

Meeting Minutes

Joint Meeting of the North Township Advisory Board and the Town Council for the Town of LaPaz

Held at the Fire Station in Lapaz, IN

Tuesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:00pm

North Township Advisory Board Members Present:

Steven Davenport, President

Steve Barber, Secretary (present virtually by Zoom)

Judy Fisher

Town Council (for the Town of LaPaz) Members Present:

Roger Ecker, President

Ryan Young

Cathy Welch

Also present:

Emily Haskins, Trustee, North Township

Mathew Haskins, Fire Chief

For other community members present, please refer to the attached sign-in sheet.

The reader will note that meetings are now livestreamed and available for viewing thereafter. Please refer to our website for a schedule of our meetings, links for the live streams (available for viewing thereafter), approved minutes, and additional information: <https://northtownship.org>.

The meeting consisted of the following. Mr. Davenport and Mr. Ecker called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

1. 2025 Annual Report review regarding Fire Territory

- a. Ms. Haskins explained that this joint meeting was held in accordance with the stipulations found in the Interlocal Agreement for the North Township – LaPaz Fire Protection Territory. She added that this meeting will only review the financial report of the Township which covers the Fire Territory. She then reviewed the financial report pertaining to the Fire Territory.

***The reader is referred to the complete 2025 Annual Financial Report for North Township. Items listed below are only a few key figures but are not the full report.*

- b. Total Receipts for the Fire Territory General Fund in 2025 = \$1,851,759.73
- i. General Property Taxes = \$1,057,546.91
 - ii. Transferred balances from Township Fire/EMS funds = 599,173.14
 - iii. EMS fees received in 2025 = 86,039.93
 - iv. Reimbursement from Town of LaPaz = 50,000.00
- c. Total Expenses for the Fire Territory General Fund in 2025 = \$695,593.45
- i. Personnel Services = \$244,523.08
(this includes volunteer compensation of \$75,126.15)
 - ii. Major expenses in 2025 also included new SCBAs as well as the cot, load system, and heart monitor for Mobile 1.
- d. Balance for Fire Territory General Fund as of 12-31-2025 = \$1,170,166.28
- e. Receipts from General Property Taxes for the Equipment Replacement Fund = \$77,860.51

2. Good of the Order announcements or updates from the Fire Department

a. Mr. Haskins referenced and responded to concerns about recent responses. Mr. Haskins reported a number of statistics for the department. The reader is referred to the six printed reports which are attached to the minutes. The following is a summary of some key stats and discussion.

i. Incident 2025 YTD handout:

1. In 2025 there were 510 dispatches.
2. The vast majority of dispatches occur between 7am and 11pm.

ii. 2025 Fire Index handout:

1. Count of Incidents by Incident Type identify the total number of Rescue and EMS (crashes and medical calls) = 353

iii. Mutual Aid was given 46 times and received 32 times.

1. Aid Received handout: This provides data on the number of times aid was received from nearby departments.
2. Aid Given handout: This provides data on the number of times aid was given to nearby departments.
3. Mr. Haskins explained that he is hoping to expand “Automatic Aid.” This occurs when dispatch automatically and initially dispatches other departments to respond to a call, in support of the primary department. This would typically happen when a structure fire has been reported and it is anticipated that aid will be needed. This is done rather quickly and does not rely upon the primary department seeking assistance through “Mutual Aid” once the primary department arrives on the scene.

iv. FT-PT Chute Times handout:

1. The average chute time (from the time of dispatch to the time the ambulance leaves) for full-time/part-time chute times is 1m:36s (this is when there are paid staff at the ready to be dispatched). These were during the day (from 6am to 6pm), with 173 incidents recorded. He indicated that he has spoken to the employees about improving this, especially when the call is not for a crash or a fire (when turn-out gear would be required).

He added that this chute time is a big factor for him in the consideration of the future placement/location of living quarters for the employees. He reported two incidents when employees stumbled while coming down the stairs in response to a dispatch. No injuries were sustained. Tread plates have been installed to improve the grip on the steps. As a result, Mr. Haskins voices his preference for having living quarters on the first floor.

v. Volunteer Chute Times handout:

1. The average chute time for volunteers is 9m:24s.
2. Response to concerns identified by a patron:
 - a. He explained for a few of the calls cited by a patron there was not a volunteer crew available during the nighttime hours in question.
 - b. For 4 of the calls cited, one of their ambulances and crew were already engaged responding to another call. There was not another crew to respond to the second call.
 - c. The last call occurred on the day after Christmas. On that evening, there was not an EMT on duty.

3. For the year, 8 calls were missed and 4 of those were because the ambulance/crew was already engaged on a call and unable to respond.

3. Future Meetings:

- i. Ms. Haskins scheduled the next Fire Territory Executive Committee meeting for 6:00pm on Monday, March 23, 2026. Mr. Ecker indicated that the Town will inform Ms. Haskins regarding their choices for the representation on the Committee.
- ii. Township Advisory Board Meeting, Monday, March 23, 2026 after the Territory meeting, at approximately 7:00pm.

4. Additional discussion about staffing.

- a. Mr. Haskins reported that one of their part-time staff provides EMS coverage 4-6 nights per week. As a result of this person going on vacation around Christmas time, the department went 7 days without an EMT on nights. Because of this, Mr. Haskins informs the Board that he will be recommending hiring additional full-time staff to assist in covering nights. He was able to make a modification to help provide coverage by splitting up one of our teams because a driver was available. The Board discussed adding staff to improve service. Appreciation was expressed for all the work done this past year. It was noted that the Board previously approved a total of 4 full-time staff. And since we are currently at 3 full-time staff, it was clarified that Mr. Haskins can continue his efforts to fill that vacancy. The board expressed a willingness to meet prior to the scheduled meeting if it were needed to help fill this vacancy.

5. Public comments: None

6. Mr. Davenport moved to adjourn the meeting for the Township and was seconded by Ms. Fisher.

a. Roll Call vote:

- i. Mr. Barber – yes
- ii. Ms. Fisher – yes
- iii. Mr. Davenport – yes

7. Mr. Ecker moved to adjourn the meeting for the Town and was seconded by Mr. Young.

a. Roll Call vote:

- i. Mr. Young – aye
- ii. Ms. Welch – aye
- iii. Mr. Ecker – aye

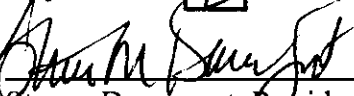
The meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Barber, Secretary

Approved: As Written/Printed

As Amended

As Corrected



Steven Davenport, President

3-23-26
Date



Stephen Barber, Secretary

3-23-26
Date



Judy Fisher

3-23-26
Date

North Township Marshall County / Town of LaPaz Joint Public Meeting
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:00pm
LaPaz-North Township Fire Station

- 1. 2025 Annual Report review regarding Fire Territory**
- 2. Good of the order announcements or updates from Fire Department**
- 3. Public Comment (Limited to 2 minutes per person)**

North Township Marshall County / Town of LaPaz Joint Public Meeting
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:00pm
LaPaz-North Township Fire Station

Sign-In Sheet

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.