

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
February 27, 2023

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

Call To Order The legislative session was called to order by Trustee Garry Teeguarden at 6:00PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion on Fire Station Remodels vs. New Builds Gale Stelzer shared information he has gathered on future needs of the district with regards to fire station facilities. He has talked with contractors and would like to get bids for remodeling the existing stations at 11321 Aboite Center Road and 11329 Railroad St. Gale requests the Board to sign a Resolution to allow for the bid process to begin. Motion was made to approve and sign resolution, all in favor, motion carried and resolution signed.

Discussion on Process to Establish Cumulative Fire Fund Chris Perez presented the DLGF process for establishing the Cumulative Fire Fund to the District. Chris explained the process involves a public notice published 10 days and 3 days before the public hearing date. At the public hearing the Board will discuss and sign the resolution to establish the cumulative fire fund, thus adopting it. Immediately after the public hearing the notice of adoption will be posted, beginning a 30 day remonstrance period. If fewer than 25 residents of the District submit a remonstrance to the County Auditor, the Auditor will file a Certificate of No Remonstrance with the DLGF and the fund may be established. Chris recommended the public hearing take place on March 20, 2023, with public notice being published March 10 and March 17. Board members all approved.

Discussion of Process to Establish Initial Maximum Levy Chris Perez explained that this process is detailed, with no information readily available from DLGF and asked permission to engage Paige Sansone of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors to guide us through the process. All Board members agreed.

Discussion on Hiring a Fire Chief Garry Teeguarden began discussion of the need to hire a fire chief in the very near future rather than later in the year. Garry explained that Gale Stelzer has already been doing much work to set policies, procedures, staffing levels, insurance, employee benefits, etc. Garry firmly believes that Gale is the best person to fill this position. Lance Daffron expressed that he does not disagree but would like to have details on Gale's professional background and certifications to support the hiring decision. All are in agreement that the decision will be discussed again once they have time to review Gale's resume.

Discussion on Fiscal Officer There is conflicting information on who can be the District's Fiscal Officer: does it have to be a Board member or does it have to be a non-Board member? The decision is made to seek clarification from attorney Jeff Bellamy.

Discussion on New Ambulance Gale presented information on the ambulance that was ordered in 2021 and is now estimated to be delivered in October.

Comments From the Public

Dennis Pauze

Motion to Adjourn The meeting was adjourned by Garry Teegarden at 7:30PM.