



## **Town of Cedar Lake Board of Safety Public Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Kaper called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and asked for a moment of silence for Cedar Lake Police Department Sergeant Tom Kidd whose father recently passed away.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Present	Joshua Govert, Member	Present	Ralph Miller, Town Council Liaison
Present	James Olthoff, Member	Present	William Fisher, Police Chief
Present	David Villalobos, Member	Present	Todd Wilkening, Fire Chief
Present	Norman Stick, Vice Chairman	Present	Carl Brittingham, Deputy Chief Police
Present	Lester Kaper, Chairman	Present	Nick Mager, Deputy Chief Fire

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Kaper called for Public Comment three times; none received.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES for Wednesday, February 23, 2022:** A motion was made by Norm Stick, seconded by David Villalobos, to approve the meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Govert – Yes, Olthoff – Yes, Villalobos – Yes, Stick – Yes, Kaper – Yes. Vote: 5-0.

### **VIPS REPORT**

1. **February 2022 Report:** Kaper reviewed the report noting a total of 92 hours, including 40 hours of patrol, 28 hours of training, and 24 miscellaneous hours.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT: OLD & NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Communications:** Chief Fisher reported he had letters of commendation for Officer Meyer, Officer McDowell and Corporal Miller for an incident on March 8, 2022 regarding a dangerous standoff call involving an armed suicidal male and SWAT team involvement. Certificates were presented to all three individuals and Chief Fisher and Board members thanked them for their service. Fisher stated a letter will also be sent to the Colonel to the DNR for one of the DNR officers who assisted with that SWAT call, but she was not available to attend tonight. He indicated she would be at the next Board meeting for introduction. Chief Fisher also stated he had received a voicemail from Madelyn Jones thanking Corporal Allande for pulling her over for a warning on what had been a bad day for her. Fisher reported Deputy Chief Brittingham received an email from an officer at Crown Point acknowledging Officer Stickle for his STOPS training at the academy, noting he has really stepped up since he had been his FTO years ago, stating he was professional, knowledgeable and represents the department well.
2. **Finances – Purchase Orders, Expenditure Reports & Grants:** Chief Fisher confirmed for Kaper that the gloves order was for rubber gloves. Fisher stated the Byrnes grant has been signed, legal had reviewed and discussed with him corrections made, the grant would be issued to the Clerk Treasurer and the contract looks good. He indicated they are just awaiting signatures. Fisher confirmed to Kaper they were seeking additional grant possibilities for cameras. He stated contact had been made with the local Fraternal Order of Eagles who donated \$9600 toward the purchase of 6-8 PhaZZer tasers. A presentation will be made at the second Town Council meeting in April. He stated \$29,000 would be needed to outfit the entire department and they would be

looking at other grants for additional funding. Fisher reported that per the recommendation of the Board, he had been researching an apparatus to utilize inside of the station to safely clean weapons inside of the station with a cost of \$800. The Patriot Guard had reached out to provide a donation for all of the work the department has done with soldiers, specifically with what had happened with Captain Laud recently. They are going to present this apparatus request to their Board for their approval.

3. **Staffing:** Chief Fisher reported the Records Clerk is still out of the office on medical leave. Officer Corbin has been released to full duty. He stated applications are being taken for Part-Time Records Clerk through Friday. Officer Tomko has been released from FTO and is working on his own. Officers Sterk and King are working in FTO and doing well.
4. **Training Report:** Chief Fisher reviewed the reported trainings for the month. He expounded on the simulated training they had taken, noting the officers enjoyed the training, the two SWAT officers provide the training, the training is free for the entire department at the MAC Center, but the only downfall was the distance of location being in Valparaiso. He explained to members inquiring that the training was all about de-escalation and totally interactive based on how the officers replied for responses.
5. **Equipment – Update, New Vehicle Purchase Update, Vehicle Repair Report:** Chief Fisher reported, as previously stated above, they were working on obtaining tasers for the department. He reported one new car was in at Thomas Dodge, awaiting the arrival of the other three. Once all three are in, they will take them to PDS to be equipped, which takes approximately 8 weeks for installation. He reported meeting with the Clerk Treasurer regarding financing.
6. **Monthly Activity Report – CLPD Monthly Report & Code Enforcement:** Chief Fisher reviewed the monthly activity report noting 815 calls for service for the month, 72 state violations, 211 warnings 28 arrests, 45 charges filed for the month with year-to-date total of 59 arrests and 96 charges filed. Fisher clarified for Kaper that a citation is a ticket and a warning is a warning. Fisher reviewed the Ordinance Citations and Warnings reports.
7. **Lexipol Recommended Policy Update:** Chief Fisher stated the Board had discussed this matter during the Executive Session and it was determined this item would be deferred until Attorney Austgen had more time for legal review. Fisher also noted an inquiry had been made with the Attorney for wording regarding ADA concerns. Kaper entertained a motion to defer this item per the request of the Town Attorney. A motion was made by Norm Stick, seconded by David Villalobos, to defer this item. Roll call vote: Govert – Yes, Olthoff – Yes, Villalobos – Yes, Stick – Yes, Kaper – Yes. Vote: 5-0.
8. **Other:** Chief Fisher stated Lake County has filed for a grant for a program called Straticite that will provide a layout for emergency situations including floor plans of schools, municipalities, and larger entities such as malls and gathering places. This program will be funded by Lake County but available to all fire and police.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT: OLD & NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Communications:** Chief Wilkening indicated Lake Hills Fire Department sent a thank you for assisting them on a fire call.
2. **Finances – Purchase Orders, Expenditure Reports & Grants:** Chief Wilkening reviewed the Purchase Order Report noting items included and totaling \$4200. Wilkening reported they should hear more in late May or early June regarding their SAFER grant. Kaper inquired about a town building paying a sewer bill. Council Member Carnahan and Town Attorney Austgen confirmed that was a legit expense.

