

**APPROVED**  
**Cedar Area Fire & Rescue Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 7, 2024 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, and Ron Schaub. John Imboden was absent and Tim Stein was acting as his replacement. 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 January 4, 2024 General Meeting Minutes – **Motion by Schaub to approve the January 4, 2024 General Meeting Minutes as presented, second by DePuy. All in favor, motion carried.**

Correspondence Received – Chief Doornbos presented a note from Camp Leelanau thanking the department for their work on the recent structure fire on the property.

Financials –

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

**Comeaux moved to accept the January vendors payable as presented, Stein seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Schaub moved to accept the January payrolls as presented, Comeaux seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Stein moved to accept the January financial statements as presented, Schaub seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

Unfinished Business:

- a. None

New Business:

- a. Short Term Disability Program - Chief Doornbos has received a request from several staff members to run a short-term disability program, funded by the employees, through payroll. This program would be through Aflac. He is notifying the board of this, as the charges will show on the payroll reports, although all premiums and fees will be paid by the employees participating in the program. The board briefly discussed the upcoming contract negotiations – the current contract runs until February 2025. Negotiations will begin after April 2024.
- b. Any New Business – None

Reports:

- a. Fire Chief – The Chief’s Report was provided in the meeting packet. Doornbos summarized his report. The board briefly discussed. The annual report is in progress and will be available to the board for review prior to the March meeting. Doornbos will plan to attend as many of the annual township meetings as possible.
- b. Department Staff – None
- c. Chairman – Julian asked if any of the crew members who don’t already live in the service area are planning to move into the service area. Doornbos said no, housing costs are prohibitive. The 48/96 schedule allows the department to be fully staffed by making the department attractive to employees who live substantially outside the service area – there are currently full-time employees who live in Big Rapids and Newaygo County. Julian reported that there was approved expressed for the cooperation between fire departments at the most recent quarterly supervisors meeting. The interlocal agreement group met and discussed items related to the interlocal agreement – the group determined to stay with a two year budget as it allows for the budgeting cycle to run along with the millage cycle. This will be passed along to the townships at the upcoming board meetings. Kasson and Cleveland Townships are continuing to work on identifying potential properties for a new station on the western side of the service area.

Citizens Comments – None

Board Member & Chair Comments – Schaub is happy to see that the budget for the first year of ALS service looks very good, and is running right on track. DePuy was happy to see Glen Lake and Cedar training together for ice rescue training, and was glad to see the photos of the training that were posted on social media. Doornbos thanked the training officers from both departments for putting the training together. Stein thanked the department and staff for getting the ALS service in place, and said that the citizens of Cleveland are very thankful for this service. Julian thanked the department staff for their work, and stated that in April the board will be looking at starting union negotiations.

DePuy will not be present for the March and April fire board meetings.

Next Meeting Date – The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 2 pm.

**Stein moved, Comeaux seconded to adjourn the meeting. With no further business, Julian adjourned the meeting at 2:41 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Boomer  
Recording Secretary