



TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE BOARD OF SAFETY PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
July 23, 2025 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Present	Barbara Littles, Member	Present	John Gruszka, Police Chief
Present	Larry Nagy, Member	Present	Carl Brittingham, Deputy Police Chief
Present	David Villalobos, Member	Present	Nick Mager, Interim Chief Fire
Present	Lester Kaper, Vice-Chairman	Present	David Austgen, Town Attorney
Present	Norman Stick, Chairman	Present	Robert Carnahan, Town Council Liaison
		Absent	Chuck Becker, Town Council Liaison
		Absent	Ben Eldrige, Town Manager
		Present	Cheryl Hajduk, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stick called for Public Comment.

Mr. Terry Broadhurst, 2123 Arthur Avenue, Lockport, IL representing his property at 14513 Morse Street, Cedar Lake, IN, commented he wanted to say thank-you to the VIPS for their work at Summerfest.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES: June 25, 2025 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Barbara Littles, seconded by David Villalobos, to approve the June 25, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

VIPS JUNE 2025 REPORT: Lieutenant Jack Yauger reported there was one traffic hazard, 6 details, 4 hours for callouts, 71 hours for details, 20 hours for training, 15 miscellaneous for a total of 110 hours for the month. The training is going well.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Finances: Police Chief Gruszka commented we received a Recognition Award from Lexipol for implementation of policies. We had help from Schererville’s VIPS and did a great job, along with our VIPS. We received recognition from Facebook for Officer Tomko and K9 Johnny. Officer Dills received a Lifesaving Award for providing CPR to a person in need of medical assistance and on the same day, she helped a gunshot victim by applying pressure to help save their life.



Finances: Police Chief Gruszka commented the Summerfest payroll figures were \$12,000 in overtime. There were nine service calls. We received a SAFE Grant for \$7,500, which will be used for overtime. Ms. Sarah Moore applied for the Grant and did a great job.

Police Chief Gruszka commented the Ordinance for the currency in custody passed at the Town Council on July 15, 2025. There was some forfeiture money that was taken to the Clerk's office, which was about \$28,000 and we will get \$11,000 back once it is divvied up with the Prosecutor and the School Fund.

Staffing: Police Chief Gruszka commented Officer Lukasik is at the academy and he is doing well. Corporal Allande was elected as the School Resource Officer for Hanover Central High School.

Training: Police Chief Gruszka commented we want to get officers trained in Interview and Interrogation. We are sending three or four officers for this training in September.

Equipment: Deputy Chief Brittingham commented one of the new vehicles is in process, but there has been a delay in getting them outfitted.

Deputy Chief Brittingham discussed the Dodge Charger that the Police Department was interested in purchasing and how another municipality bought the car.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of getting another police vehicle.

Monthly Activity Report: Police Chief Gruszka reported calls for service were 923 calls for service, 297 traffic stops, there were 262 warnings issued, 106 citations, 582 law incidents, 23 arrests, 33 arrest offenses associated with those arrests, 41 Ordinance warnings and 53 citations issued.

Policy Updates: Police Chief Gruszka commented there are 15 new policies to review.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Communications: Interim Fire Chief Mager commented we received thank-you cards for all the staff members and care packages from Bethal Church.

Finances: Purchase Orders, Expenditure Reports & Grants: Interim Fire Chief Mager commented the Purchase Orders for the month of June was \$1,289.63 and the Requisition Report was \$31,558.67.

A motion was made by Barbara Littles, seconded by David Villalobos, to approve the June 2025 Purchase Requisitions.

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

Interim Fire Chief Mager commented the initial proposal letter with the EMS billing rate proposal, along with an equipment replacement plan has been discussed. The Town Council directed at their last meeting



to work with this Board. There has not been a rate increase on EMS billing. Basing on Senate Bill next year, in the next consecutive years, we are facing potentially a lot of cuts. Everything has been evaluated revenue wise. We had to come up with a proposal, which is a part of that and justification for that increase.

