting minutes to save administrative time.
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2. Financial & Treasurer's Report

- **1977 Fund Pension Certification:** The Board authorized Christina Perez as the agent to certify the 2026 pension base salary (\$ firefighter/paramedic base + highest longevity) .
- **2025 Year-End Closing:** Christina reported that the District ended 2025 in a strong position and is meeting all current obligations, including the recent LifePack purchase .
- **Encumbrance Discussion:** The Board discussed the need to encumber **\$1,310,000** (Engine 81 purchase + equipment) from the 2025 budget into 2026 since the apparatus delivery was delayed .
- **Fuel Management:** A discussion was held regarding fuel costs and tax-exempt status through Lassus and the diesel co-op .

3. Chief's Report

- **Personnel & Hiring:** * The current Academy graduation is set for January 21st.
 - A new hiring process will be opened shortly to fill the remaining three full-time firefighter vacancies .
- **Promotions:** The Board certified the Lieutenant's eligibility list and approved the promotion of the first two individuals on the list to the rank of Lieutenant .

4. New Business: Building Lease & Maintenance Strategy

- **Trustee Meeting Report:** The Board discussed a meeting with the Township Trustee regarding the long-term lease of the station.
- **Maintenance Agreement:** To simplify the lease and lower legal costs, the Board discussed a plan to take over 100% of the building maintenance and repairs in exchange for a nominal rent (\$1.00).
- **Legal Action:** A motion was made and passed to **place all attorneys on hold** regarding the lease negotiations while the Board and Trustee finalize the maintenance-based agreement themselves.
- **Private Asset Status:** Chairman noted that for future negotiations with the County Council, it must be emphasized that the Arcola Fire Station is a privately held asset, not a taxpayer-owned municipal building.

5. Public Comment & Adjournment

- **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered.
 - **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 PM.
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