



TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE BOARD OF SAFETY PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

	VACANT, 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	Lester Kaper, Vice-Chairman	Present	Nick Mager, Deputy Chief Fire
Present	Norman Stick, Chairman	Present	Ralph Miller, Town Council Liaison
		Present	Nick Recupito, Town Council Liaison
		Present	David Austgen, Town Attorney

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

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION AND PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES: for Wednesday, September 27, 2023:

A motion was made by James Olthoff, seconded by Charlie Kaper, to approve the Work Session and Public Meeting Minutes.

Roll call vote: Olthoff – Yes, Villalobos – Yes, Kaper – Yes, Stick – Yes. Vote: 4-0.

VIPS SEPTEMBER 2023 REPORT: Chief Fisher reported there were nine details for the month, 16 hours of patrol, one training, 26 miscellaneous assists for a total of 52. They had detail in Schererville to help with their VIPS and they assisted with the Homecoming parade on September 28, 2023.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Staffing: Chief Fisher presented Life Saving Awards who went above and beyond their duties and were presented to: Officers Powell, McDowell, Dills and Kamstra. Chief Fisher read an email from Senior Special Agent, Branch Training of the Special Teams of the US Department of Labor regarding Officer Powell's diligence and professionalism. Chief Fisher read an email from Mr. Herbers from Diamond Peak Homes regarding Officer Powell's professionalism when he came to their home on a call.

New Officer Updates: Chief Fisher reported our cadet is still in the police academy and will graduate in November. She is doing well.

Finances: Purchase Orders, Expenditure Reports & Grants: Chief Fisher reported we ordered another rear light bar for one of the Durango's.

Training Report: Chief Fisher reported most of the things were for NILEA and Officer Kamstra went to Strategies and Tactics Patrol Stops Instructor School. Corporal Huppenthal is an instructor in Standard Field Sobriety Testing and he went to the academy and taught the new recruit class. We had a secondary instructor at NILEA for a Stops class. Officer McDowell went for sniper training for the swat team and Officer Korban went to CNT for communication and crisis negotiation.

Monthly Activity Report: Chief Fisher reported we are averaging 40 calls a day and 1,038 calls for the month for a total of 10,862 calls. We issued 81 state citations, 403 state warnings, 27 arrests with 34 charges, 7 warrants, 262 total arrests for the year and 415 charges. There were 430 traffic stops and a total 448 written warnings and 121 citations for a total of 557 law incidents for the month. The K9 Deployment Analysis for the month of September showed he was deployed 10 times. The Town Ordinance citations were 37 for a total of 433 for the year and 37 warnings for a total of 437 warnings for the year.

Lexipol Policy Updates: Records Maintenance & Release, Communicable Diseases, Wellness Program: Chief Fisher stated we met with the Lexipol Team and the Records Maintenance & Release will be updated from saying Administrative Assistant to Custodian of Records. The Communicable Diseases Policy, we removed most of the sections referred to Exposure Control Officer because we do not need an officer for exposure control because we send our team directly to the Cedar Lake Fire Department. The Wellness Program Policy we removed the word Police so it will say Town.

A motion was made by David Villalobos, seconded by James Olthoff, to accept the Lexipol Policy Updates. Roll call vote: Olthoff – Yes, Villalobos – Yes, Kaper – Yes, Stick – Yes. Vote: 4-0

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Communications: Chief Wilkening commented he wanted to thank everyone that came to the Open House and thanked Welch's Stop and Shop for donating the sausage and Strack & Van Til and Gordon Foods for their donations. Stick commented the food was excellent and it was a great turnout. Chief Wilkening commented part of communication is going out to the schools and daycares to meet with the kids. We are trying to increase the size of that, but with the staffing we have we cannot get out to the schools all of the time. We were hoping to have the bounce house to learn about fire prevention, but it is on back order.

Finances: Purchase Orders, Expenditure Reports & Grants: Chief Wilkening commented we are still waiting to hear about the Grant and we have not been eliminated yet.

Staffing (Volunteer/Part-Time/Full Time Updates): Chief Wilkening stated we are running short and we lost a paramedic and put on a paramedic and is currently going through the PERF process. We will need to do an emergency hire for a replacement. We advertised for part-time people and we are trying to get more volunteers.

Training Report: Deputy Chief Mager reviewed the monthly report, noting the hours logged for September is 676.

Equipment: Chief Wilkening reported the ladder truck is down and needs a head gasket and will cost approximately \$20,000 to \$35,000 to rebuild it. The 2009 first out that the Township owns blew a radiator and we damaged the radiator on a call pulling out of a parking lot, but the insurance will pay for that. The Township paid for the blown radiator. The 1998 front line has been going through a lot of repairs to keep it on the street. The ambulance that we wanted to purchase was put on hold. The third ambulance had a

lot of money put into it to keep it road worthy. Our number two ambulance has chronic problems which continues to be a problem.

Monthly Activity Report: Chief Wilkening reported there were 216 calls for the month of September, 156 EMS, 39 fire calls, 19 personal injury crashes. The Town of Cedar Lake had 164 of those calls, Unincorporated Hanover Township with 32 calls and Mutual Aid was 19.

Chief Wilkening stated the initial dose of Narcan is vital to saving someone's life until we can get to them to start IV therapy.

Lexipol Policy Updates: Chief Wilkening stated nothing right now. Stick asked are there many monthly notifications. Chief Wilkening commented we get around six updates and some are punctuation problems and the others need to be looked at. We have a few policies that need to be made. Stick commented if there are major changes in a policy, we should meet before the next meeting.

Legal Report from Town Attorney: Mr. Austgen stated he is working with the Town Manager on the Emergency Operations Plan Update.

Town Council Liaison(s) Report: There is nothing to report. Mr. Recupito asked for a clarification on the Grant. Chief Wilkening commented it is called the Safer Grant which is a four-year Grant and they pick up 100% for those four years and then the next year you have to be able to take the whole salary over. We did not get it last year and we are waiting to see if we get it this year. The Town has to be able to sustain this.

New Building Update: Chief Fisher reported the steel on the police side is near completion. The steel on the fire side will start next week.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stick called for Public Comment.

Ms. Mary Joan Dixon, 8711 W. 132nd Place, asked if the Emergency Operation Plan is for the whole community. Chief Wilkening responded in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:42 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 6:00 pm

TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE BOARD OF SAFETY

Norman Stick, Chairman

Lester Kaper, Vice-Chairman

James Olthoff, Member

David Villalobos, Member

Vacant, Member

Cheryl Hajduk, Recording Secretary