Ms. Littles asked this will possibly hold steady increases every year for inflation purposes. Interim Fire Chief Mager commented that is just one initial increase in within a proposal. Discussion ensued.

Discussion ensued the lift assist calls from the one person. Interim Chief Mager commented he is evaluating the services.

Mr. Austgen commented the Town Council will need to adopt an Ordinance for an amendment to the EMS rates.

A motion was made by Barbara Littles, seconded by Charlie Kaper, to send a favorable recommendation to the Town Council for the new ambulance billing proposal.

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

Staffing: Interim Fire Chief Mager commented we have a Letter of Resignation for Michael Perich, who wants to work part-time and he wants to further his education.

A motion was made by Barbara Littles, seconded by David Villalobos, to accept the resignation of Michael Perich of a full-time employee and to go to part-time status.

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

Training: Interim Chief Fire Mager commented the total training hours for the month of June were 359 hours.

Equipment: Interim Chief Fire Mager commented the Township ambulance #1261 went into service and there are some minor items to address. On August 1, 2025 the Township ambulance will go on calls.

Mr. Stick discussed the repairs that were done on the 2013 ambulance and to put it into a monthly rotation.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2013 ambulance and transferring some of the equipment to the new Township ambulance and the rotations of ambulances.

Discussion ensued regarding selling the Chevy ambulance in the future and how the funds can be used for ALS equipment.



Interim Chief Fire Mager commented we had a rear seal on the #1213 went out and it also needed drums. The requisition for that was \$2,600 for the repair. It was a number of years since these were replaced. The #1221 – ladder truck had its repairs and we used a different testing company because they were faster and cheaper, but the initial company missed some things and it had to go through testing. Discussion ensued.

Monthly Activity: Interim Chief Fire Mager commented we had 213 incidents and the overlapping incidents were at 41%.

Mr. Villalobos asked about the increase of calls for service. Interim Chief Fire Mager commented we have been increasing every month this year. Mr. Villalobos commented he would like to see comparisons from previous years.

Lexipol Updates: Mr. Stick commented him and Mr. Villalobos met with Acting Chief Mager and went over Lexipol policies and are caught up. Interim Chief Fire Mager commented and email went out on July 16, 2025 regarding the policies. Policy #214-Americans with Disabilities Acts has been updated because of Federal regulations. The information for the ADA Coordinator was updated. Policy #301-Emergency Response had wording change from “best practice” and some spelling errors. There was a change to the railroad crossing section and the responsibility of the responding unit. This was specifically to a crossing that did not have gauge or warnings. It was specifically like a stop sign that we have to come to stop, which we do. We have one crossing within our district that has that and that is the policy to stop to look both ways and always proceed on even an emergency situation. Policy #317-Safety Surrender Baby Law has been updated because of a legislative change. Policy #501-Emergency Medical Services was related to Indiana Code regarding minors and Indiana Law, some gender pronouns were removed. Policy #614-Live Fire Training had no record that this was approved and is one entire policy and noted that it follows all the NFPA standards for live fire training, which is nothing new to us.

A motion was made by David Villalobos, seconded by Larry Nagy, to accept the changes to the above-referenced Lexipol policies.

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

Mr. Stick commented it was brought up when the new improved policies, are they posted properly on the site where all of the personnel can read and sign-off on them. Interim Chief Fire Mager commented he will update them on the site. He will double-check that personnel receive a notification that there are updates to policies.

Town Council Liaison(s) Report: Mr. Carnahan commented the incident by areas was 183 in the Town and 11 in unincorporate and 19 mutual aid. It looks like Tuesdays have the highest with 37. Interim Chief Mager commented the time of day fluctuates and especially in the summer months.



New Building Updates: Police Chief Gruszka commented we have made good progress moving things in and we will have a hard date to completely move in.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None was had.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None was had.

ADJOURNMENT: Stick called the meeting adjourned at 6:47 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