



TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE BOARD OF SAFETY PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6:01 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	Absent	David Austgen, Town Attorney
Present	Norman Stick, Chairman	Present	Robert Carnahan, Town Council Liaison
		Present	Chuck Becker, Town Council Liaison
		Present	Ben Eldridge, Town Manager
		Present	Cheryl Hajduk, Recording Secretary

Mr. Kaper commented we will have a presentation for a Life Saving Award to Officer Alexis Dills. Police Chief Gruszka commented on July 10, 2025, Officer Alexis Dills responded to a medical call, which she provided CPR and was able to keep that individual alive. An hour later she responded to a gunshot wound, where the person was shot in the chest and she was able to apply pressure and help that individual survive. On behalf of the Cedar Lake Police Department, a Life Saving Award was presented to Officer Alexis Dills.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kaper called for Public Comment. None was had.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES: July 23, 2025 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Barbara Littles, seconded by David Villalobos, to approve the July 23, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

VIPS JULY 2025 REPORT: Lieutenant Jack Yauger reported there were six hours of call-outs, 65 hours of details, 12 hours for training, 42 miscellaneous for a total of 125 hours for the month.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Communications: Police Chief Gruszka commented we are completely in the new building. We received a thank-you card from Kara Rilkowski, who works for Southcom. We attended the funeral services for the St. John Police officer who passed away and there was much support from surrounding communities.



Finances: Police Chief Gruszka commented we should be received \$7,500 from the SAFE Grant to help offset the overtime, but there has been a delay in processing.

Staffing: Police Chief Gruszka commented Officer Randy Lukasik is at the academy and he will be taking the legal test. The academy will end soon for Officer Lukasik. Our Code Enforcement Officer, is out on medical leave. Her tentative return date is December 2025.

Training: Police Chief Gruszka commented our Administrative Assistant, Sarah Moore will be attending the Purdue Northwest Indiana Leadership course from September 2025 through April 2026 and we wish her luck. We had firearms training at the Lowell range, where they did some hostage training.

Police Chief Gruszka commented Officer Pennington completed mandated State Emergency Vehicle Operations instructors training.

Equipment: Deputy Chief Brittingham commented the third vehicle has been picked up and the last car will be done soon. All vehicles will be in service by the first of the month.

Monthly Activity Report: Police Chief Gruszka reported calls for service were 892 calls for service, 314 traffic stops, there were 283 warnings issued, 143 citations, 536 law incidents, 18 arrests, 21 arrest offenses associated with those arrests, 50 Ordinance warnings and 88 citations issued.

Policy Updates: Police Chief Gruszka commented we have several and we will be going through some of them.

Other: Police Chief Gruszka commented we are looking for donations for Trunk or Treat.

Police Chief Gruszka commented Ms. Moore went over the Emergency Manual with the Town Manager's Administrative Assistant with updates.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Communications: Interim Fire Chief Mager commented our department was nominated as the Recipient for the 2025 Hero Alberts Jewelers Hero Award. Battalion Chief Kraft was nominated for outstanding work he does with community reduction and goes above and beyond. He received a watch from Alberts Jewelers.

Finances: Purchase Orders, Expenditure Reports & Grants: Interim Fire Chief Mager commented purchase orders for the month of July was \$16,637.11. As of July 31, 2025, we were 58% of fiscal year complete.

Mr. Nagy asked how are they coming along on door locks. Interim Fire Chief Mager commented they are working on networking issues.



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

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

Staffing:

A motion was made by David Villalobos, seconded by Barbara Littles, to accept the resignation of Travis Able.

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 July was 239.

Equipment: Interim Chief Fire Mager commented the 1221 truck is back in service. The township ambulance has been in service since August 1, 2025.

Monthly Activity: Interim Chief Fire Mager commented as of July 31, 2025, compared to July 31, 2024, there was an 18% increase between the numbers annually and 18% has been steady each month for the entire year. There has been an increased average of 5 and 10% over. It is slightly above that this year. We had 203 incidents and breakdowns are in the packet.

Lexipol Updates – 202 Interim Directives

Mr. Nagy commented Policy 202 needs to be taken out and more thought needs to be put into it.

Ms. Littles commented we need to get together and go through everything and commented to leave it where it is.

A motion was made by David Villalobos, seconded by Barbara Littles, to retain Policy 202 Interim Directives as is.

Roll call vote: Littles – Yes, Nagy – No, Kaper – No, Villalobos – Yes, Stick – No. Vote: 3-2.

Approval of radio frequency agreement: Interim Fire Chief Mager commented Will County is going live on January 1, 2026 with 800 mhz. This would need a recommendation to the Town Council to have this agreement with Will County. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Larry Nagy, seconded by David Villalobos, to send a favorable recommendation letter to the Town Council for the use of radio frequency from Will County.

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



Other: Ms. Littles commented she had a couple of incidents at the salon and one was a partial robbery. The officers that came to aid, went above and beyond and wanting to acknowledge of a great job they are doing.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None was had.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None was had.

ADJOURNMENT: Stick called the meeting adjourned at 6:32 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