



Town of Cedar Lake Board of Safety Public Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Kaper called the meeting to order at 6:242 pm.

INVOCATION: An invocation was provided by Chaplain Ken Puent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

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

LIFE SAVING COMMENDATION AWARD & RECOGNITION: Chief Fisher reported on November 29, 2022, Police Department Corporal Pennington and Fire Department Battalion Chief Schultz performed CPR on a 7-month-old female, who was having seizures, not responsive, and not breathing. Due to their quick thinking and heroic actions, the young child is alive. Pennington and Schultz were recognized and will be presented with plaques at the Town Council meeting on December 20, 2022.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for Tuesday, November 22, 2022 Public Meeting: 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: Chief Fisher reviewed the report for November call outs.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Communications: Chief Fisher updated on the progress of the Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation, where officers can grow beards through February, noting they have collected \$1,645.00, with a goal of \$4,000 by February. Fisher clarified for Villalobos that those wanting to grow beards were contributing a minimum \$25 per month. Fisher confirmed for Olthoff that if presentable and all goes well, they would consider keeping beards as part of the appearance at the completion of the donations in February. Fisher stated the department received a thank you call from an anonymous person that they wished to thank Corporal Allande for a courtesy ride when they were having a bad day.

Finances – Purchase Orders, Expenditure Reports & Grants: Chief Fisher reviewed the purchase order and expenditure reports with the Board, noting tires, vehicle repairs, and the donation from the Laud family for training material purchased in Andrew Laud's memory. Fisher

indicated a video was posted on Facebook to show the item. He indicated car cameras were still being installed in vehicles.

Staffing: Chairman Kaper requested a motion for the new patrolman. A motion was made by Norm Stick, seconded by Jim Olthoff, to hire Sabrina Stolarz upon approval of the budget approval of Town Council. Roll call vote: Govert - Yes, Olthoff - Yes, Villalobos - Yes, Stick - Yes, Kaper - Yes. Vote: 5-0.

Training Report: Chief Fisher reviewed the November Training Report including street cop training, intoximeter training, SRO class, and drug paraphernalia class.

Equipment: Chief Fisher indicated several vehicles being repaired before the end of the year. Fisher stated that the status was pending for new vehicles being ordered and that Ford was cancelling orders.

Monthly Activity Report – CLPD Monthly Report & Code Enforcement: Chief Fisher reviewed the monthly activity and code enforcement reports, noting 950 calls for service for the month, averaging 34 calls a day, 86 state violations, 19 arrests, 470 charges filed for the year. Under the Code Enforcement reports, Fisher reviewed the reports, noting 42 citations issued.

Lexipol Recommended Policy Update: Fisher reported resolutions were present from the Town Attorney needing voted upon that would affect the policies.

Resolutions: Fisher reported resolutions being received from Attorney Austgen related to Vehicle Pursuits and Use of Force. A letter from the Superintendent of the Indiana State Police accompanied the resolutions denoting the purpose. Fisher stated that these resolutions would note that the policies will be at minimum what Indiana State Law Enforcement Academy's Training Board requires. Kaper stated the resolution regarding Vehicle Pursuits must be passed before January 1, 2023.

A motion was made by Jim Olthoff, seconded by Josh Govert, to approve Resolution 2022-2 regarding Vehicle Pursuits. Roll call vote: Govert - Yes, Olthoff - Yes, Villalobos - Yes, Stick - Yes, Kaper - Yes. Vote: 5-0.

A motion was made by David Villalobos, seconded by Norm Stick, to approve Resolution 2022-3 regarding Use of Force. Roll call vote: Govert - Yes, Olthoff - Yes, Villalobos - Yes, Stick - Yes, Kaper - Yes. Vote: 5-0.

It is to be noted that a copy of these signed Resolutions 2022-2 and 2022-3 will be appended to the minutes.

Other: Chief Fisher stated the Town received their first settlement from the Opioid Settlement Lawsuit, noting every community in Indiana was receiving funding. The first installment received for the year was in the amount of approximately \$27,000. He noted there is specific use for the funding. Moore explained there were restricted and unrestricted fund guidelines for how the money could be spent specific to opioid education, training, etc.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Communications: Chief Wilkening thanked all of those who sent Christmas cards to the department.

Finances – Purchase Orders, Expenditure Reports & Grants: Chief Wilkening reviewed the purchase orders and expenditure reports noting \$9100 in service on the trucks and ladder testing. Wilkening stated the Association held their holiday fundraiser and winners were picked, receiving Target, Strack & Van Til and Leos gift cards. He reported applying for and receiving a grant for funding for Deputy Chief Mager to attend the International Fire Chiefs Association meeting in Florida in January.

Staffing: Chief Wilkening stated everyone is back to work, having one out for Covid recently. Wilkening stated they are waiting until the beginning of the year to advertise for a part time list. Chairman Kaper requested a motion for the acceptance of the retirement of Division Chief Scoleri, noting his last day would be March 1, 2023. A motion was made by Norm Stick, seconded by Josh Govert, to accept the resignation letter of Scoleri. Roll call vote: Govert - Yes, Olthoff - Yes, Villalobos - Yes, Stick - Yes, Kaper - Yes. Vote: 5-0.

Training Report: Chief Wilkening reviewed the training report noting one in paramedic school for next year, 2 coming out of EMT school in the next 3 months, one of which is a volunteer. Wilkening confirmed to Villalobos that Earlyne Long is in paramedic school, John Smith graduated and is undergoing testing, and two applicants in the academy. He is also looking to have Ashton Kouder before the Board of Safety for review to hire him for January.

Equipment: Chief Wilkening reported they received a grant from the Community Foundation for nozzles, but the equipment is on backorder. Once all of the equipment is in, they would like to do a photo opportunity. He indicated he would also like to re-apply for the SAFER grant when it re-opens next year, noting he received a copy of a successful grant for review.

Monthly Activity Report: Reports were available in the packet for the Board to review.

Lexipol Recommended Policy Update: Chief Wilkening stated he is working spreadsheets in the next few weeks to provide a comparison.

Other: Chief Wilkening indicated he received notice today that they will be randomly audited by Medicare/Medicaid, noting the audit was a grueling one that would take place over the course of the next year, taking up quite a bit of his and Deputy Chief Mager's time. He stated if the audit is not accomplished, they would lose 10% of their funding from Medicare. He will be coordinating with the Clerk Treasurer and Town Manager's offices for this audit.

OTHER

Legal Report from Town Attorney: Chairman Kaper announced that Attorney Austgen was not available due to having a previous commitment. Chief Fisher reported receipt of the red-lined

MOU from the attorney and is in the process of reviewing it. There were no updates available on Training Reimbursement Agreement for Fire Department or Fee Schedule Ordinance update.

New Building Update: Chief Fisher reported they met today, scheduled for ground-breaking in April 2023 with the Police Department scheduled for construction first. Build times are projected at 18 months, with the possible completion in February 2024 for Police and April 2024 for Fire, respectively. All plans are contingent upon the DLGF approval of the budget, Town Attorney and Town Council approval.

Emergency Operations Plan: Chief Fisher reported the plan is being finalized and will go to the Town Attorney for legal review upon completion of the draft.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Kaper called the meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm. He announced the next meeting will be January 25, 2023 at 6:00 pm and wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE BOARD OF SAFETY

Lester Kaper, Chairman

Norman Stick, Vice-Chairman

Joshua Govert, Member

James Olthoff, Member

David Villalobos, Member

ATTEST:

Sarah Moore, Recording Secretary