

WCFD Board Meeting

Date: Feb 28, 2024

**Location: Community Center- Aboite Fire Station
11321 Aboite center Rd Ft Wayne, IN 46818**

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

Approx 12 public in attendance

1. Call to Order/Welcome/ Pledge of Allegiance 6:03 pm

2. Approval of minutes from WCFD Jan 24, 2024

1. Read aloud

Motion to approve by Mike Meyers 2nd Chuck Dwyer all approve

3. Chief's Report – Chief Gale Stelzer

Begin a hiring process for several full-time crew next month. 2-3 spots will remain available for part-timers. 2-year list for full time. Once 77 begins in January, there will be an impact to the budget, 19.2%.

Several full-time personnel are in classes to expand their knowledge- Fire Strategy and Tactics, NIMS 300,400, NFPA 1410.

Station training is approximately 18 hours /mo – will help with ISO rating. An evaluation is due this year, could be pushed till next because 12 months of data are examined: we should do well given all considerations including staffing of full time personnel, training.

Goals for the year: Host Fire 1&2 in July pending funding. 55 students are in a Kendallville class representing over 20 departments, the need is there, funding should be granted. Additionally, desire to offer a Fire Officer 2 and Safety Officer Class.

Chief Stelzer attended an Executive Fire Chiefs Academy earning 1 state cert and 3 national.

Partnered with Red Cross to do smoke alarm installations and safety checklists. We've always done this on our own and will continue. This avenue allows to reduce the cost to someone who would like a unit installed.

Mach alert system has been pushed back to Mar 25th. Total of 75 new pagers. New radios next week.

Fire/EMS data :

B80- 59 9 in Lake Township w 3 N of 30

B180- 106

286 run average.

Times for EMS in route just under 1 minute. Data for Fire not available, its not collected on the current system.

The stations back each other up, it does not count toward run volume. Spillman app gives an advantage in response times because the information is visible before dispatch is complete.

A grant for cardiac monitors is being filed next week - \$50-60,000 a piece. P35 is the newest and what we are attempting to get, 6 were put in for, 1 for each engine making them ALS. Lutheran Hospital carries WCFD CPR.

Note- Barb Stelzer, EMS chief , informed the board that every 3 months, WCFD provides educational community outreach ie Stop the Bleed, CPR.

Command squad

Totaled in wreck by insurance company, approximately \$70,000. \$30,000 from insurance, the township board has assured they will give the check for this. Accessories need to be ordered now to be received by summer. Lights are \$10,000. Mike at the radio shop said purchase new after 5 years. Two new Tahoes are needed, one for the Fire Marshall, one for B180 as med car/utility vehicle/crew transport. BC capable on the weekend. The diverse uses and benefits of such vehicle are discussed. Options to pay: budget line- Engine Rescue is not being used this year \$275,000 and could cover the expense. Mr. Dafforn says this equipment is needed. Discussion on equipment rotation for down the road to spread out expenses.

Grass Rig 89 will need approximately \$7,000 worth of repair. Engine / Tires & repairs to the pump on the skid unit, tires are 13 years old; NFPA 1911 states we cannot use anything over 7 years old, with that GR-89 is out of service. The truck is 25 years old. Also have a brake issue and we haven't even looked at that.

Options

- New grass rig approximately \$95,000. That is just buying a 1-ton truck and putting a skid unit in, to buy a custom grass rig is approximately \$250,000. We don't use it that often to look at a custom unit.
- Buy new 1 ton truck and use the old skid unit (will save approximately 15 to 20K)
- Fix the old grass rig (I do not recommend)
- Run with only one grass rig (189) at base 80 as it is more central for the district and look at options next year.

Chief's recommendation is not to fix GR-89 and to give it back to Arcola Inc.

Air Pacs

Need enough for training on the trucks and at the new station. NFPA has requirements dictating the lifespan of the AirPacs, which forces you to keep what you need and buy often. We buy 10 sets every 5 years to help keep our crew outfitted. They are worth \$10,000/pc. Mr. Branning asks if the purchase is made with a grant, they can't be sold? Chief Stelzer will have to check for certain. Mr. Dafforn says if they can't be sold they will be of good use to another department.

Miscellaneous: WCFD will not send more than 1 ambulance for TRAA level 0 unless it is in the annexed part of Aboite. B80 officers have the authority to do the right thing for the community.

Motion to approve by: Mike Meyers 2nd Chandler Branning All approve

4. February 2024 Financial Report- Chris Perez Office Administrator

Report available upon request- contact : cperez@wcfcd.us

Doing good with the budget numbers. Narcotics software and Fire inspection / preplanned software are new. 2nd page shows the projected amount of the budget, 3rd and final page shows payout information.

5. Property Appraisals – Chuck Dwyer

Appraisals are for \$474,000. The first thing to check is what property is listed for and check around the area. Mr. Dwyer explained his steps, that it was approved by the attorney. Discussion occurs with the board and some attendees, including explanation of same day last minutes updates. The temporary RFP committee is to gather information to make a recommendation. Baker Tilly will get an estimate for us. Some money needs to be spent in order to know the costs for the plans and contractors. Building and planning considerations are being taken by the firm and the county. All ads will be approved by the attorney.

6. Resolution on BOT – Chris Perez

WCFD is speaking regularly with our attorneys to ensure we are moving through the steps correctly. We just got the resolution this morning. The next step is to publish a notice for an RFP, twice. The cost is the cost of the publication, publications can be pricey. Last year The resolution RFP 2024-28, is needed to complete this step. The board has this document in front of them tonight to sign. A temporary RFP committee will be established to execute the tasks the lawyers advise need completed. In tandem with legal advice, the Baker Tilly financial advisor that worked with us last fall will help us keep abreast of the estimated financial impact. Explanation of and a review of the point and purpose of an RFP is given.

Motion to approve by: Lance Dafforn 2nd Garry Teegarden All Approve

7. Tanker Grant- Chandler Branning

Chief Stelzer made a clarification from earlier in the meeting regarding equipment- he is asking for a total of \$305,000, less the \$40,000 from insurance.

A UEI process change is needed and being worked toward, with Chief Stelzer being made the new primary contact. Mr. Branning is hopeful that the process is complete in the next week or two.

8. Arcola Equipment- Chandler Branning

An equipment list was submitted from WCFD to the people who came to the Arcola move. 1 air compressor and 1 RIT bag needs to be added. These changes will be made and the list submitted to the lawyer. Some of the items/equipment left behind will be donated to One World Medic. Base 280 will be emptied by the end of March. An Ohio fire dept in Farmer township wants to purchase Engine 81, offered to make the next truck payment . The squad has been decided against as it is perceived to be a money drain.

9. Campers

The campers are not going to be needed as first thought. Looking to liquidate them. Proposal: Sell 1 to Garry Teegarden for a good price , for what he has contributed to the district. The other 2 campers will sell to the highest in-house bidders. The campers were purchased with CUM funds and titled to WCFD; the money will come back to the district. Bids thought to be sealed as WCFD had expressed an interest and will have a minimum bid to cover the initial cost. All the plans will be verified with the attorney, it will "pass the smell test".

Motion to approve : Chuck Dwyer 2nd: Lance Dafforn

10. Public Comments

3 comments from the public

1 board member

11. Adjournment 7:47pm

Motion to approve by: Mike Meyers 2nd Garry Teegarden

Board Secretary Natalie Forbing