



**TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE BOARD OF SAFETY PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:04 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Present	Barbara Littles, Member	Present	Carl Brittingham, Interim Chief of Police
Present	Larry Nagy, Member	Present	Todd Wilkening, Fire Chief
Present	David Villalobos, Member	Present	Nick Mager, Deputy Chief Fire
Present	Lester Kaper, Vice-Chairman	Present	Chuck Becker, Town Council Liaison
Present	Norman Stick, Chairman	Present	Robert Carnahan, Town Council Liaison
		Present	David Austgen, Town Attorney

Jeff Bunge, Town Manager was on Zoom

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stick called for Public Comment.

Mr. John Wilkening, Executive Vice President of Tech Credit Union, commented we are putting together a Special Membership Program for municipal employees and union workers that will have discounted mortgage processing fees, higher rates on cd's and savings and lower rates on loans. We will launch at the Lowell Labor Day Parade and the thanked the Board of their time. We wanted to do something special for police, first responders and labor. We discounted these items for the people in the Town.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES: Work Session, June 20, 2024 and Public Meeting July 24, 2024

A motion was made by Barbara Littles, seconded by Larry Nagy, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2024.

Roll call vote: Littles – Yes, Villalobos – Yes, Kaper – Yes, Nagy – Yes, Stick – Yes. Vote: 5-0.

VIPS JULY 2024 REPORT: Lieutenant Layer reported they had a total of 64 hours with four details and two callouts. We have a prospective member for approval, his name is Mike Patierno.

Mr. Mike Patierno gave a brief history of his past career. He commented he would like to do something with the community. Stick commented he was glad to hear that Mr. Patierno is interested in the VIPS.

A motion was made by Larry Nagy, seconded by Barbara Littles, to hire Mike Patierno into the VIPS Program.

Roll call vote: Littles – Yes, Villalobos – Yes, Kaper – Yes, Nagy – Yes, Stick – Yes. Vote: 5-0.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Finances: Interim Chief of Police Brittingham commented there has been routine vehicle maintenance this month.

Stick asked how are the new cars coming along. Interim Chief Brittingham commented they are at the outfitters and they are waiting to be outfitted with the additional equipment. The marked car is striped and marked. The NIPSCO grant that was written and the funds of \$5,000 were obtained for firearm safety and purchases were made. A CSX transportation grant was written to purchase gas masks and filters was done and completed and we made those purchases. The SAFE grant money that was received will go revolve around alcohol and drug use, including overtime, as long as, we are long it is specific to what it is being used for.

Staffing: Interim Chief Brittingham commented he reviewed the application for the new VIPS person and did the background check. Officer Matthew Milan is at the academy and he is doing well and will graduate in November.

Training Report: Interim Chief Brittingham commented we have firearms going on, but it will be on the report next month. There was K9 training and additional railroad training, which helped get the CSX grant. There was also SWAT training in July.

Equipment: Interim Chief Brittingham commented this was discussed in the previous sections.

Monthly Activity Report: Interim Chief Brittingham reported there were 1,043 calls for service for the month, 353 traffic stops analysis, 338 warnings issued, 161 citations issued, a total 696 law calls for the month, 29 arrests. We issued 27 Ordinance warnings for the month and 87 Ordinance citations.

Lexipol Policy Updates: Interim Chief Brittingham commented there will be some updates next month.

Other: Mr. Carnahan commented there was supposed to be a cars inspection and uniform inspection. Interim Chief Brittingham commented because of the weather and recent changes in administration, it is on hold.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Communications: Chief Wilkening commented Fire Prevention Week will be the week of October 13, 2024 and we will have our open house on October 13, 2024.

Stick read a thank you letter out loud from the IT Department thanking them for their help with the installation of some of the equipment at the new fire station.

Finances: Purchase Orders, Expenditure Reports & Grants: Chief Wilkening reviewed the reports.



Stick commented this is the report that we need to approve for equipment and vehicle repairs. Kaper asked what is ice commander liner. Chief Wilkening commented it is an ice rescue suit.

Discussion ensued regarding purchase order requisitions.

A motion was made by Lester Kaper, seconded by Barbara Littles, to approve the purchase requisitions.

Roll call vote: Littles – Yes, Villalobos – Yes, Kaper – Yes, Nagy – Yes, Stick – Yes. Vote: 5-0.

Expenditure Reports & Grants: Chief Wilkening commented we have the air pack grant that was written, but we have not heard anything yet.

Staffing: Chief Wilkening commented we have a volunteer waiting to be interviewed and has been waiting a long time.

Chief Wilkening commented he put emergency hire on the agenda, because they were losing a firefighter and we need to hire someone. We will be down a paramedic and this creates overtime for the other firefighters.

Training Report: Chief Mager commented the report for June is a total of 112 hours with a breakdown by sessions and hours by category. The July report is 121 hours and the breakdown is in the report.

Equipment: Chief Wilkening commented we had a discussion about the fire truck and the Council Affairs Committee had discussions with Mr. Andy Herb, Mr. Kevin Toth and the Clerk Treasurer. It will be up to the Council Affairs Committee now to get back to the Council with the direction we need to go. There is a possibility that the truck that the Township owns will be re-furbished or exploring another truck. We have quotes back from Fire Service for an ambulance and another quote from another manufacturer.

Monthly Activity: Chief Wilkening commented the incidents are up 20% on calls for the year, which Chief Mager came up with a statistic with calls where we were not available to cover, because of the multiple calls at one time. Chief Mager stated 42% of the time we were not available in June and 52% in July. There is a report for overlapping incidents and it shows a breakdown. Chief Wilkening commented we need to increase our staffing somehow.

Chief Mager stated there is an overlapping incident every day.

Other: Interim Chief Brittingham commented there is the Senior Social on September 9, 2024 at the clubhouse, and the Police Department will be there to speak about fraud, identify theft and financial fraud. We have steering wheel locks to donate also.

Town Liaison Report: Mr. Carnahan asked was there an accident in the Chamber parking lot. Interim Chief Brittingham commented it was on the lake; it was a boat that had engine problems.



New Building Update: Chief Wilkening commented the water is going in and we are awaiting on furniture.

Mr. Carnahan commented IDEM approved our permit on August 12, 2024, but we have a ten-day waiting period.

Interim Chief Brittingham commented there were issues with the doors not closing right and there is a list of things that are getting worked on.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Chad Wilson, 9111 W. 137th Place, asked is there a reason why it takes so long to get volunteer firefighters. Chief Wilkening commented we had applicants waiting in the past and we have to get the Board of Safety to interview the volunteers. This was not how it was in the past, but now they have to be interviewed by the Board. Discussion ensued regarding the delays in the process.

Mr. Jerry Conner, 10330 Paramount Way, Cedar Lake, commented he is a retired Deputy Fire Chief for Beecher, IL and he finds it stunning that there are so many layers of complications to get things done. The volunteer firefighter position should be up to the Chief.

Ms. Littles commented she will do the research and find out about the process.

Mr. Dean Wilkening, 15101 Euclid Street, Cedar Lake, commented we have five volunteers and that is all we have.

ADJOURNMENT: Stick called the meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE BOARD OF SAFETY

Norman Stick, Chairman

Lester Kaper, Vice-Chairman

Larry Nagy, Member

David Villalobos, Member

Barbara Littles, Member

Cheryl Hajduk, Recording Secretary