

**Cedar Area Fire & Rescue Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 2:00 pm
Cedar Fire Department**

Call to Order

Chairman Greg Julian called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present on roll call were Greg Julian, John DePuy, Chris Comeaux, John Imboden, and Ron Schaub. Andy Doornbos and Dana Boomer was present as staff.

Discussions/decisions will be for the direction of the Cedar Area Fire & Rescue Board as previously published, per the Open Meetings Act. Potential quorums of township boards will be noted in the minutes.

Citizens Comments – None

Consideration of Agenda – The board briefly discussed the agenda. **Motion by DePuy to approve the agenda as presented, second by Schaub. All in favor, motion carried.**

Minutes: Approval of December 5, 2024 General Meeting Minutes – The minutes will be approved separately. **Motion by DePuy to approve the December 5, 2024 General Meeting Open Session Minutes as presented, second by Comeaux. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Comeaux, second by Schaub to approve the December 5, 2024 General Meeting Closed Session Minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Schaub, second by Imboden to approve the December 18, 2024 special meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.**

Correspondence Received – None

Presentation – None

Financials –

Boomer had previously provided a handout to the board which detailed the financial statements for December. The board briefly discussed the vendors payable and payroll. The updated unpaid bills detailed list was presented, and briefly discussed.

Imboden moved to accept the December vendors payable as presented, Schaub seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Comeaux moved to accept the December payrolls as presented, DePuy seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Imboden moved to accept the December financial statements as presented, Schaub seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Schaub requested a cash report to be included that is a month behind – the board had gone away from these because the bank statements were not coming out in time for the meeting. Boomer will start to include these reports in the financial packets again, with each being from the month prior to the meeting. Schaub also asked about the possibility of placing some of the contingency funds into CDs to gain extra interest. Boomer and Doornbos will look into this. Imboden asked whether there are capital funds that could be placed into CDs as well.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Second Station – Comeaux and Schaub met with Boomer and Doornbos to go over financial documents for the potential second station. The updated long-term budget and a PowerPoint covering potential costs were included in the board packet. The township representatives will be passing this information to their township board members and asking for discussion at the January township meetings. Julian, Doornbos, and potentially another fire board member will be meeting with Laureto and Ferguson from Glen Lake to discuss staffing and partnerships. DePuy thinks that an agreement is needed with Glen Lake to provide better coverage to the western side of the service area, especially Cleveland Township. The board requested that Boomer send the two operational costs documents to the township supervisors and clerks for distribution to the remainder of their boards and inclusion in their meeting packets for January.
- b. Retirement Plan – The union attorney has reviewed the documents for the move to MERS as the retirement plan provider. The board had a consensus to move to MERS as the retirement plan provider for the department. There were several documents that needed to be approved for the change:
 - Resolution Adopting the MERS Defined Contribution Plan – **Motion by DePuy, second by Imboden to approve Resolution 01-2025, Resolution Adopting the MERS Defined Contribution Plan. Roll call vote: DePuy (yes), Imboden (yes), Comeaux (yes), Schaub (yes), Julian (yes). All in favor, motion passed.**
 - MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement – **Motion by Comeaux, second by Schaub to approve the MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement. All in favor, motion carried.**
 - MERS Uniform 457 Supplemental Retirement Program Resolution – **Motion by Imboden, second by DePuy to approve Resolution 02-2025, MERS Uniform 457 Supplemental Retirement Program Resolution. Roll call vote: DePuy (yes), Imboden (yes), Comeaux (yes), Schaub (yes), Julian (yes). All in favor, motion passed.**
 - MERS 457 Participation Agreement – **Motion by Schaub, second by Comeaux to approve the MERS 457 Participation Agreement. All in favor, motion carried.**

- Resolution Establishing Authorized Signatories for MERS Contracts and Service Credit Purchase Approvals – **Motion by DePuy, second by Imboden to approve Resolution 03-3035, Resolution Establishing Authorized Signatories for MERS Contracts and Service Credit Purchase Approvals. Roll call vote: DePuy (yes), Imboden (yes), Comeaux (yes), Schaub (yes), Julian (yes). All in favor, motion passed.**

Doornbos and Boomer will send the necessary documentation to MERS and continue moving forward with the change in retirement plan providers. They will provide an update to the board at the February meeting.

New Business:

- a. Any New Business – None

Reports:

- a. Fire Chief – The Chief’s Report was provided in the meeting packet. Doornbos provided the draft of the 2024 Annual Report for Fire Board review, and summarized the report for the board. The board briefly discussed, and is happy with the report. It will be printed and distributed to the townships for their annual meetings.
- b. Department Staff – None
- c. Chairman – Julian spoke to Jeff Shaw briefly and the interlocal committee will be continuing to work to integrate language regarding adding partners to Cedar Area Fire & Rescue. Because of the recent changes in township boards with the election, there is a now a quorum of the fire board at the interlocal committee meetings. These will likely now be posted as open meetings, on the recommendation of MTA.

Citizens Comments – Mike Lanham – He really looks forward to seeing the operational numbers when they are available to the public. He thanks the board for continuing to look at a second station, knowing it is an important move forward for Cedar Fire.

Board Member & Chair Comments – Imboden will likely not be present at the February meeting.

John DePuy – They have looked at a county-wide EMS system before from one centralized station, and it doesn’t work – it’s too far between areas.

Next Meeting Date – The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 2 pm.

DePuy moved, Imboden seconded to adjourn the meeting. With no further business, Julian adjourned the meeting at 3:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Boomer
Recording Secretary