

**Fire Territory Board Meeting**

**Weds., Feb. 8, 2023, 5:30 p.m. (EST)**

**New Carlisle Library, 408 S. Bray St., New Carlisle, IN 46552**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Board members:**

**Tim Creason, Olive Twp. board**

**Marcy Kauffman, New Carlisle town council**

**Jerry Colanese, New Carlisle town council**

**Brian Gray, Hudson Twp. board**

**Dave Wilson, Hudson Twp. board**

**Also:**

**Josh Schweizer, Fire chief**

**TERMINATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE CONTRACT:** Discussion regarding the termination of the formal agreement with the New Carlisle Volunteer Fire Dept.

The volunteer unit is no longer functioning as envisioned and thus the current agreement with the fire territory is to be ended. Final stipends will be paid out, per the agreement.

Volunteers are still welcome and will be on-boarded as usual. Technically, there is still a volunteer fire dept. organization which will be active in charity events.

The territory attorney, Peter Agostino, will be drawing up a new agreement to outline specifics.

Brian Gray asks if a volunteer can cover for a full-time firefighter who is on vacation. Josh Schweizer replies, "yes."

Requirements for volunteers will be included in the fire department's policy manual.

Josh Schweizer reports the current volunteers have agreed to these changes.

**AGENDA:** Motion to adopt the meeting agenda made by Tim Creason. Second by Dave Wilson. Motion passed, 5-0.

**MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes of Jan. 11 meeting made by Dave Wilson. Second by Jerry Colanese. Motion approved, 5-0.

**BACK TO VOLUNTEER FIRE CONTRACT:** Motion to terminate formal agreement with the New Carlisle Volunteer Fire Dept. made by Dave Wilson. Second by Marcy Kauffman. Motion passed, 5-0.

**ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF:** Josh Schweizer states the new position of Assistant Fire Chief has been posted and applications are being accepted until Feb. 10.

A panel including Brian Gray and Will Miller, among others, will review the applications and discuss before the next meeting. Also, background checks will be made.

Jerry Colanese asks if an internal candidate is selected – somebody who is already a member of the fire department – does that position have to be filled before the assistant chief may be finalized? Josh Schweizer states, “no.”

**FIRE STATION PAINT:** Jerry Colanese asks about the paint job at the fire station. Dana Groves is to be consulted regarding color choices.

**OLD BUSINESS:** A part-time assistant has not yet been selected to work with Olive Twp. clerk Tina Scott.

**ITA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE:** Tim Creason reports on the Indiana Township Association (ITA) legislative conference held at the Statehouse in Indianapolis on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Of most interest is a bill, currently working its way through the legislature, that, if passed, would allow LaPorte County to reduce its number of townships from 21 to five (5). The bill is HB1355.

Also, there is a bill, SB78, which would basically provide more money for a fire territory if the fire territory asks for it.

There are bills in process, they have not passed yet.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** Board meetings are scheduled at 5:30 p.m. (EST)/ 4:30 p.m. (CST) on the second Wednesday of each month at the New Carlisle Public Library.

The next meeting is scheduled Wednesday, Mar. 8.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Creason  
Secretary

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Tim Creason, Board Secretary

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Brian Gray, Board Chairman

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Marcy Kauffman, Territory Member

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Jerry Colanese, Territory Member

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Dave Wilson, Territory Member