3. **Staffing:** Chief Wilkening indicated the department was back at full staff. He noted a new variant of COVID and the department will continue to do tests as they have plenty of tests for staff available.
4. **Training Report:** Chief Wilkening reviewed the Training Report, noting the CPR training program has started for staff and will make it available to the public. He noted some staff attending car seat installation schooling.
5. **Equipment:** Chief Wilkening indicated training is still in progress for the tanker, noting it is in service and available for use. Wilkening reported Deputy Chief Mager was working with the township on obtaining fittings, however they were on backorder and they now have a service surcharge. Wilkening reported the new squad is back in the shop for the 4<sup>th</sup> time.
6. **Monthly Activity Report:** Chief Wilkening reported a total of 134 calls for February and 290 calls for the year. Wilkening confirmed for Villalobos that the four rescue calls were all out of town calls for assistance.
7. **Lexipol Policy Updates:** Chief Wilkening reported all policies have been distributed and acknowledged. The department is working on procedures.
8. **Storm Siren:** Chief Wilkening reported that during routine testing the siren at the fire station was having computer issues. Part has been ordered but is currently backordered. Other sirens are operating. Wilkening confirmed to Kaper that weekly sirens are tested on Saturdays at noon.
9. **Pension:** Chief Wilkening reported meeting with Council Affairs to discuss updating the department's pension.
10. **Other:** Chief Wilkening reported the department will be conducting their annual business fire inspections.

#### OTHER

1. **New Building Update:** Chief Wilkening reported he and Chief Fisher were part of a group that would be attending a Zoom kickoff meeting tomorrow regarding the new building.
2. **Radio Appearance:** Chief Fisher reported he and Chief Wilkening will be talking on a local radio show next Monday at 9:20 am to speak about the grant they received for the two hybrid cars.
3. **Other:** Villalobos asked when the boats would be in the water. Chief Wilkening reported their boat was on a trailer, but the pier was not in yet. Chief Fisher stated the police boat was in the shop getting a power unit and would be ready by end of April. Fisher indicated the pier was in the process of being installed. Kaper expressed appreciation to the Police Department for posting road closures and detours on social media for the public. Fisher expressed his being grateful to have Brittingham and Moore for being informative and their assistance.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT: Kaper called for Public Comment three times.

1. **Ken Puent** (13641 Morse St): Puent introduced himself as one of the chaplains for the Town and wanted to express his appreciation to the Board for allowing him to be part of the departments and sending him to training. He attended training in Lexington, Kentucky to become a certified chaplain that included training that allowed him to better assist with matters pertaining to public safety staffing issues including de-escalation, CPR and even reviewing protocols in Lexipol. Chief Fisher expressed his appreciation having two chaplains available, noting at least one, if not both of them, attend the weekly prayer and pledge held at the Town Hall, which has been done for the last two years. He noted it is nice to have them both available. Chief Wilkening added it also helps to have them available during debriefings especially with difficult cases and something great our community has available.
2. **Council Member Robert Carnahan:** Council Member Carnahan stated he represents the Council and liaison of the Lake County Solid Waste District. He stated LCSWD is hosting a Hazardous

Waste event at the Lake County Fairgrounds this Saturday, March 26 from 9 am to 2 pm. Carnahan flyer information, noting ID required, 100# limit and no latex paint.

3. **Council Member Ralph Miller:** Council Member Miller stated he attended the funeral for Captain Laud this weekend and thanked the police and fire department for their great job. Fisher indicated he contacted INDOT who gave him permission to shut down part of US41 to allow for traffic flow into/out of the cemetery and they provided a truck. Fisher noted VIPS assisted with the arrangements and services. Wilkening noted that if there any veterans in the community that request services such as this, they are happy to provide this type of honor and noted individuals can reach out to the police or fire department. Villalobos indicated the community has made many comments of being impressed. Puent noted communities from Fowler to Cedar Lake had paid tributes along the route and he appreciated that. Miller indicated Fort Campbell would be naming one of the buildings after Captain Laud and the fly over at the cemetery was Laud's own helicopter unit. Fisher stated he had the opportunity to speak with Laud's brother thanking the community for the support.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion made by David Villalobos, seconded by Josh Govert, to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor to adjourn the meeting. Kaper called the meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Kaper stated the next meeting will be April 27, 2022 at 6 pm and the Board.

#### TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE BOARD OF SAFETY

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Lester Kaper, Chairman

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Norman Stick, Vice-Chairman

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Joshua Govert, Member

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James Olthoff, Member

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David Villalobos, Member

ATTEST:

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Sarah Moore, Recording Secretary